GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION | SWITZERLAND 2–6 JUNE 2025



# Geneva call for disaster risk reduction

## CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY OF THE GLOBAL PLATFORM

*Every Day Counts, Act for Resilience Today*

## Introduction

1. The eighth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction took place from 2 to 6 June 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland. It was co-chaired by Ambassador Patricia Danzi, Director-General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and Kamal Kishore, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Global Platform had over 3,000 in-person participants from 164 countries; with over 600 participants joining online. A total of 46 per cent of in-person participants were women, at least 58 were persons with disabilities and 96 were children and youth, who had a prominent role in shaping many sessions and were part of several national delegations. It was also the first Global Platform to feature a humanoid robot.

2. This edition of the Global Platform was the first since the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Since 2015, countries have made significant progress. Disaster mortality is down globally, and mechanisms for risk governance have improved. Regional-level cooperation is robust, and early warning systems have been strengthened. New sectors have joined the cause of resilience, stakeholder leadership has increased, and communities across the world are innovating their local solutions.

3. As the world faces a polycrisis with growing risk complexity, shaped by climate change, rapid urbanisation and weakened multilateralism, disaster risk reduction offers a solution to addressing overlapping crises. Its proactive approach to identifying, reducing and managing risks before they lead to disasters helps countries reduce losses and protect development gains. Moreover, disaster risk reduction is a unifying agenda that can drive collective action across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. Recognising this, the Global Platform, organised under the theme of "*Every Day Counts, Act for Resilience Today*," sought to rally governments and stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the remaining five years until 2030.

4. Switzerland called on all stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework and bridge financial gaps hindering disaster risk reduction by mobilising diverse funding sources, including climate finance. Highlighting the economic benefits of investing in disaster risk reduction, Switzerland stressed the need for clear roles and responsibilities and capacity building at all levels, especially locally. It also called for prioritising prevention, ensuring inclusive participation and fostering diverse leadership, integrating gender, age, disability and cultural perspectives while upholding and promoting human rights.

5. The Global Platform served as a meeting venue for the world's key policymakers, practitioners and stakeholders and as a mechanism to share successes and lessons, address common challenges and introduce innovations. It was also designed to be inclusive and accessible, recognising that resilience is a shared responsibility across communities, regions and generations. The Global Platform was preceded by the Third Stakeholder Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction, the first Global Early Warnings for All Multi-stakeholder Forum, and the first World Resilient Recovery Conference.

## Stocktaking of progress

*Ten years into the Sendai Framework's implementation, encouraging and impactful progress has been reported by 167 countries on its global targets. Yet, challenges and gaps remain, with disaster risk often outpacing resilience building.*

6. Achievements have been made in reducing disaster-related mortality and strengthening governance at all levels. Global mortality has decreased by half over the past 25 years (Target A), while the number of countries reporting national and local disaster risk reduction strategies doubled (Target E). Encouraging examples of localisation efforts include the Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative, engaging over 1,800 cities worldwide.

7. The number of countries reporting the existence of multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS) has increased by 25 per cent (Target G) since the last Global Platform, catalysed by the 'Early Warnings for All' initiative and the Global Goal on Adaptation. Advances have been made through science, new technologies, and indigenous and local knowledge. Gaps remain in MHEWS coverage, comprehensiveness, sustainability, and impact, especially for at-risk groups such as women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, indigenous peoples, displaced communities, poor people and other marginalised communities, while technological disparities hinder equitable and inclusive access to early warning systems.

8. Scaling up financing for disaster risk reduction is a critical priority, with demonstrated political commitments through legislated budgetary targets and financial tracking mechanisms, but is outpaced by needs and gaps. Just 2 per cent of development assistance currently goes to disaster risk reduction, while investment patterns fuel spirals increasing debt and decreasing income, fostering uninsurability and perpetuating expensive dependence on humanitarian aid (Target F).

9. The pace of disasters, both catastrophic and high-frequency low-impact events, continues to escalate and exacerbate humanitarian needs, especially in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. The Sendai Framework monitor shows a two-third increase in the number of affected people (Target B), while economic losses (Target C) and infrastructure impacts remain high (Target D). Five hazards—earthquakes, floods, storms, droughts and heatwaves—alone accounted for over 95 per cent of direct disaster losses in the past two decades. Direct global annual disaster losses exceed $200 billion; with indirect costs included, these reach over $2.3 trillion.

10. Inclusiveness and stakeholder engagement have increased, as seen with progress in risk communication and education as well as the Sendai Framework Gender Action Plan (Sendai GAP). Yet, commitments towards an inclusive approach have not sufficiently translated into action.

11. The Bali Agenda for Resilience[1] underscored the urgent need to integrate disaster risk reduction into all aspects of sustainable development, in a world reshaped by the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate emergency. It emphasized a shift from risk to resilience, calling on governments and stakeholders to adopt a "Think Resilience" approach in investment, planning and governance.

12. The Sendai Framework Midterm Review recognized that implementation is delivering positive results. However, it underlined the insufficient and unequal pace of implementation. Insufficient access to disaster data, risk knowledge, technology and financing, limited resilient infrastructure, and prioritization of disaster risk reduction actions still hinder implementation.

13. Regional platforms in Africa[2], the Americas, Asia-Pacific, Arab States, and Europe and Central Asia, lay the ground for the Global Platform by capturing regional progress and shared commitments to enhancing resilience. These emphasised the importance of using science and technology, integrating disaster risk reduction with climate change adaptation, securing disaster risk reduction financing, and acting for preparedness and recovery in the face of earthquakes and other risks.

14. Alignment and complementarity among disaster risk reduction and climate action are growing. The operationalisation of mechanisms such as the Santiago network and the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage complement disaster risk reduction measures. Consideration of Sendai Framework priorities and monitoring indicators in the National Adaptation Plans and Global Goal on Adaptation will further enhance synergies in resilience building.

## Accelerating Sendai Framework implementation

*Building on successes and lessons so far, the pace and scale of global-to-local action needs to be further accelerated to achieve the targets of the Sendai Framework, and in turn the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The Global Platform called for greater ambition, commitment, and leadership by all governments and stakeholders.*

[1] https://globalplatform.undrr.org/2022/publication/co-chairs-summary-bali-agenda-resilience.html
[2] Together with development of an Africa Common Position to the 2025 Global Platform

15. Leveraging the good practices and experiences of over 100 countries using disaster loss databases, the enhanced disaster tracking system for hazardous events and losses and damages should be institutionalised as a key source of disaster data. Identified use cases should be widely disseminated to inform different decision-support tools. Disaster data must be granular and disaggregated by sex, age, disability and income, and localised to inform intersectional, human rights-based approaches to resilience building.

16. Disaster impact and risk metrics should be complemented by resilience indicators and projected risk estimates, making the benefits of investing in disaster resilience clearer, while informing financial decision-making. This enables resilience to be translated into capital by quantifying avoided losses and resilience dividends, making it an investible target.

17. Data governance, which enables open, easily accessible and reusable disaster data, is important to ensure evidence-based planning. This, in turn, requires better data standards, global and national policies and financing to strengthen the generation, sharing and application of interoperable and quality data as a public good. Together with the ongoing development of a global disaster-related statistical framework, this data is essential to improve risk understanding, including how hazards and economic and non-economic losses interact.

18. Transformative technologies, combined with open-data and open-source approaches, powered by artificial intelligence, enable major advances across all aspects of disaster risk reduction, when adapted to local contexts, together with traditional knowledge. Interdisciplinary scientific cooperation is essential to translate research and innovation into practical action. Closing the digital divide requires targeted investment, including in capacity building and combining high- and low-tech solutions, to ensure equitable access, particularly for those most at risk.

19. Risk literacy and learning must be expanded, including through cross-sector peer exchange, enhanced citizen science and education. These should build capacity at public, private and community levels to embed risk knowledge into everyday decisions.

20. Effective disaster risk governance requires a multi-hazard and multi-sectoral approach that supports the integration of disaster risk reduction with climate action. Robust national disaster risk reduction strategies are essential and should be fully institutionalized, budgeted and anchored in legal and regulatory frameworks at all levels. All-of-government efforts must be scaled up, applying a systemic lens and using foresight to address existing and emerging risks, such as extreme heat, sea-level rise, sand and dust storms, glacial lake outburst floods and disease outbreaks, among others.

21. Multistakeholder and multi-level governance is essential to ensure that solutions are inclusive, equitable and transparent. National Platforms for disaster risk reduction and Sendai Framework National Focal Points play a critical role in coordination and policy guidance, bridging and breaking silos. Government ownership and an all-of-society engagement make disaster risk reduction efforts more innovative, accountable, effective and responsive, ensuring that policies are informed by those on the front lines.

22. Localisation of risk governance can be enhanced by empowering local authorities, integrating community-driven assessments, traditional knowledge of Indigenous People and local communities, grassroots engagement and localised data into disaster risk reduction planning. Countries should promote integrated and multi-level governance by empowering subnational and municipal actors and facilitating adequate resources and peer-to-peer learning.

23. Decentralised disaster risk reduction financing enables funding to reach local actors based on risk profiles, prioritising fragile and vulnerable contexts. This should support institutional capacity to assess risk, plan and implement disaster risk reduction, and manage finances at the subnational levels to ensure targeted and effective use. Good practices in co-designing programmes between financial institutions and community-based organisations should be promoted and scaled up to enhance direct local finance access. Governments should increasingly commit a percentage of bilateral and multilateral funding to support locally-led disaster risk reduction initiatives.

24. Governments should develop disaster risk reduction financing strategies, including through Integrated National Financing Frameworks, based on vulnerability assessments and stress testing. These strategies must be supported by sustained annual budget allocations, considering fiscal space and national priorities. Institutionalising budget tagging and tracking, mandating resilience standards in investments, and engaging national supreme audit institutions and independent oversight bodies enhance transparency and accountability. Financial instruments must include safeguards to prevent the buildup of unsustainable debt due to disasters.

25. Disaster risk reduction must be incorporated into international development cooperation, including climate and biodiversity finance, tailored to country-specific vulnerabilities. Enabling fast, traceable and accountable finance, technology transfer and capacity building through partnerships, including South-South and Triangular cooperation, is essential for least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries, and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges and countries in fragility, conflict, and violence settings, especially for harnessing digital financing technologies.

26. Pre-arranged, risk-informed financial instruments must be expanded to reduce reliance on reactive funding and promote early and anticipatory approaches. Forecast-based financing and parametric insurance should be embedded into national disaster risk reduction strategies and linked to crisis response mechanisms, supported by timely and accessible MHEWS.

27. The private sector has significant potential to advance risk-informed investment, innovation and resilient business practices. Embedding disaster risk reduction into operations, supply chains, and workplace safety unlocks resilience dividends across sectors. Businesses can benefit from expanding business-continuity planning, addressing interdependencies and inequities across value and supply chains, and targeted micro-finance for small and medium enterprises. To enable this, governments and businesses must jointly build trust, promote standards on adaptation and resilience finance and enhance transparency through risk disclosure. Scaling up innovative financing instruments, such as layered and blended finance, catastrophe bonds and insurance, further incentivises long-term private capital for resilience and promotes equitable risk sharing for governments, businesses and households.

28. Achieving sustainable, resilient, inclusive and accessible infrastructure requires coordinated, cross-sectoral action and practical strategies across all decision-making levels, with the participation of community and at-risk groups, while recognising transboundary dependencies. There is a need to structure long-term capital for these investments, including for stress-testing and maintenance, reducing reliance on concessional finance.

29. Decisive and measurable actions should be taken to protect every child from disaster and climate risks by strengthening the resilience of the education sector. Countries should integrate education into all disaster risk and climate frameworks, and disaster risk reduction and climate awareness into school curricula. Countries should enhance the disaster resilience of schools and strengthen policies and funding mechanisms for school resilience and promote education in emergencies.

30. The transboundary nature of many risks requires enhanced mechanisms for cross-border and regional cooperation. At the international level, the ongoing United Nations General Assembly process to elaborate a legally binding instrument on the protection of persons in the event of disasters contributes to deliberations around strengthening global governance on disaster risk reduction.

31. The Global Platform advocated for a greater focus on resilient recovery that pursues a people-centred approach to enhancing the resilience of disaster-affected communities. This requires greater investment in recovery readiness. Governance arrangements, policies, financing mechanisms and technical and human capacities need to be in place before disasters strike.

32. In times of conflict and humanitarian crisis, cooperating on disaster risk reduction and simultaneously pursuing peacekeeping is paramount, as fragility can increase vulnerability to

disasters. Risk-informed programming must become the norm within and across all three pillars of humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actions. Conflict and societal hazards must be accounted for in risk analysis.

33. Enhanced preparedness requires effective MHEWS that are timely and accessible to all, addressing barriers such as language, literacy, trust, and infrastructure limitations, and fully leveraging the reach of the media and power of technology, particularly social media and digital platforms. User-centred early warning designs should be co-developed with at-risk communities.

34. Anticipatory action plays a pivotal role in strengthening disaster risk reduction. By enhancing data and risk analytics, improving early warnings and pre-arranged financing, it contributes to disaster risk reduction, effective early action, faster response, and strengthens resilience. Further, adaptive, risk-informed and shock-responsive social protection systems, pre-arranged financial instruments, including resilience bonds, and disaster relief funding, support long-term resilience.

35. Understanding of drivers of displacement and vulnerabilities of displaced populations should be enhanced, including through better data and risk analytics. Systems and policies should be established to address displacement, assist affected populations, including ensuring access to essential services and psychosocial support, and enable rapid livelihood and economic recovery. Inclusive and locally grounded approaches that combine immediate financial support with investment in long-term resilience building should be applied.

36. Effective disaster risk reduction requires strong coherence at the global level and synergies in implementation at the national level to prevent and reduce risk in the short-, medium- and long-term, thus ensuring risk-informed sustainable development. Alignment among the goals and implementation of the Sendai Framework and, the Rio Conventions[3], the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is critical to addressing overlapping priorities and harnessing synergies, and fulfilling the 2030 Agenda.

37. The multiple dividends of nature-based solutions and ecosystem approaches are recognized as key means of coherent implementation. Green infrastructure elements and the use of carbon credits to finance disaster risk reduction plans that include biodiversity protection offer cost-effective and multi-benefit avenues for disaster risk reduction investment.

38. Social cohesion remains one of the strongest markers for successful disaster risk management. The Global Platform highlighted the importance of full and equal participation of marginalised and at-risk groups in a whole-of-society approach to disaster risk reduction and called for institutionalising participatory governance. This requires strong political will and the recognition of these groups as agents and leaders rather than victims. It also called for greater participation and leadership of all stakeholders in disaster risk reduction decision-making. Stakeholders can actively contribute to resilience by making Sendai Framework Voluntary Commitments and ensure their implementation.

39. All sessions of the Global Platform reemphasised the urgent need to accelerate implementation of the Sendai Framework priorities for action in the remaining five years. Outcomes and outputs need to be closely monitored through the Sendai Framework Monitor to assess progress towards achieving the goal and targets of the Sendai Framework and related targets of the SDGs. This requires UN Member States to scale up disaggregated data collection and report progress in building resilience, while ensuring monitoring of national disaster risk strategy implementation.

[3] Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

## The Geneva Call for Disaster Risk Reduction

*Successes over the last ten years in the implementation of the Sendai Framework are a cause for optimism, especially as local actors and communities are inspiring the world with examples of how they are managing risks. As the cost of disasters increases and international assistance dwindles, urgent, more concrete actions are needed in the next five years to sustain progress towards achieving the expected outcome and goal of the Sendai Framework by 2030, thereby contributing to meeting the goals of the 2030 Agenda, and post-2030 considerations.*

I. **Better data to understand risk**: The collection, analysis and application of risk information should underlie all resilience-building measures. Countries need to collect and share historical data, track disaster impacts, broken down by sex, age, disability and income, and conduct predictive analyses. The use of the disaster tracking system and the Sendai Framework Monitor should be scaled up.

II. **Use technology to leapfrog progress**: All countries and communities can benefit from the ethical use of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, to accelerate disaster risk reduction. Technology access should be facilitated for developing countries and 'last mile' communities in all countries.

III. **Promote integrated risk governance and cooperation:** The growing complexity of risk demands breaking institutional and policy silos and integrate plans across domains. To that end, a comprehensive risk management approach should be pursued to integrate the implementation of climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and social and environmental protection. International and regional cooperation needs to be enhanced to address transboundary and emerging risks, such as glacial lake outburst floods, sea-level rise and sand and dust storms, as well as extreme heat in line with the UN Secretary-General's Call to Action on Extreme Heat.

IV. **Invest in prevention**: Increasing funding for disaster risk reduction is crucial to generate benefits across the development, humanitarian and climate agendas. This includes funds from domestic public budgets and climate finance, also leveraging innovative mechanisms with the private sector. The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development is an opportunity to scale this up. International funding and technical assistance, as mutually agreed, should be enhanced for the most at-risk developing countries, as well as countries in fragile and conflict settings. Capacity building for disasterrisk management can be reinforced through the Santiago network.

V. **Risk-inform all investments**: When disaster risks are ignored, even the most ambitious development projects are likely to fail. Public and private investments should be guided by a thorough understanding of disaster risk. For example, investment in the resilience of the education sector has a multiplier effect. Implementing the Comprehensive School Safety Framework will help protect children and youth from disasters.

VI. **Scale-up early warning systems**: Despite their value in reducing disaster deaths, nearly half of the world still lacks MHEWS. Achieving 'Early Warnings for All' requires increased international support and national ownership. Moreover, investing in anticipatory action, social safety nets and combating inequality can minimise disaster impacts and expedite recovery.

VII. **Leave no one behind**: All members of society can be leaders and agents for resilience. Governments and stakeholders should ensure full-scale implementation of the Sendai Gender Action Plan, the Global Children and Youth Call to Action and recommendations for accelerating disability inclusion.

VIII. **Prepare to 'Build Back Better'**: The Priority Actions to Enhance Readiness for Resilient Recovery provide a guide for countries to better plan how they will Build Back Better after disasters. Moreover, recovery efforts should be inclusive to address social and cultural needs.