

Focal Point: Terry Otieno-terry.otieno@unmgcy.org with a request to cc moa.m.herrgard@gmail.com

UNDRR SEM Website

Chapeau

During the past years, the world has witnessed the exacerbation of climate change, the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, and persistent conflicts, thus illuminating the ever-evolving and intricately connected nature of crises. These breakdowns have significant implications for how individuals, societies, and governments combat the unpredictable challenges that occur as a result of the crises. These critical moments present a learning opportunity which is crucial for assessing progress towards Agenda 2030, the Paris Agreement, and Addis Ababa Action. To promote the achievement of Our Common Agenda, it is imperative to forge new intergovernmental agreements to move towards a reinvigorating multilateral system that is better positioned to positively impact people's lives. These recommendations have been designed to reflect an inclusive approach to responding to current and future risks.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

The deficiency in financial support poses a significant impediment to the development and implementation of effective DRR measures, leaving communities at a heightened risk of devastation. To address this critical gap, we must advocate for increased public financing that is directed towards empowering these nations to build resilience and adapt to the changing climate.

We must evaluate prospective programmes on economic, social, and environmental viability, weighing the current benefits against the negative impact on future generations. Thus, prioritising finances for universal access to early warning systems and early action measures.

We should ensure that local actors and stakeholders are meaningfully engaged in the entire process of development, implementation, and follow-up of all finance processes.

We must make sure through well-governed mechanisms such as the newly launched Loss and Damage Fund that substantial and sustained international and national public financing reaches directly the most vulnerable communities in the Global South

By channelling resources into DRR, we not only mitigate the immediate impacts of disasters but also lay the foundation for a more sustainable and resilient future.

Chapter II. International peace and security

We call for continued international solidarity efforts. The Covid 19 pandemic highlighted the need for a holistic approach to international peace and security, recognizing that unity and diplomatic communication are a prerequisite to networked multilateralism, promoting social cohesion and trust among states.

Disseminating the UN Charter in a simplified manner using various literature forms will inculcate the principles of equal rights and self-determination of people which are fundamental in cultivating peace.

We advocate for shared interest among states as the pandemic has also shown that collaboration and resource mobilisation for a common goal can be successful.

We call for partnerships whether public-private partnerships, transboundary cooperation, or scientific collaboration, all sectors need to prioritise the well-being of people by ensuring peace and security are ever present in and out of their jurisdictions.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

STIs and digital cooperation continue to have profound impacts on how disasters are mitigated. STIs revolutionize DRR approaches that establish resilience across the globe.

Continuous promotion of STIs in the development of early warning systems and efficient disaster management techniques that reduce the severity of disasters is vital.

We call for continuous improvement and designs of early warning systems to reduce deaths attributed per 100,0000 population.

We need to formulate policies that inform the creation and distribution of data and knowledge but at the same time, guard against misconstrued information to promote digital cooperation.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

Despite increased attention to leaving no one behind, efforts to address the vulnerabilities of youths remain inadequate. To avoid leaving any youth behind, it is essential to prioritise enhanced investments to address the vulnerability of youths. This includes but is not limited to providing flexible and accessible financing and resource allocation mechanisms that enable youths to respond to emerging risks and prioritise shifting needs.

The vulnerability of youth occurs in varied forms. However, it is essential to go beyond viewing this demographic as vulnerable and instead recognize them as valuable contributors to current and future state and global developments.

Youth should be considered and provided with learning and growth opportunities through formal and informal avenues.

Youths need to see the results of the existing commitments and programmes reflected in their daily lives.

The youth need more meaningful, diverse and effective engagement both within and outside the United Nations.

The UN Youth Office should have national offices to intensify and support other state engagement avenues that should be designed to start at the national, regional, and international levels.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

Just as societies are holistic, diverse and integrated, so too must be the institutions which govern them. This means alignment and mutual reinforcement of global policies; domestic ministries working across silos; local authorities serving the whole individual at the community level; and businesses responsibly using and providing resources without generating new risks.

Moreover, these governance systems must be mutually reinforcing at all levels. Strengthen coordination and coherence by linking DRR to development (e.g. through a risk-informed development lens) and climate change (e.g. with an emphasis on adaptation and loss and damage).

Despite efforts to promote resilient and sustainable development, progress at the local level remains inadequate. To address this pressing concern, there is a need to prioritise investment in local actions, which should be grounded in the voices of local communities and their traditional knowledge, and equitably acted upon.

These actions should not take place in silos, but it is crucial to connect and collaborate and share experiences. Such an approach will inspire collective ownership and foster meaningful collaboration, ultimately enhancing progress at all levels