Accelerating Action for Gender-Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction
17 May 2023, 11:30am – 1 pm, Conference Room 6
United Nations Headquarters, New York

Background
The Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework (MTR SF) was called for by the UN General Assembly to “assess progress in integrating disaster risk reduction into policies, programmes and investments at all levels, identify good practice, gaps and challenges and accelerate the path to achieving the goal of the Sendai Framework and its seven global targets by 2030”. Effort has been made to ensure the MTR SF process is itself gender-responsive, with specific gender guidance issued for countries to support the voluntary national reviews.

The reports on the MTR SF have pointed to gender equality in disaster risk reduction as lagging behind, hence remaining a high priority cross-cutting issue in its implementation.¹ This is also borne out by an extensive body of research in countries across all regions.

The Agreed Conclusions of the 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2022, called for the creation of a gender action plan (GAP) for the remainder of the implementation of the Sendai Framework. This call was echoed in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Co-Chairs’ Summary (paragraph 72).

In line with the calls to develop a GAP for the Sendai Framework, UNDRR, UNFPA and UN Women have proposed a multi-stakeholder consultation process to support the finalization of a GAP by the end of 2023. It will be developed as technical document, rather than a politically negotiated agreement. A GAP for the Sendai Framework would build upon progress made to date and identify key priority actions to accelerate implementation to 2030.

This event forms part of the Risk Reduction Hub events convened on the margins of the High-Level Meeting of the midterm review of the Sendai Framework. It will provide an opportunity to discuss persisting barriers to gender-responsive disaster risk reduction, the priorities informing the development of the GAP, and key actions needed to accelerate the gender-responsive implementation of the Sendai Framework by 2030.

Objectives of the Event
● Identify priorities for gender equality and women’s empowerment that will help to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework by 2030.
● Promote the development of a GAP for the Sendai Framework, as well as the benefits of its implementation on the ground.
● Showcase concrete commitments from key stakeholders on the topic of gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and encourage countries to make a political commitment to support development and implementation of a GAP in the context of the MTR SF.

Participants
● Member States, UN system, civil society, academia, or other stakeholders engaged in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and seeking to build knowledge on the interlinkages between DRR and gender.
● High-level representation expected (e.g. ministers, UN entities senior management).
● Gender experts from SEM Gender Stakeholder Group, GAP Gender Expert group and grassroots women’s organizations.

Interpretation/Accessibility
● The event will be an in-person event with access for persons with disabilities. There will be simultaneous interpretation in all 6 UN languages, international deaf signing and closed captioning.
● The event will also be live streamed in a format that is accessible to persons with disabilities, potentially with online questions or contributions from remote participants.

Guiding questions
1. What experiences, practical examples and good practices could you share in relation to the gender-responsive implementation of the Sendai Framework, and more broadly, the acceleration of gender-responsive disaster risk reduction? What gaps still remain to be tackled?
2. How can the GAP contribute to more effective implementation of the Sendai Framework?
3. What are the needs for support at the national/subnational level that could be addressed by the GAP?
4. What key commitments are needed from governments/multilateral organizations to enhance gender equality and women’s leadership in the field of disaster risk reduction?
5. What considerations should be taken into account in the means of implementation of the GAP?
6. How can we ensure adequate financing for the GAP implementation?

Contact Information
For further information, kindly contact Mary Picard, UNDRR (mary.picard@un.org), Andreas Wuestenberg, UNFPA (wuestenberg@unfpa.org) or Rahel Steinbach, UN Women (rahel.steinbach@unwomen.org).