

*Linking Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Development
through the Human Security Approach*

Ministerial Luncheon at the Africa-Arab Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Organised by the United Nations Human Security Unit and
the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

11 October 2018

13:00-14:30, LAICO Hotel, L'Escale Room
Tunis, Tunisia

I. Background

Natural disasters, environmental degradation and extreme weather patterns can cause significant damage, both in terms of lives lost and assets destroyed; they disrupt harvests, deplete fisheries, erode livelihoods and spur infectious diseases. Some effects come on suddenly while others unfold over time. Even small disaster events can have major consequences by constantly eroding essential development assets. The adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 provided renewed emphasis on preventing new and reducing existing disaster risk through comprehensive, integrated and inclusive strategies that reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience. Successful implementation of the Framework will require meaningful translation of the priorities and related actions to the local, national and regional levels. In this regard, human security provides an effective framework for actualizing the priorities of the Sendai Framework and developing strategies that help ensure communities, countries and regions have the mitigation, adaptation, coping and response mechanisms in place to reduce the intensity of impacts, and safeguard livelihoods and development gains.

Programmes supported by the UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS), including a programme led by United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) in Tunisia and Mauritania, provide a wealth of evidence and lessons on building resilience and reducing vulnerability to natural disasters and climate-related threats. They have enhanced the capacity of communities to cope with and recover from disasters while simultaneously reducing related food, health, economic and environmental insecurities. Such an approach has enriched the quality of information required on the level, trends and distribution of risks and vulnerabilities, reinforced the development of early warning mechanisms, and improved the resilience of those most vulnerable through greater community participation in identifying and finding solutions to existing and emerging risks.

II. Intended outcome and key messages

Building on the side event held at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan in March 2015, the expected outcomes of the event include: (1) Knowledge of the linkages between human security and the Sendai Framework; (2) Concrete understanding of how to apply the human security approach to disaster risk reduction strategies; (3) Tangible examples on prevention and resilience from different countries and regions, as well as latest innovations in integrated ecosystem management; and (4) Lessons on comprehensive approaches to disaster risk reduction that simultaneously respond to economic, food, health and environmental insecurity of individuals and communities in multiple contexts.