

Concept note



24-26 October 2016

FIJI

Venue: Holiday Inn, Suva

The Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management

Organized by:

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

In collaboration with

The Pacific Community (SPC)

With support from:

European Union, GIZ, Australian Government and JICA

Background:

An increase in the number of natural hazards and their intensity in the Pacific caused by the effects of climate change have increased the vulnerability of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs). The Pacific community recognizes that the sustainability of development is closely linked to the ability to be resilient to effects of these natural hazards and that the shift in mindset away from just response to disasters to one of resilience to disasters is crucial to ensuring a safer and more prosperous region.

Despite the growing risk and economic losses, countries in the region have demonstrated a high level of political commitment towards reducing disaster risks. A series of Pacific regional conferences have taken place in the past decade raising the awareness and commitment towards disaster risk reduction. This has resulted in a growing engagement of governments and other stakeholders such as the civil society, private sector, parliamentarian, local governments, academic and research organizations and so on.

2015 represented a historical year with regional adoption of the Sendai Framework for DRR, Sustainable Development Goals and a new Climate Change agreement in Paris at COP21. 2016 anticipates endorsement by Pacific leaders of the *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific* (FRDP), the World Humanitarian Summit and Habitat3. It is important to take advantage of the successful adoption of new strategies in the region and as the region now shifts towards implementation of these many strategies to build a more resilient region, particularly in light of climate change increasingly exacerbating natural hazards.

In the 2015 Pacific Regional Disaster Resilience Meeting, States and Territories tasked UNISDR to coordinate the development of a plan for regional implementation of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*. With the expected endorsement of the proposed *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific* (FRDP) in September 2016 it is anticipated that the FRDP will become the implementation strategy for Sendai, thus reducing burden on nations and aligning with regional DRR priorities.

Regional Platforms

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was endorsed at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015 at Sendai, Japan and endorsed by the UN General Assembly shortly.

In order to strengthen disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, the frameworks calls on governments and stakeholders to actively engage in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the regional and sub-regional platforms (*Pacific Platform for DRM*) for disaster risk reduction and the thematic platforms in order to forge partnerships, periodically assess progress on implementation and share practice and knowledge on disaster risk-informed policies, programmes and investments, including on development and climate issues, as appropriate, as well as promote the integration of disaster risk management in other relevant sectors.

At the regional level, regional platforms have been the main forum for creating and sustaining the political commitment towards implementation of the HFA. Regional platforms for disaster risk reduction have steadily evolved over the life of the HFA. Recent regional platforms have called for a stronger recognition of the regional mechanisms to implement and oversee disaster risk reduction. Risks and vulnerabilities go beyond national boundaries and hence often need to be addressed trans-boundary. Regional platforms are an opportunity to start to tackle these trans-boundary issues around disaster prevention and preparedness, provide leadership and direction, and propose solutions to address disaster risk and to build the resilience of communities and nations.

The Pacific Platform

In the past, the regional platform has mainly consisted of the Platform (PPDRM) and the other associated regional meetings such as the Regional Disaster Managers Meeting and the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network and historically is the only annual meeting that brings Pacific DRR stakeholders together. In 2013, the Platform acknowledged the greater linkages with Climate Change and was held jointly with the biennial Climate Change Roundtable. Since 2015, to reduce burden on government disaster management stakeholders, the Platform has been held at the same time as the Pacific Humanitarian Partnership meeting.

The PPDRM is an annual conference jointly organized by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the Pacific Community (SPC). The event represents a unique opportunity for governments to reaffirm their political commitments in implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005 – 2015 and its successor the Sendai Framework for DRR. The Platform also serves as a forum for other stakeholders to take a shared responsibility and make actionable commitments towards implementation of DRR. At the same time the conference also provides opportunity for all governments and stakeholders to exchange experiences on successful practices and innovative approaches in reducing and managing disaster risk.

Previous Pacific Platforms

Since 2009, UNISDR and SPC have organized six official PPDRM conferences. Previous locations were Nadi, Suva (2009); Suva, Fiji (2010); Auckland, New Zealand (2011); Noumea, New Caledonia (2012); Nadi, Fiji (2013); and Suva, Fiji (2014). These were organized and implemented with a broad range of key partners including United Nations, USP, SPREP, PIFS, European Union, Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Fiji, GFDRR, GIZ, USAID and JICA.

The Pacific Regional Disaster Resilience Meeting, a regional meeting was held in Suva, Fiji in 2015 following the 3rd World Conference for DRR in Sendai, Japan in March 2015.

Outcomes from previous six Pacific Platforms and the Pacific Regional Disaster Resilience Meeting in 2015 have fed into both the Asia Ministerial Conference for DRR (AMCDRR) held once every two years and the Global Platform for DRR held once every 2 years, as well as other high-level international conferences.

Since 2013, the Platforms have been instrumental in allowing Pacific stakeholders to have their voices heard in the Post-2015 process with the development of the Sendai Framework for DRR. This Post-2015 process culminated at the 3rd World Conference for DRR in Sendai, Japan 2015 where over 75 Pacific delegates attended, the largest Pacific DRR delegation at the time. JICA and the Japanese Government efforts at Sendai were invaluable.

Sendai Framework for DRR

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework) is the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda, with seven targets and four priorities for action. It was endorsed by the UN General Assembly following the 2015 Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR). The Sendai Framework is a 15-year, voluntary, non-binding agreement which recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders. It aims for the following outcome:

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.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction puts a focus on preventing new disaster risks, reducing existing disaster risks that also strengthen resilience; and calls various measures to prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability, increase preparedness and recovery. This requires a shift from standalone disaster management or risk management to more holistic risk resilient development practice. This shift of thinking and action from risk management to disaster risk resilient development requires support of regional and international cooperation and thus need to be incorporated in the architecture and thinking of the regional platforms/ ministerial conferences.

The post-2015 development agenda - 'Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' highlights the need for disaster risk reduction across a number of sectors in line with the understanding that disaster risk reduction is cross-cutting and requires a multi-sectoral approach. It is explicit in the outcome document of the SDGs that most of the SDG goals are unattainable without addressing exposure and vulnerabilities of poor; for example, SDG 1 calls for an end to poverty in all its forms everywhere and recognizes that reducing exposure and vulnerability of the poor to disasters is essential for sustainable poverty eradication. The Sendai framework calls for coherence of disaster risk reduction and sustainable development policies, plans, practices and mechanisms, across different sector.

In order to achieve sustainable development through integration of disaster risk reduction in multiple development sectors, it is essential that the implementation of the Sendai Framework at all levels engages multiple sectors and multiple stakeholders adequately in all planning and monitoring processes.

Collective action by the UN system is critical to ensure that disaster risk is reduced, a fact underlined in the Sendai Framework. The revised UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, approved in April 2016, represents an opportunity for the United Nations system to actively work towards the Sustainable Development Goals as one body.

Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP)

After almost 3 years of development, Pacific Leaders' endorsed the *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific* (FRDP) during the 47th Pacific Island Forum meeting in the Federated States of Micronesia. It is the world's first integrated regional framework to build resilience to climate change and disasters.

The Framework is closely aligned to implementing global agreements such as the Paris Agreement, the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* and the Sustainable Development Goals to help build a more sustainable and safer region.

The Framework aims to ensure that climate change and disasters are understood as a development challenge with priority actions to address vulnerability to climate change and disasters and build resilience across all sectors.

The FRDP provides high level voluntary guidance to national governments and administrations, the private sector, civil society organisations, Pacific communities, regional organisations, and development partners.

The FRDP advocates for the adoption of integrated approaches, whenever possible, for addressing climate change and disaster risks, in order to make more efficient use of resources, to rationalize multiple sources of funding, and for more effective mainstreaming of risks into development planning and budgets.

A new Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) will coordinate cooperation as well as implement and monitor the FRDP.

The FRDP was developed in response to recommendations from the *Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management* and *Pacific Climate Change Roundtable* in 2011 and endorsed by the Pacific Island Forum Leaders in 2012. An extensive and inclusive consultation process was undertaken over the last three years with Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs). Input was also received via regional meetings, sector dialogues and an online tool that drew submissions from around the world.

The development of the FRDP was supported by a Steering Committee comprising of representatives from PICTs, civil society and the private sector. A Technical Working Group provided technical advice and support to this process and comprises representatives from the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS), United Nations Office of Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the University of the South Pacific (USP).

The Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management 2016 (PPDRM 2016)

The Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management after the advent of the Sendai Framework for DRR will be held in Suva, Fiji in 2016. As a requirement of the Pacific Regional Disaster Resilience Meeting 2015, the intended outcome of the PPDRM will be to plan the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Pacific.

The PPDRM 2016 will provide a unique opportunity for the Pacific region to shape the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Objective:

The **main objective** of this conference will be to translate strong political and stakeholder commitment into action by accelerating coherent implementation and monitoring of the *Sendai Framework for DRR* in the Pacific and the new *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific* (FRDP).

Expected outcome of the PPDRM 2016:

The conference will strive to achieve the following:

- **A meeting outcome statement:** commitments of governments and stakeholders towards preventing, reducing risk and strengthening resilience by accelerating coherent implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework and the FRDP in the region.
- **Pacific plans for coherent implementation of the *Sendai Framework for DRR* and the related regional *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific* (FRDP):** planning endorsed by the countries for the Pacific region with linkages to relevant agreements and strategies.
- **Stakeholder action statements** - voluntary statements of action of stakeholder groups towards an inclusive 'shared responsibility' approach in implementation of the *Sendai Framework for DRR* and new *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific*.
- **Pacific preparations** for the *Global Platform for DRR* (Mexico, 2017).

Target Audience:

Local, national, regional and international stakeholders involved in building the resilience of the region to an ever increasing number of natural hazard events exacerbated by the effects of climate change.

Key Topics will include:

- *New Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific* (FRDP)
- Coherent implementation of *Sendai Framework for DRR* and the *FRDP* in the Pacific
- Pacific Coalition for Safe Schools
- Building the resilience of Private Sector to natural hazards and disasters.
- Pacific Local Government resilience planning and policy making
- Performance Indicators, M&E and reporting for Sendai Framework & FRDP in Pacific
- Gender and Disability inclusive DRR

- Science and Technology Roadmap for Sendai Framework & Early Warning Systems
- Building Back Better- Reconstruction after TC Winston Updates from countries on reviews of national action plans for DRR and CC
- Pacific Preparation for the Global Platform for DRR (Mexico, May, 2017)