Report for Consultations

Stakeholder Perspectives

Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework

Executive Summary
Disclaimer

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country or territory or of its authorities or concerning the delimitations of its frontiers or boundaries. The designations of country groups in the text and the tables are intended solely for statistical or analytical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgment about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process. Mention of the names of firms and commercial products does not imply the endorsement of the United Nations.

Note: The designations employed and the presentation of maps in this report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 3.0 IGO license (CC BY-NC IGO); https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/igo/legalcode

Under the terms of this license, this work may be copied, redistributed and adapted for non-commercial purposes, provided that the work is appropriately cited. In any use of this work, there should be no suggestion that UNDRR endorses any specific organization, products or services.

The use of the UNDRR logo is not permitted. If a translation of this work is created, it must include the following disclaimer along with the required citation below: “This translation was not created by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). UNDRR is not responsible for the content or accuracy of this translation. The original English edition shall be the authoritative edition.”

Users wishing to reuse material from this work that is attributed to a third party, such as tables, figures or images, are responsible for determining whether permission is needed for that reuse and for obtaining permission from the copyright holder. The risk of claims resulting from infringement of any third-party-owned component in the work rests solely with the user. Sales, rights and licensing.

UNDRR information products are available for non-commercial use. Requests for commercial use, rights and licensing should be submitted via: https://www.undrr.org/contact-us

This publication may be freely quoted but acknowledgement of the source is requested.

Citation: UNDRR (2022), Report for Consultations: Stakeholder Perspectives on the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).
Executive Summary

Background and Context

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework), was agreed at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held between 14th to 18th March 2015 in Sendai. It provides the framework for an all-of-society and all-of-state engagement in preventing and reducing disaster risks posed by both natural and man-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks.

The General Assembly called for the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework (MTR SF), and it marks the midpoint in its implementation cycle. Its scope includes retrospective and prospective elements; it takes stock of implementation, assesses progress and challenges, identifies new and emerging issues, and changes in context since 2015. It does so while building coherence with the reviews of other agreements, conventions and frameworks. This inquiry draws on lessons learnt and knowledge generated to identify policy implications to formulate forward looking narratives and recommendations.

The MTR process will conclude in a high-level meeting of the General Assembly in New York from 18th-19th May, 2023. This meeting will adopt a concise and action-oriented political declaration to renew commitment and accelerate implementation. It will inform both the quadrennial review of the SDGs at the ECOSOC High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2023 as well as the deliberations of Member States and stakeholders at the SDGs Summit during the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly in September 2023. It will further inform the recommendations from the Secretary General’s Our Common Agenda report and the Summit of the Future.

Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation

This MTR SF exercise aligns with an all-of-society-approach. In addition to member states, it engages a range of stakeholders identified in the Sendai Framework and beyond, through a process co-designed with the UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM).

This report forms the basis for stakeholder consultations to be held at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2022 between May 23rd-28th of May (GP22).

The process includes several avenues for engagement of stakeholders. This report includes inputs from 1) Open survey responses; 2) Outcomes of regional platforms for DRR; 3) Bilateral discussions with stakeholders; 4) Preparatory discussions for focus groups and 5) resilience learning labs; 6) Literature review including existing reports and documents submitted by stakeholders; 7) Interim findings of organizational level MTR SF reports. The e-consultations and thematic commissioned studies will be initiated after the GP22. The multi-stakeholder roundtable will be organized towards the end of 2022, and the voluntary commitments update will be reported through the voluntary commitments report.

Findings

To offer a universal point of reference, this report follows the structure of the priorities for action of the Sendai Framework. It also includes key crosscutting themes that were identified during the consultation process.

General Perception

The aggregate of the views expressed a ‘moderate’ perception on the progress on achieving the goals, priority actions and targets of the Sendai Framework, including

---

2UNGA Resolution A/RES/75/216.
3Other than Priority Action 3
4Other than target B
its all-of-society guiding principle. Further, the prospects of achieving these by 2030 also remain moderate.

**Multi-stakeholder Engagement**

Significant progress has been made at the global and regional levels in incorporating an all-of-society approach in ‘agenda setting’ deliberations on DRR. This progress has been made, in large part by enabling space for various constituencies to self-organize in collaboration with the UN, while recognizing unique characteristics and contexts. This disposition can be made more effective by meaningfully extending into ‘monitoring’ and ‘follow up and review’ functions at both national and local levels.

**Changing Landscape**

It was repeatedly articulated that today’s world and its risk landscape are fast evolving and increasingly interconnected. Societies and communities are not only interconnected globally through political, economic and social systems, but also through the earth’s biophysical life-support systems, the built environment, and increasingly through the digital world (the infrastructure for which extends into outer space). This has created implications for how individuals, societies, economies, and the environment engage with risk, as well as the governance mechanisms that create an interface between them.

**Priority Action 1: Understanding Risk**

Positive momentum towards a more complex and non-linear understanding of the systemic nature of risk has been noted. It is imperative that this be maintained and accelerated, including by allowing space for local understandings of risk, accounting for global catastrophic and existential risks, and incorporating emerging risks. Some of these include: breach of planetary boundaries; sharp increase in multidimensional inequality; rapid technological change (increasing digital divides misuse, and misalignment of artificial intelligence); food system fragility; unplanned urbanization; lack of outer space governance; the nexus of disaster-conflict-fragility; unprepared energy system transitions; the divergence from the planetary health approach; inaccessible migration pathways and disaster induced migration.

**Priority Action 2: Disaster Risk Governance:**

Contemporary global agreements, multilateral governance institutions, and associated stakeholder engagement practices provide a useful all-of-society framework for risk governance at the global and regional level. They however collectively lack the ability to effectively govern intersecting and cascading risks and hazards, both current and emerging. This can be addressed by enhancing the effectiveness, accountability and inclusivity of the multilateral system, including by addressing fragmentation, gridlock and lack of agility, and greater engagement of local communities.

**Priority Action 3: Investing in DRR**

Several aspects of the current disposition of the private sector, and specifically the financial sector, are seen as a primary contributor to creating and perpetuating several risks and hazards, including those that are existential in nature. Initiatives to address this disposition remain insufficient in ambition and scope, and fall short of supporting the agency and empowerment of local communities. Much needed reform and realignment should include steps aimed at: creating an enabling environment, integrating risk, reimagining the fundamental relationship between the economy, and the environment and society, and making progress on related universal standards, lexicon and taxonomy.

**Priority Action 4: Enhancing Preparedness and Building Back Better**

The COVID-19 pandemic and the triple environmental crises that have both resulted in setbacks to the achievement of the
Sustainable Development Goals. In this context Building Back Better and preparedness as ex post and ex ante concepts respectively have gained more traction in deliberations on addressing risk and building resilience. However, more can be done on making financing available for prevention, including by channeling it to local communities; and aligning prevention actions with recovery priorities, long-term resilience, and development plans.

Diversity of Knowledge Systems

The growing recognition that local, indigenous and traditional knowledge has an important role in addressing risk and building resilience is nearly unanimous. This idea is however often shunned by practitioners, and receives limited attention from contemporary science. These gaps are recognised by local and indigenous communities, and increasingly by the scientific community too. This has laid the foundation for progress towards creating a framework that brings diverse knowledge systems together, especially towards building resilience.

UNDRR and the Evolving Nature of Risk and Resilience

UNDRR is seen as the most appropriate global organization for setting the narrative and determining the direction of collective action for addressing systemic risk and building resilience, especially in today’s fast evolving context.

Forward looking perspectives advocated for a stronger role for UNDRR in building resilience by identifying, contextualizing, and addressing existing, new and emerging risks, including through, a stronger standing in the UN system as a political and substantive convenor. A degree of frustration was noted citing that the work of UNDRR is not well known outside of niche communities.