

# CEB Statement to the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

14 – 18 March 2015, Sendai, Japan

The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) commits to a coherent approach to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in programmes and operations of the United Nations System. In this statement, the United Nations Secretary-General and Executive Heads have collectively affirmed the commitment to prioritize disaster risk reduction at the strategic and operational levels, and demonstrated the United Nations System's readiness to support countries in the implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.



United Nations



UN World Conference on  
Disaster Risk Reduction  
2015 Sendai Japan

1. We, the members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), are strongly committed to assisting countries and communities in implementing the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and the outcomes of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDDR) held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015.
2. We recognize the opportunity offered by the convergence of international agendas in 2015 and 2016 to promote coherence across the sustainable development, peace-building, climate change, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian efforts. At this strategic moment in time, we reaffirm our commitments set out in the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience adopted in 2013.
3. We underscore that unless the risk of disasters is addressed in development policies our common goals of sustainable development and poverty eradication cannot be secured. It includes ensuring disaster risk-sensitive sector investments, such as agriculture, water, education, health and ecosystems management, urban and rural development, provision of social services, as well as strengthening of early warning systems, preparedness and the application of science and technology.
4. Thus, our main contribution, as members of the CEB, to the implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction is to ensure that disaster risk reduction for resilience is anchored as a core principle for the UN system's collective efforts to achieve sustainable development.
5. In partnership with others, we will support countries in establishing strong risk governance with informed and effective leadership at regional, national and local levels. Disaster risk management is a concern for all and therefore requires the inclusion, engagement and empowerment of all members of society.
6. Through the work of our respective organizations and our collective efforts as the UN system, we aspire to set a precedence for effective development cooperation that reduces the risk of disasters, in full alignment with related and already agreed principles.

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- 7.** Our engagement will be based on our track record of working at country and community levels to support national authorities and other stakeholders to undertake practical disaster risk reduction. This work will be underpinned by our comparative advantage in assisting vulnerable, marginalized, discriminated against, conflict-affected and impoverished groups, pursued through an approach to programming that is disability and age-sensitive, human rights-based, and people-centered and our collective commitment to foster gender equality and women's equal participation and leadership in disaster risk reduction.
  - 8.** We will fully align our support to countries with the goals, guiding principles and priorities set out in the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, and ensure coherent and effective UN operations in all aspects, from leadership to programming, implementation, and reporting. In this regard, it is important to improve the availability of, and access to, data and statistics disaggregated by gender, disability, age and other characteristics and up-to-date risk information, as a basis for transparent decision-making.
  - 9.** Furthermore, to ensure our ability to continue to deliver our mandates when disasters occur, we have initiated an emergency management framework under the rubric of the Organizational Resilience Management System of the UN (ORMS)<sup>1</sup>.
  - 10.** Finally, we pledge to regularly monitor, adjust and upscale our collective efforts in delivering on the commitments we made in this Statement. The CEB, through its High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), will review the progress made on the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, following the WCDRR. We will use this as our first opportunity to further strengthen the UN system support to countries and communities in full alignment with the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

## The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)

The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) is the main instrument for supporting and reinforcing the coordinating role of the United Nations inter-governmental bodies on social, economic and related matters. Chaired by the Secretary-General, the Board brings together the Executive Heads of 29 organizations of the UN System. CEB ensures effective coordination and coherence on a wide range of programmatic, operational and management issues of system-wide concern. It is supported by three High Level Committees:

- High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP)
- High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM)
- United Nations Development Group (UNDG)

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