

7th EUROPEAN FORUM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Helsinki Outcomes

3-5 October 2016

We, the participants of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR), present at the Helsinki Session hosted and chaired by Finland and co-chaired by Turkey;

1. Reflect on the continuous toll of disasters in Europe and recall the painful consequences of the 2016 earthquake in Central Italy that saw significant human and economic losses.
2. Call for strengthened coherence and mutually reinforcing implementation between the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and other recent international agreements and processes, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on climate change and the New Urban Agenda, due to be adopted this month at Habitat III, the United Nations Conference on housing and sustainable urban development.
3. Recognise disasters caused by natural hazards, alongside unplanned urbanisation, environmental degradation, and climate change, as a driving force behind large population movements: worldwide 19.2 million people were displaced in 2015 due to disasters related to natural hazards.
4. Call for a stronger engagement by European leaders and decision makers in the process of moving forward the disaster risk reduction agenda and Sendai Framework implementation, given the powerful role of disaster risk reduction in fostering economic growth and supporting sustainable development.
5. Welcome Mexico's invitation to the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, focusing on the 2020 targets of the Sendai Framework linked to the Sustainable Development Goals, reducing economic losses, and further reducing vulnerabilities.
6. Agree to host the pilot EFDRR Open Forum in March 2017, with High Level, Featured and Technical sessions. Appreciate Turkey's hosting of the pilot EFDRR Open Forum as an important contribution to the preparations for the 2017 Global Platform.
7. Welcome the progress of the work of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group (OIEWG) on Terminology and Indicators and engage to promote the coherence and mutually reinforcing agenda within the establishment of monitoring and reporting mechanisms and in shaping strategies and programmes.
8. Welcome concrete actions taken at national level to foster implementation of the international agendas and call for the EFDRR to support engagement of National Focal Points and National Platforms in promoting coherence through, inter alia, development of guidance, knowledge sharing and exchange of best practices.

9. Endorse the Actions of the EFDRR Road Map in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework and agreed to implement it, as appropriate, through the establishment of working groups covering at least the following emerging issues:
 - governance at all levels
 - climate change linked to land use
 - economic aspects
 - critical infrastructure disruption and consequences of health

The work will build upon the achievement of the previous working groups.

10. Identify the need to set up a Task Force to assess the progress of the EFDRR Road Map, based on a light monitoring system, with a review in preparation for the EFDRR Open Forum. The Task Force will include a member of each working group referred to in point 9., to monitor the EFDRR Road Map and assess the possible engagement of sub-regional entities.
11. The EFDRR secretariat will facilitate further exchanges on the time frame and modalities of the Working Groups and of the Task Force.
12. Agree to support, from National Focal Points and within our National Platforms, the coherence of the recent international agreements and processes by strengthening coordination among competent ministries, and commit to engage towards their joint national implementation with all relevant stakeholders.
13. Welcome the UNISDR Words into Action guidelines on National Focal Points, National Platforms and local platforms, seeing multi-stakeholder engagement as a useful tool to improve their effectiveness in implementing the Sendai Framework.
14. Emphasise the strong benefits of peer reviews to promote mutual learning and exchange of good practices within countries and encourage further roll-out of peer review. Build on the EU Peer Review Programme to develop guidance on peer review to support the Sendai implementation.
15. Welcome and support the priorities of the European Commission's Action Plan on Sendai Framework implementation, which translates the Sendai Framework's priorities for action across EU policies, to further enhance and promote disaster risk management and build resilience to shocks and stresses within the EU and outside.
16. Welcome the adoption of the Council of Europe's EUR-OPA Agreement Medium Term Action 2016-20 at its upcoming 13th Ministerial Session as a support for Sendai Framework implementation and in line with the EFDRR Road Map priorities.
17. Welcome efforts of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (to link its strategic framework with the implementation of the Sendai Framework as an inspiring approach for future sub-regional contributions.

Acknowledge the excellent work of the Global Health Security Agenda as the laureate of the Damir Čemerin Award for Local Change.

Express gratitude and appreciation to Finland for its cordial hospitality in hosting this 7th Annual Meeting of the EFDRR.

Confirm Turkey and Italy as the future Chair and Co-Chair, respectively, following the Chairmanship of Finland.