



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT MECHANISM

SENDAI FRAMEWORK

FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030



The Sendai Stakeholders Engagement Mechanism policy statement to the 2022 High-Level Political Forum

The mid-point of the Agenda 2030 and the global recovery from the global COVID-19 pandemic call for a thorough reflection of the progress made so far, and an evaluation of the risks and vulnerabilities faced along the way, which can offset the global sustainable development effort. Disaster risk, whether natural or human-made, remains the biggest threat to achieving the SDGs. We need to modify the current development risk and vulnerability understanding and management landscape in light of the lessons learned from COVID-19.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) provides valuable guidance on how to ensure that risk-informed development underpins the 2030 Agenda implementation. It contributes to the balance, the internal and external development of the global society through reduction of development risk through prevention, mitigation and adaptation, and promotes the vision of resilient communities and societies. The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), which is considered the main UN platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by providing political leadership, advice and recommendations for sustainable development, is closely linked to the Sendai Framework embedded in Agenda 2030.

We need to break the Agenda 2030 silos by working across ministries and sectors to strengthen governance for the implementation of the Sendai Framework, Paris Agreements and the SDGs. We must strengthen coordination and coherence by linking DRR policies and strategies to development policies, plans and actions, climate change, humanitarian action, health and human mobility in appropriate ways.

The SFDRR brings a key message of promoting the whole of society approach to break the silos of coordination and to leave no one behind. In this spirit, the 7th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction convened by the Government of Indonesia on May 23-27, 2022 hosted the second Sendai Stakeholders Forum, which reinstated the need for a systematic approach to resilience that delivers whole of government and whole of policy approach to achieve risk-informed development.

Key policy messages for the 2022 High-Level Political Forum

- ▶ **SDG4:** Resilient educational systems and resilience education are key to ensuring education continuity and accessibility. Making schools resilient to disasters through school safety programs and access to children displaced by disasters must be at the heart of the SDG4 implementation. In addition, the integration of DRR education promotes resilient thinkers among the leaders of tomorrow alongside the promotion of partnerships to make DRR education reach the wider society, would help to empower actors in building resilience and risk management efforts.
- ▶ **SDG5:** Gender equality and women and girls' empowerment is a tandem goal that requires systemic policy, education, economic, social and most importantly fiscal and resource-based investments. After a disaster women tend to suffer most from the lack of basic infrastructure in temporary settlements. It is impossible to achieve without the leadership of women and girls themselves, who must be capacitated and supported through necessary policy frameworks to fully participate in the Agenda 2030 implementation.

▶ **SDG 14&15:** To achieve sustainable and systemic long-term management of the blue economies, as well as better monitoring of the human impact on marine ecosystems, we must promote knowledge exchange and coherence. We must strengthen partnerships that work on nature-based solutions as a systemic approach to building resilience by employing local contextual knowledge of the surrounding environment, utilizing indigenous and traditional knowledge, and engaging scientific methods and innovation, to build partnerships that could restore and promote environmental sustainability.

▶ **SDG17:** To enhance partnership potential for the Agenda 2030, we must connect the government, civil society and local actors as well as the private sector, promoting actor inter-connectivity and interlinkages. To achieve meaningful partnerships, we must strive for inclusiveness of all stakeholders at all levels of government as well as in knowledge and data production, we should strive to deepen connections among civil society, government, the private sector, and the media.

Agility and flexibility must be built into development programmes and activities, ensuring continuous application of learnings in new programmes and activities. This in turn calls for strengthening stakeholder engagement through effective information sharing and resourcing of their action, as well as creating an enabling environment for their full participation in the design, planning and implementation of resilient development processes. This could be achieved through national DRR platforms, VNR and VLR processes.

▶ **Leaving no one behind:** Employ leading methodologies for the collection of disaggregated data with a focus on intersectionality and risk to identify specific barriers, maximize inclusion, and ultimately better inform development policies. Adopt an inclusive, intergenerational approach to the Agenda 2030 by building on the diverse lived experience and the energy and innovation of all groups of society.

▶ **Promote localization:** All policy frameworks integrate at the grassroots level, where the resilience processes unfold. We must ensure decisions are made at the lowest appropriate level and integrate local actors and all societal actors into policy, planning, action, and monitoring, positioning them not solely as beneficiaries but as agents. Community leaders ought to be included in decision-making in local, national, and global spaces as they bring essential knowledge and community data to achieve risk-informed decision making and ensure building back better in the context of COVID-19 recovery and long term resilience-building effort. The local grassroots and indigenous knowledge could be combined and integrated with that of the scientific and research community.

▶ **Ensure appropriate financing:** Make funds more accessible to a broad range of local and grassroots actors through participation funds that ensure access is not limited by financial constraints. Provide decentralized development, risk reduction and climate action finance - flexible and long term - with an emphasis on the community level by empowering and financing grassroots-led action for risk reduction with a special emphasis on community-based organizations as well as women's and youth efforts.

¹The Sendai Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM) is an official UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction platform for engaging civil society. SEM brings together representatives of the UN major groups, communities, private sector and other civil society stakeholders, to realize an 'all-of-society' approach embedded in the SFDRR and to integrate DRR into the recovery and development agendas, to promote inclusiveness and partnership. Those interested in joining SEM, can learn more by [following the link](#).