

## **Inputs from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to the 2025 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**

This document responds to the request for inputs to the 2025 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), showcasing the views, findings, research, data and policy recommendations from intergovernmental bodies supported by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). The inputs derive from:

- The [Co-Chairs' Statement](#) of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction on 14-17 October 2024 in Manila, Philippines.
- The [Windhoek Declaration](#) of the Ninth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which took place on 21-24 October 2024 in Windhoek, Namibia.
- The [Outcome Document](#) of the Sixth High-level Meeting of Ministers and Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas and the Caribbean, held on 5 December 2024 in Saint Kitts and Nevis.
- The [Political Declaration](#) of the 2024 Europe and Central Asia Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Budva, Montenegro, on 6-8 November 2024.
- The [Kuwait Declaration](#) of the Sixth Arab Regional Platform held on 9-12 February 2025 in Kuwait City.
- The [concept note](#) for the 2025 Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, to take place on 2-6 June 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The inputs also benefitted from the General Assembly resolution on Disaster Risk Reduction of 6 December 2024 (A/RES/79/205), the Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/79/268), and the Policy Brief [“Towards Risk-Informed Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable”](#).

### **(a) Impacts of multiple crises on the implementation of SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17 from the vantage point of your intergovernmental / expert body.**

UNDRR estimates that disasters are increasing at an alarming rate, with projections indicating up to 560 disasters annually by 2030—equivalent to 1.5 disasters per day ([2022 Global Assessment Report](#)). This escalating crisis threatens progress on multiple SDGs.

For SDG 3 (Health and Well-being), disasters, including epidemics and pandemics, severely disrupt healthcare and social protection systems, limiting access to essential healthcare and exacerbating disease outbreaks. The strain on medical infrastructure and mental health services compounds vulnerabilities, particularly in already fragile health systems.

For SDG 5 (Gender Equality), disasters disproportionately impact women and girls, amplifying gender disparities. Higher mortality rates, economic hardship, and extended recovery times worsen pre-existing disparities. Disasters also heighten risks of gender-based violence, displacement, and reduced access to education and employment.

For SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), disasters can have profound economic impacts, for example by leading to job losses, business closures, trade disruptions and

investment declines. Extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, could cause productivity losses equivalent to 80 million full-time jobs by 2030, costing the global economy \$2.4 trillion ([International Labour Organization, 2019](#)). The COVID-19 pandemic has exemplified how disasters can cause long-term economic disruptions.

For SDG 14 (Life Below Water), intensifying coastal and ocean-related hazards—including rising sea levels, hurricanes and coastal erosion—are increasing disaster risk in coastal areas. The degradation of marine ecosystems can reduce coastal resilience and exacerbate community vulnerabilities, particularly in low-lying countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

**(b) Three key areas where sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2025, also bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets.**

- **Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems:** Hazardous weather, water and climate events threaten the implementation of all SDGs, including the five under review in 2025. The [Early Warnings for All initiative](#) aims for universal coverage by 2027, with fast-tracked implementation in 30 vulnerable countries. These systems reduce disaster-related deaths, safeguard livelihoods, and protect vulnerable populations, particularly women and marginalized communities. Strengthening early warning capacity, including through the use of emerging technologies, enhances resilience, ensuring sustainable development amid growing disaster risks.
- **Data for Risk-Informed Decision-Making:** Strengthening disaster risk data systems enables evidence-based policies, including for public health, gender-responsive governance, sustainable economies and resilient marine and coastal ecosystems. The new [hazardous event and disaster losses and damages tracking system](#) (DTS) improves disaster impact assessments, ensuring preparedness in critical sectors. For example, gender-disaggregated data is essential for understanding differential impacts and designing equitable response strategies. In marine ecosystems, risk analytics help mitigate the effects of extreme weather events on fisheries and coastal livelihoods.
- **Disaster Risk Governance:** Strong and inclusive disaster risk governance lays the foundation for lasting resilience, ensuring coordinated action and sustained protection against future crises. The number of countries with national disaster risk reduction strategies has more than doubled since 2015, fostering cross-sectoral, all-of-society approaches to resilience. Aligning DRR with sustainable development and finance policies enhances coherence across SDGs, particularly in connection with SDG 17 (global partnerships). Expanding local-level strategies is key to further integrate risk reduction into national development agendas.

**(c) Three examples of measures to accelerate progress towards SDGs through well-coordinated actions in key transitions to bring progress to scale (food security, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution), building on interlinkages between SDGs to ensure cohesive progress.**

1. **Risk-informed development across key transitions:** Adopting a risk-informed approach across sustainable development efforts ensures that disasters and crises do not reverse progress on SDGs. In food security, this means strengthening resilient

agriculture and supply chains to withstand extreme weather events and other shocks. In energy access, it requires integrating disaster risk assessments into infrastructure planning to ensure reliability and affordability. Risk reduction must also be mainstreamed into education systems, job markets, and social protection policies to shield vulnerable populations from disasters.

2. **Strategic foresight and reduction of systemic risks:** Long-term planning and strategic foresight help anticipate and mitigate systemic risks across interconnected SDGs. For instance, investing in digital infrastructure and utilizing emerging technologies enhances economic resilience, facilitates remote learning and supports climate monitoring. Strengthening early warning systems and social safety nets prevents poverty traps by protecting livelihoods from disasters and economic downturns. A future-focused approach ensures that activities across the key transitions reduce risk and enhance preparedness for future hazards.
3. **Anticipatory action for resilient transitions:** Advancing sustainable development requires proactive efforts to reduce systemic risks, strengthen resilience and limit potential spillovers before they occur. Anticipatory action, at the intersection of disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response, involves preemptive interventions to minimize disruptions to lives, livelihoods and economic stability from forecastable hazards. Examples include livestock vaccination, provision of animal fodder and shock-resilient seeds, cash transfers and support to good water management and agricultural practices. Such actions lower the human and economic toll of crises, thereby protecting lives, livelihoods and sustainable development achievements.

**(d) Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental body or forum to support implementation of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and the outcomes of the 2024 Summit of the Future, to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

The 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration reaffirms the commitment to fully implementing the Sendai Framework (paragraph 38k), while the Pact for the Future commits to promoting a disaster risk-informed approach to sustainable development that integrates disaster risk reduction into policies, programmes and investments at all levels (Action 6g).

To advance these commitments, UNDRR continues to support Member States in driving action, including through [Regional Platforms on Disaster Risk Reduction](#), multi-stakeholder forums that reflect the commitment of governments to improve coordination and implementation of disaster risk reduction activities while linking to international and national efforts, with events taking place in Asia Pacific, Africa, the Arab States and Europe and Central Asia between October 2024 and February 2025. Building on this momentum, the [Eight Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) (GP2025) will be held in Geneva from 2-6 June 2025, providing a space to take stock of progress, share new knowledge, exchange best practice and discuss the latest developments and trends in reducing disaster risk. GP2025 will ensure alignment with UN General Assembly-recognized processes, including the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and the outcomes of the 2024 Summit of the Future.

The work by UN Member States and stakeholders to advance these commitments is complemented and supported by UN entities, ensuring a coordinated approach. In 2023, the United Nations Senior Leadership Group (UN SLG) on Disaster Risk Reduction

endorsed the [2030 Recommendations to guide UN system-wide support](#) for risk governance, risk-informed programming, financial system reforms, inclusive DRR and multi-hazard early warning systems. These collective efforts aim to strengthen resilience, accelerate climate adaptation, and ensure inclusive disaster preparedness efforts, reinforcing the broader commitment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**(e) Recommendations and key messages to be considered for inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration of the 2025 HLPF.**

The 2025 HLPF Ministerial Declaration has an opportunity to underscore disaster risk reduction (DRR) as fundamental to achieving the 2030 Agenda, as done in previous HLPF outcome documents. Integrating risk-informed policies and investments across all sectors is essential to prevent disasters from reversing development gains and the creation of new risks. This includes strengthening multi-hazard and multi-sectoral risk governance, scaling up investments in resilience and ensuring inclusive disaster preparedness guided by multi-hazard risk assessments.

For **SDG 3 (Health and Well-being)**, disaster risk must be integrated into the planning around strengthening health systems and universal health coverage including through investments in risk-informed health infrastructure, pandemic preparedness, and mental health services to minimize disruptions and enhance resilience to and preparedness for health emergencies.

For **SDG 5 (Gender Equality)**, it is important to strengthen commitments to gender-responsive DRR, including by emphasizing women's inclusion at every level of decision making in disaster risk reduction and advancing policies that promote gender equality in disaster preparedness and recovery.

For **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)**, economic resilience requires risk-informed action and investment strategies to mitigate the economic disruptions and other impacts disasters can have on job losses, business closures, and productivity declines.

For **SDG 14 (Life Below Water)**, strengthening coastal resilience is critical. This includes integrating DRR into marine and coastal management, protecting biodiversity, and addressing ocean-related hazards that threaten global trade and food security.

For **SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)**, there must be a shift in international financing priorities to scaling up investments for prevention and ensuring risk-informed development, rather than focusing primarily on a reactive approach on post-disaster response. Collective efforts are needed to systematically integrate DRR in all investments for development. Strengthened global partnerships are necessary to scale up multi-hazard early warning systems, enhance risk-informed governance, and ensure equitable access to resilience-building resources.