

AGREED

Bulletin for Parliamentarians
Building risk informed
and resilient communities
No.1 - 2016



FOREWORD

UNISDR has been tasked to support the implementation, follow-up and review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030. Parliamentarians are key partners to achieve this goal through their genuine commitment to advocacy for disaster risk reduction. At UNISDR we want to keep informed, engaged and mobilized members of parliaments' community about efforts made to implement Sendai Framework around the world. We begin this 2016 pleased to introduce the first of a series of bulletins about disaster risk reduction, featuring trends and topics, reference papers and actions performed by parliamentarians and other stakeholders, as well as information that could inspire their work in this turning point time for the sustainable agenda.

UNISDR is eager to receive your feedback, suggestions and contributions to move towards more risk informed and resilient communities.

IN FOCUS

2015 will be registered as a landmark year for humanity. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted in Sendai, Japan on March 18, to achieve the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries over the next 15 years. Later in June, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for Financing to Development has been agreed to overhaul global finance practices and generate investments for tackling a range of economic, social and environmental challenges. On September 27, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted to address the needs of people in both developed and developing countries, emphasizing that no one should be left behind. Finally, the year ended with the memorial adoption of the Paris Climate Change Agreement on December 12th, in Paris, France.

These four agreements are crucial for succeed in the genuine aspiration of the humankind to improve the lives of everyone, everywhere. The seventeen sustainable development goals, together with the actions outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the foundations of the new climate change agreement, place strong emphasis on disaster risk reduction and recognize that disasters undermine countries development at all levels. Their provisions



share common dimensions in social, economic, environmental and governance fields.

The post 2015 architecture for sustainable development has been conceived to be implemented from global to local levels with a strong sense of complementarity and coherence. Parliamentarians have the historic opportunity and responsibility to contribute to address the root causes that persistently prevent communities from achieving sustainable development and to eliminate poverty. The Post-2015 development agenda needs high-level political commitment and an integrated approach to succeed.

UNISDR is working with Governments, stakeholders and partners towards Sendai Framework's implementation outlining the coherence and complementarity of these agendas and has elaborated a series of papers to contribute with these efforts. For more information visit

<http://www.unisdr.org/we/advocate/sustainable-development>

“ Risk reduction is a reality we have to contemplate; MPs will be asked to act upon these engagements (climate change, DRR and sustainable development). The time to deliver is now. No one size that fits all, each country has to come up with an answer, building back better and not building back risk.”



DRR Champion and President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Saber Hossain Chowdhury at the Meeting with Speakers of Parliament, UN New York, September 3, 2015.



EVENTS

March

On the eve of the opening of the Third World Conference of Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, a session of parliamentarians entitled **'Strengthening Governance for Disaster Risk Reduction'** took place. The President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Mr. Saber Chowdhury who is a long-standing advocate for disaster risk reduction, and also a UNISDR Champion, highlighted the key role of parliamentarians in addressing the escalation of disaster losses and strengthening local and national resilience. The meeting adopted a resolution titled "Towards risk-resilient development: taking into consideration demographic trends and natural constraints" and appealed to all governments "to improve and enhance their mechanisms for disaster risk reduction and ensure that development policy and strategies build the disaster risk resilience of their people and the economy".

June

Parliamentarians from the External Relations Committee of the **Austrian Parliament** held an information sharing meeting at the beginning of June to address Sendai Framework implementation, including international cooperation matters.

The **East African Disaster Risk Reduction Parliamentarian Platform** was established in mid-June, with the support of parliamentarians from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda to look at how to boost governance to reduce disaster risks and reinforce the capacity of populations to build sustainable livelihoods.

July

UNISDR representatives met with Euro Latin American Parliamentary Assembly / **EUROLAT** to define ways of collaboration and joint efforts for the implementation of the Sendai Framework. Sendai Framework encourages the work with regional organizations and other parliamentary mechanisms.

August

Women in Parliaments (WIP) Global Forum and UNISDR set up work streams to raise awareness of the Sendai Framework and to integrate disaster

risk reduction as a topic within WIP. Gender equality is a priority under UNISDR mandate and a key element in the Sendai Framework.

Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment (**GLOBE**) and UNISDR agreed to join efforts to work on coherence of Post 2015 agenda. GLOBE is leading the Partnership for Climate Legislation. September

In the margins of the Fourth World Conference of **Speakers of Parliament**, UNISDR and IPU co-organized a meeting with Speakers of Parliament to introduce the Sendai Framework and begin a dialogue on challenges and opportunities for its implementation. More than 20 Speakers from all regions attended the meeting.

October

UNISDR and WIP organized a working session on the private sector and the role of parliamentarians at the WIP **Summit of Women in Parliament**. MP from Honduras representing the Central American Parliament, PARLACEN, and one CEO from the Marhnos Group, Mexico, and a representative from the government of Mexico shared their experiences and recommendations for stronger partnership.

A side event to launch the **caucus of women in parliaments for disaster risk reduction** also took place. More than 20 women parliamentarians from all regions attended the meeting and gave their backing to the Sendai Framework and the gender agenda. WIP with the support of UNISDR introduced disaster risk reduction as a component of its work.

December

GLOBE International's annual legislators' summit took place in the context of COP21 4-5 December in Paris, France. Under the theme "Towards coherence and impact: The challenge of Paris and the 2030 Agenda for a prosperous and sustainable world" UNISDR delivered a key message to reaffirm the importance of Sendai Framework as part of the post 2015 agenda. The final **communiqué** recognizes the framework as such.

The Inter-Parliamentarian Union together with the National Assembly of France celebrated the parliamentarian meeting on the occasion of the COP21 in Paris, France, 5-6 December to highlight the key role of parliamentarians in implementing the post 2015 agenda. Parliamentarians stated clear messages on the scientific evidence between disasters and



climate change and the need to adopt measures to reduce them. The Sendai Framework was included as a key reference in the **outcome document** and the IPU's **Plan of Action**.

DRR NOTEBOOK

WORDS INTO ACTION: THE WAY TO IMPLEMENT THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK

Sendai Framework recognizes UNISDR as the main organization to support its implementation, follow-up and review. In particular, Sendai recalls that this task should be, among others, through evidence based and practical guidance. In order to achieve this commitment a number of targeted guides will be developed to give content and to fill gaps where is needed. **The Words into Action guides** were an important tool during the Hyogo Framework for Action last decade and it is expected that under Sendai Framework, guides and updates will be improved from practice, learning and progress. UNISDR has launched this important initiative inviting stakeholders to nominate experts or representatives to contribute, parliamentarians included. The Words into Action guides will cover major topics from Sendai Framework each one with specific timeline, such as the seven global targets, the four priorities for action, a selection of thirteen cross cutting areas and the six groups of stakeholders. Parliamentarians are called to actively contribute to this key initiative.

GUEST PARLIAMENT



At the heart of the Peace Process in Central America, the Central American Parliament (**PARLACEN**) held its first Plenary Session in October 28, 1991. 65 parliamentarians representing 13 political parties from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua took part. Later Panama (1993) and Dominican Republic (2007) joined the PARLACEN.

In September 9, 2010, a new legal framework for the PARLACEN entered

into force. Its core agenda, Agenda 10, adopted in 2013, includes disaster risk management and climate change as a key topic of interest.

It sits in Guatemala. Hon. Armando Bardales (Deputy from Honduras) is the current President of the parliament. Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO), Andean Parliament (PARLANDINO) and Euro-Latina American Parliament (EUROLAT) are observers.



Hon. **Loren Legarda**, is a Senator from Philippines. Senator Legarda is one out of thirteen UNISDR **Disaster Risk Reduction Champions** and recently appointed as Global Champion for Resilience in the context of COP21 in Paris, France. She worked for the enactment of laws on environmental governance like the Clean Air Act, the Solid Waste Management Act, the Climate Change Act and the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act. Her work has been decisively to introduce disaster risk reduction, climate change and the sustainable development goals in the 2016 national budget of Philippines.

UPCOMING EVENTS

134th IPU Assembly to be held in Lusaka, Zambia, on March 2016 will adopt the Parliamentary Action Plan on climate change.

Women in Parliaments Global Summit will take place the first half of 2016 in Jordan where the caucus of women for DRR is going to have its first working session.

AGREED

Declaration adopted on the occasion of the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament on September 2nd, 2015, New York, New York. / Placing democracy at the service of peace and sustainable development::Building the world the people want.

Speakers of Parliaments and other legislators from nearly 140 countries committed to support the implementation of disaster risk reduction and

promote a culture of prevention and disaster resilience. They agreed that the Sustainable Development Goals can only be achieved by reduce disaster risk, building resilient infrastructure, protecting and better managing natural resources and revitalizing the global partnership. MPs also underscored the need of coherence across sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and climate change, and encouraged IPU and the United Nations to continue to expand their cooperation particularly in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Outcome Declaration of the Women in Parliaments Global Forum – Mexico Summit, 9 October 2015, México City.

Women in Parliaments participating at Mexico Summit 2015 “Make it Happen” announced that a global WIP Working Council on disaster Risk Reduction had set up to ensure that Parliaments advocate for coherent and gender sensitive responses to disaster at all levels, and support the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Communique “Towards coherence and Impact” issued on the occasion of the GLOBE COP21 Legislators Summit, 4-5 December 2015, Paris, France.

The 221 parliamentarians attending the summit committed to reviewing INDCs and/or national climate change action plans to ensure appropriate ambition, funding and coherence with commitments under the 2030 Agenda, including the Sendai Framework.

Outcome document adopted in the IPU - Parliamentary Meeting celebrated on the occasion of the COP21, 6 December 2015, Paris, France.

Parliamentarians gathered in Paris recognized that the fight against climate change cannot be an obstacle to development. The two challenges must be met together. They also agreed that the Paris Agreement must be fully consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals and with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

About UNISDR: UNISDR is the UN office for disaster risk reduction. It is led by the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction and has been tasked to support the implementation, follow-up and review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030.

UNISDR works with parliamentarians towards the implementation of Sendai Framework. A Global Advisory Group and regional groups have been set up for this purpose. UNISDR seeks collaborative, inclusive, youth and gender balanced partnerships with parliamentarians. <http://www.unisdr.org/partners/parliamentarians>

Contact: lopezortiz@un.org | acastillo@un.org

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