

CONCEPT NOTE

“Live to Tell”

A Panel Discussion on the Occasion of the 2016 International Day for Disaster Reduction

Time and Date: 1:15-2:45pm, 10 October 2016 (A light lunch will be served at 12:45pm)

Location: Conference Room 11, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Co-Hosts: The Permanent Mission of Bangladesh, the Permanent Mission of Switzerland, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the United Nations Development Programme

BACKGROUND

While the last decade has seen a reduction in disaster mortality, vulnerability to disasters and disaster mortality persists in many regions. Poverty and inequality, demographic pressures, unplanned and rapid urbanization, poor land management, and inadequate governance, compounded by the impacts of climate change, are generating disaster risks faster than existing risks are being reduced. The poorest segments of society often bear the brunt. Since 1990, 90 per cent of the 1.6 million reported disaster related deaths occurred in low and middle income countries.

By 2030 almost 60 per cent of the world’s population will live in urban areas. Around 60 per cent of the area needed to accommodate this urban expansion remains to be built. The potential for increased disaster losses is therefore significant. Major investments into infrastructure, housing, industry, health systems, education, transportation, communications, water, agriculture, and energy continue to be made without considering disaster risk.

Disasters present a growing obstacle to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Strategies are needed that integrate disaster risk reduction across the Sustainable Development Goals to save lives and protect today’s gains from tomorrow’s losses. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 offers comprehensive guidance on reducing disaster mortality, from addressing the underlying drivers of disaster risk and promoting early warning systems to building back better in the wake of a disaster and increasing public education and awareness.

Since the General Assembly designated 13 October as International Day for Disaster Reduction 25 years ago, the day has grown into a major global event to raise awareness and encourage efforts to build more disaster-resilient communities and countries. The 2016 International Day for Disaster Reduction provides an advocacy platform for governments, civil society, and the private sector to share examples of successful strategies to reduce disaster mortality around the world.

The 2016 International Day for Disaster Reduction also marks the launch of the “Sendai Seven Campaign”. Over the next seven years, each International Day for Disaster Reduction will promote one of the seven Sendai global targets and galvanise necessary action for its achievement. Under the theme “Live to Tell”, the 2016 International Day for Disaster Reduction will highlight actions taken towards Sendai Framework global target (a) to “substantially reduce disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower average per 100,000 global mortality between 2020-2030 compared to 2005-2015.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the 2016 International Day for Disaster Reduction event in New York is to raise greater awareness of reducing risks and to promote the Sendai Framework as a lifesaving agenda for building resilience to natural and man-made hazards. The event will emphasise that reducing disaster mortality is possible through investments in early warning, preparedness, and resilient infrastructure. The event will also highlight the essential contribution of disaster risk reduction and the effective implementation of the Sendai Framework as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.