

## **CONCEPT NOTE AND PROGRAMME**

### **High-Level Meeting on the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**

#### **“Working Together to Reduce Risk for a Resilient Future”**

**United Nations Headquarters, New York  
18-19 May 2023; 10am – 6pm**

#### **Context**

The world’s risk landscape is evolving at an unprecedented speed and scale. The systemic nature of risk and the shocks that cascade across sectors, systems and geographies, demand a re-examination of approaches to understanding, managing and reducing risk, whether man-made, natural, environmental, climate-related, biological, or technological.

While progress has been made in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction since its adoption in 2015, no country is on track to achieve the outcome and goal by 2030. Failure to implement the Sendai Framework, to reduce risk in social, economic, and environmental systems, renders impossible the attainment of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other intergovernmental agreements and conventions, including the Paris Agreement, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The understanding of the economic, social, political and ecological drivers of risk is improving, but meaningful governance transformations are still needed to enable cross-sector, trans-disciplinary disaster risk management and prevention efforts. Risk knowledge must be systematically incorporated into decision-making, governance, investments and behaviours. In doing so, countries can shape more risk-informed, resilient and inclusive development pathways.

#### **The Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework**

The midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030<sup>1</sup> (MTR SF) takes stock of implementation, assesses progress and challenges; identifies shifts in context, new and emerging issues since 2015; and examines options for accelerated and amplified action in risk-informed decision-making, investment, and behaviour. The MTR SF is an opportunity to identify and implement renovations, innovations and course corrections to policy, practice, investment and cooperation to prevent, mitigate and reduce existing and emerging risks before 2030.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://sendaiframework-mtr.undrr.org/>

As we approach the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the SDG Summit and the global stocktake of the Paris Agreement, and the Summit of the Future in 2024, this high-level meeting (HLM) is a unique opportunity to galvanize political attention and accelerate action towards the radical transformations that must take place if societies are to chart a liveable pathway within finite planetary boundaries.

### **High-Level Meeting Objectives**

The HLM provides a platform for Member States, the United Nations system partners and other stakeholders to reflect on the findings and recommendations of the MTR SF and formulate a forward-looking and risk-informed approach to more effectively address systemic risk.

The meeting will adopt a political declaration to renew commitment and accelerate implementation of the Sendai Framework up to 2030.

The HLM is expected to:

- Raise global awareness and generate political will and momentum to integrate risk reduction in all decision-making, investment, and behaviour in alignment with the Sendai Framework to reduce disaster risk and build resilience across sectors.
- Showcase solutions and best practices to address gaps and obstacles and announce commitments and plans to accelerate implementation.
- Encourage the adoption and application of a risk-informed and prevention-oriented approach, through multi-sector practices on disaster risk management and resilient development planning.
- Showcase the value proposition of the full implementation of the Sendai Framework for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing States.
- Enhance national, sub-regional and international cooperation to realise risk-informed decision-making, investment, and behaviour to inform strategic foresight to prevent or prepare for future global crisis.

## Draft Programme

<b>Thursday, 18 May 2023 – General Assembly Hall</b>	
10am – 11am	<b>Opening Segment</b>
11am – 1pm	<b>Plenary - Charting liveable pathways for humans and nature</b>
1pm – 3pm	<b>Break</b>
3pm – 6pm	<b>Plenary - Charting liveable pathways for humans and nature</b>
<b>Friday, 19 May 2023 – Trusteeship Council Chamber</b>	
10am -11:30am	<b>Multistakeholder Panel 1 - From Managing Disasters to Managing Risk; Risk Governance fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century</b>
11:30 am – 1pm	<b>Multistakeholder Panel 2 - De-risking investment and reconfiguring the global financial system - moving from risk generation to risk reduction</b>
1pm – 3pm	<b>Break</b>
3pm – 4:30pm	<b>Multistakeholder Panel 3 - Strategic foresight and risk reduction to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</b>
4:30pm – 5:45pm	<b>Multistakeholder Panel 4 – A collective responsibility – localising disaster risk reduction</b>
5:45pm – 6pm	<b>Closing Segment</b>

## Plenary – Charting liveable pathways for humans and nature

The Plenary will highlight national perspectives on implementation of the Sendai Framework to date and identify actions to amplify and accelerate risk-informed action for achievement of the outcome and goal of the Sendai Framework by 2030. To this end, Member State representatives are also invited to share commitments and transformative efforts.

### Guiding questions

1. What are the key enablers and areas of progress and success, and what good practices exist?
2. What are the key challenges that require urgent and collective attention?
3. What partnerships or collaborative efforts must be created, strengthened or consolidated, to achieve risk-informed decision making?
4. What are the foremost priorities for action towards 2030?
5. What specific commitments or announcements would your country, or group of countries, like to make?

## **Multistakeholder Panel 1: From Managing Disasters to Managing Risk; Risk Governance fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

Reducing risk is a central component of safeguarding human existence and security. Some progress has been made in our understanding of risk since the adoption of the Sendai Framework in 2015. Shifts from single-hazard and event-based disaster management, to understanding the richer complexities of the systemic nature of risk are necessary for effective risk-governance fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Conventional governance systems were originally designed to address incremental environmental and social changes. Non-linear processes and complex interactions between drivers of risk and the irreversible impacts of breaching planetary boundaries call for an overhaul. The world presently faces unsustainable levels of risk that transcend national and generational boundaries.

As the COVID-19 pandemic and the triple environmental crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss have shown, current risk management modalities and risk governance approaches are inadequate to address the shocks that frequently cascade and compound across sectors, systems, geographies and through time. As Member States identified in the *guiding principles* of the Sendai Framework, risk reduction and risk management require ‘all-of-society engagement and partnership’, ‘coordination...within and across sectors’ and ‘full engagement of all State institutions.’

Current and expected global challenges demand collective actions to address risks that are not fully understood. Anticipating, preventing and addressing risks to the planet must be part of every decision, policy, investment, and budget. The largest transformations needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda and other internationally agreed frameworks and

agreements require a systemic approach that account for interdependencies and interactions between goals and targets.

This panel will discuss different and emerging approaches to risk reduction and prevention at all levels that seek to contend with 21<sup>st</sup> century risks *before* they manifest as shocks and disasters – whether natural, or man-made hazards and related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks.<sup>2</sup>

The panel will offer solutions and good examples of risk governance approaches that meet the transdisciplinary and dynamic nature of the underlying drivers of risk. The discussion will examine shifts in priorities to policy convergence, overcoming sectoral silos, and developing new integrated approaches that take into account systemic interactions and focus on causal relationships between goals and policies.

Guiding questions:

1. What adjustments are required in policy, regulatory and legislative frameworks, institutional mandates and strategies, to capitalise on opportunities, or to mitigate new and emerging threats to the achievement of the expected outcome and goal of the Sendai Framework, and risk-informed sustainable development?
2. What measures can be taken to enable integrated reduction and management of risk across institutions, sectors, stakeholders and scales, including risks resulting from increasing climate impacts, rapid technological change, and increasing social inequality?
3. How can we better understand the political economy that drives the process of risk creation to be able to prevent and reduce risk?
4. How can risk management reach the most vulnerable and ensure that no one is left behind, especially in countries in special situations and crisis-affected communities? How can disaster risk reduction be further scaled up and implemented with humanitarian assistance to promote prevention of new risks and preparedness and early action?

**Multistakeholder Panel 2: De-risking investment and reconfiguring the global financial system to move from risk generation to risk reduction**

The current investment and financing landscape has seen progress towards integrating various dimensions of risk. However, public and private sector financing is not adequately internalizing current and projected disaster risk, thus driving future catastrophes through risk-blind investment decisions. The current approach to finance is yet to be aligned with the reality of the increasing levels of disaster risk within economic, social, and environmental systems.

---

<sup>2</sup> Paragraph 15, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

An urgent shift in the balance from investing in response and protection, to prevention and disaster risk reduction is imperative. Yet, many aspects of the financial system, macroeconomic policy, and development and climate finance continue to contribute to the creation of disaster risk. Insufficient consideration of the impact of investments is exacerbating the exposure and vulnerability of communities, supply chains, and natural ecosystems, and ignoring or disassociating such investments from subsequent macroeconomic implications.

The panel will examine opportunities to reimagine the fundamental relationship between the economy, the environment, and society. There has been significant momentum towards the systemic reform of the financial system in recent years. Efforts to date have focused on the development of new governing rules, structures, and processes within the financial system; but Member States and the international financial system need to address market short-termism and failures that impact efficient pricing and proper consideration of disaster risks, using fiscal and market-based measures and other incentives.

The ongoing efforts to reconfigure how risk is treated in the global financial system will be examined, and recommendations proposed for collaboration, integration and amplification of capital deployment at the service of human and ecosystems' health and wellbeing, rather than to their detriment.

#### Guiding questions:

1. What actions can be taken in the financial regulatory and supervisory domain that can ensure disaster risk is accurately priced, accounted for, and disclosed in decisions?
2. What lessons can be drawn from other related efforts, such as the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures and Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures?
3. What role is there for central banks and other national monetary authorities in integrating disaster risk reduction into their decisions, or the credit decisions of commercial banks?
4. What fiscal measures or other incentives could be installed to push private sector financial flows towards more sustainable, risk-adjusted outcomes?

#### **Multistakeholder Panel 3: Strategic foresight and risk reduction to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals**

The Sendai Framework is the blueprint to address natural and man-made hazards and related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks, harnessing collective intelligence and novel partnerships to deal with risks as wide and varied as the misuse of artificial intelligence, sequencing of genetic resources, zoonotic infectious diseases or food systems fragility.

The increasing frequency and scale of shocks calls for better application of risk analytics and strategic foresight to guide and underpin future-proof national development plans as well as sector-specific plans and associated investments by public and private sectors. The ability to plan, anticipate and better prepare for change and uncertainty will be essential for informing effective resilience building measures.

Seven years of implementation of the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda have demonstrated the need for strengthened efforts to prevent and mitigate major risks before they manifest as shocks and disasters. Recent years have also shown a need for more effective response when such risks are realised. The panel will discuss what is required for us to be able to better manage catastrophic and potentially existential risks, for example, how to invest and collaborate, for instance, building institutional capability, capacity and the scientific and technological bases for the multi-dimensional risk assessment and strategic foresight that is urgently needed.

### Guiding Questions

1. How can governments and communities at all levels leverage strategic foresight activities to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals?
2. How can the multilateral system be fit-for-purpose in its capacity for strategic foresight and risk reduction, particularly for the most vulnerable countries and communities around the world?
3. What steps are necessary to generate a vision of the future that is inclusive and supported by all segments of our societies?
4. How can the multilateral sustainable development coordination and support architecture better understand, incorporate, and thus effectively address risk, inspire activity in support of the global commons, and deliver public goods <sup>3</sup>?

### **Multistakeholder Panel 4: A collective responsibility – Localising disaster risk reduction, restoring context**

Effective disaster risk reduction calls for a whole-of-society approach. While an expanded and strong interface between science, policy and practice is important, the enhanced participation at the regional level as well as local levels among communities, youth, women's groups, grassroots organisations and local authorities in understanding and managing disaster risk is crucial. Furthermore, local, indigenous and traditional knowledge present substantial value in understanding, preventing and mitigating risks, minimising disaster impacts and building resilience.

This panel will present approaches to developing risk knowledge, that tap into broad and diverse parts of our communities, offer new perspectives and approaches, and open up possibilities and partnerships that have previously seemed impossible. The panel will discuss the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders and State institutions at sub-national and local levels, explore how contextual specificities can be systematically

---

<sup>3</sup> Notable example is the Early Warnings for All initiative.

integrated in risk understanding and risk management, with appropriate means of implementation, to reduce vulnerabilities of the most vulnerable and build systemic resilience for people and planet.

### Guiding Questions

1. How can we build inclusive and interconnected governance and collaboration networks that incorporate local, traditional, indigenous knowledge?
2. What are good examples of integrating regional and local knowledge and action – of local authorities, community leaders, grassroots, youth, indigenous peoples – in risk understanding, detection, prevention, management and reduction? What have been the barriers in doing so? If any, how can these be overcome?
3. What are the ways forward to effectively address data gaps and risk information<sup>4</sup> and what role do communities and grassroots organizations play?
4. How can coordinated policy responses be informed by systems-based sub-national and local evaluations? How can such policies be both informed by and develop multi-sector and multi-partner interventions that adequately respond to the requirements of people and ecosystems at the sub-national and local levels?
5. What priority actions can be taken to empower local authorities, the private sector and partnerships to strengthen risk reducing action at the subnational and local levels?

---

<sup>4</sup> Including in respect to loss and damage.