

PROCEEDINGS



EUROPEAN FORUM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

■ ■ ROME, ITALY 21-23 November 2018



PROTEZIONE CIVILE
Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri
Dipartimento della Protezione Civile



United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

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Proceedings of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction - 21-23 November 2018, Rome, Italy

Introduction



The European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction took place from 21-23 November 2018, in Rome, and was hosted by the Government of Italy. The Forum was held with the participation of over 700 delegates from Governments, regional organisations, Non-Governmental Organizations, private sector, science & technology and academic communities, as well as civil society. The Forum reviewed progress on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the European

Region.

The programme began with an Opening Ceremony, then followed with the High Level roundtable, sessions, plenaries and working groups discussing key issues, challenges, opportunities, experiences and good practices related to the Sendai Framework. The full programme of the Forum is available in the conference handbook. (https://www.preventionweb.net/files/57664_handbookprogrammelowdef.pdf)

Opening Ceremony

The European Forum was opened by H.E Giuseppe Conte, Prime Minister of Italy and Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). H.E Giuseppe Conte highlighted that disaster risk reduction is fundamental for all governments. Deputy Minister Ara Nazaryan of Armenia presented the outcomes of the recent Central Asian and South Caucasus Sub-Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction and referenced that there will be one European Forum for the whole region going forward.

High-Level Roundtable

The *High-Level Roundtable* asserted that political will and leadership are needed, with shared responsibility by governments and the private sector, civil society and individuals in building resilience to disasters. Integrated approaches were highlighted as a way forward to capture the interlinked nature of our society. The discussion pointed to the challenge that resilience planning is the product of many different factors working together such as social inequality, educational levels, communications, infrastructure, degree of trust in authorities and environmental awareness. Greater focus on climate action, infrastructure safety, information/awareness sharing were highlighted as key priorities. It is also critical to address new and emerging risks such as man-made and cyber-security to ensure a comprehensive approach against disaster risk. The participants adopted the High-Level Communique of the Chair: Protecting Europe's Citizens: The Social Contract on Disaster Resilience (<https://www.unisdr.org/conference/2018/efdrr>).

Meeting of the European National Sendai Focal Points

Discussions and presentations updated participants on progresses of Sendai Framework reporting within the 55 countries covered by EFDRR. The latest features of the Sendai Monitor were presented to update all national coordinators around analytics and custom indicator components of the tool. The session underscored the added value represented by the monitoring process for improving risk knowledge from global to local level. At the date of the Forum, of the 55 countries covered by the Europe and Central Asia region, 62% initiated the reporting process with, 72% of these countries from the European Union. The session triggered discussion and questions about data availability and institutional arrangements for recording and reporting, underscoring the need for solid systems for systematic accountability of disaster human and economic losses. Therefore, the session explored Member State experiences in developing national structures for data collection and reporting against the indicators of the Sendai Framework. As an example, Sweden presented their experience in reporting. Lessons learned included; a broad coverage of indicators requires outreach to other services and institutions (example: development agencies on target F); for some countries in the region indicated there was limited criteria of events (high impact/low likelihood) and had few elements to report on; a need to make clear the public value in Sendai reporting, beyond reporting on the international agreement. With this understanding, the data and nature of the reporting will be improved including in its use.

Speakers:

Ms. Galimira Markova, Disaster Impact Assessment Statistician, FAO

Ms. Mia Ebeltoft, Deputy Director, Finance Norway

Ms. Kristina Palajsa Backovic, Sendai Technical Focal Point for Montenegro

Mr. Marco Massabo, Programme Director, CIMA

Ms. Ritsuko Honda, Programme Management Officer, Sendai Framework Monitoring Branch, UNISDR-Bonn

Mr. Erling Kvernevik, Senior Advisor, Directorate for Civil Protection, Norway (Sendai National Focal Point)

Ms. Minna Bodin, Analyst and focal point for the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction Cooperation and Planning Section, Sweden ((Sendai National Focal Point)

Ms. Hana Kolic, Policy Officer, European Commission, DG ECHO

Mr. Pierpaolo Campostrini, Managing Director, CORILA

Ms. Margarita Hakobyan, Representative of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Armenia in other countries and international organizations (Sendai National Focal Point)

Ms. Gulshat Kadyrova, Head of Strategic Planning Department, Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic ((Sendai Technical Focal Point)

Ms. Kathy Oldham, Chief Resilience Officer, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, UK

Moderator:

Mr. Abhilash Panda, Deputy Chief Europe and Central Asia, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

Technology and data for accelerating DRR

The specific question of disaster data was addressed in details during the session on *“technology and data for accelerating DRR”*. Indeed, much of the knowledge about disaster risk and appropriate responses to them, is driven by data. One conclusion of the panellists was the

need to improve interoperability of data, common standards and terminology, in order to facilitate the use of the information which is already produced and available. The importance of disaggregated data for addressing socio economic factors of DRR was pointed out, with the shared view that better data can help save many lives. The need for pan-European collection of data was reiterated due to the reality of cross-border disasters. The challenge of distinguishing data and information, moving from collection of data to the use of the data for informing problems and supporting decision making was discussed. It is essential to move beyond monitoring, turning data into evidence. This requires scientific and technological help to meet the 2030 Agenda and accelerate its implementation with data and policy needs examined together to understand both the value of data to policy makers and value of policy for data and science. In this regard, a stronger use of satellite-based information and earth-observation was greatly encouraged.

Speakers:

Ms. Debarati Guha-Sapir, Professor, School of Public Health, University of Louvain

Mr. Horst Kremers, Chair, CODATA Germany

Mr. Matthew Steel, Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom

Mr. Erling Kvernevik, Senior Advisor, Directorate for Civil Protection, Norway (Sendai National Focal Point)

Mr. Bernardo de Bernardinis, Coordinator of the National User Forum of the Copernicus Programme

Mr. Massimo Migliorini, Member of the European Science and Technology Advisory Group (E-STAG)

Moderator:

Ms. Alessandra Zampieri, Head of the Disaster Risk Management Unit, European Commission's Joint Research Centre

Making the Economic Case for DRR and Sustainable Financing



As part of the Sendai Framework priorities, the issue of DRR investments was debated in the plenary session on *“Making the Economic Case for DRR and Sustainable Financing”*. Achieving risk informed investment requires breaking down silos and working collaboratively including through Public-Private Partnerships (PPP). In the example given by Norway for instance, there is a mutual interest for co-operation – the challenge of insurers holding disaster risk data and the importance of sharing with planners, rather than working alone was highlighted. However, there are challenges, including the need to better try to understand and price risks in order to mitigate for uncertainty (climate change) and cascading consequences (critical infrastructure). Going forward, it was agreed that insurers should be a bridge between governments and citizens. Emphasis was put on the need to collect and analyse data, helping also the development of resilient local communities and on pricing correctly the risks and give incentives for protective measures. New knowledge always discounts the pricing mechanisms which is a meaningful driver towards longer term view of investment strategies. Panellists also addressed the role of micro-insurance in order to reduce impact on the most vulnerable communities.

Speakers:

Ms. Maria Bianca Farina, President, ANIA

Mr. Idar Kreutzer, CEO, Finance Norway

Mr. Livio Gallo, Infrastructure and Networks Director, ENEL

Ms. Veronica Scotti, Chairperson Global Partnership, Swiss Re

Ms. Cecilie Daae, Director-General, Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection

Moderator:

Mr. Alessandro Farruggia, Journalist, Quotidiano Nazionale

Understanding man-made and technological risks

The trans-boundary nature of disasters was explored through the working session on “*understanding man-made and technological risks*” with emerging issues that include cyber-attacks on safety system used to prevent or control chemical accidents. At the same time, financial instability leads to a weakening of systems in place to prevent disasters and respond effectively. The role of PPPs was also discussed with regard to planning for and responding to risks, highlighting that issues of trust need to be successfully negotiated through commitment to sharing resources and adequately funding from all sides. The discussion explored how to ensure that civil society organisations (who work in the community) are involved, especially in the light of shrinking civil societies influence and existence. Furthermore, governance and the balance between central and distributed governance may be needed to allow grass roots stakeholders to be involved.

Speakers:

Mr. Hugo Rosemont, Director Security & Resilience, ADS Group

Mr. Bijay Kumar, Executive Director, GNDR

Mr. Mehmet Golhan, CEO and co-founder, Lojika Field Labs

Ms. Jasmina Karba, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia

Moderator:

Ms. Katja Samuel, Director, Global Security and Disaster Management Limited

Implementing Sendai Framework, the SDG's and the Paris Agreement in a coherent way

A dedicated Plenary Session identified and addressed challenges to coherent implementation of *Sendai Framework, the SDG's and the Paris Agreement*. This is a matter of efficiency and there is a need to co-ordinate and better align these issues. However, knowledge is fragmented and sectorised, so coherence will likely be assisted by using a common language to describe a common set of outcomes. While bridging knowledge gaps between climate change adaptation experts and Civil Protection actors, there is a need to bring key stakeholders together, with project initiatives anchored in institutional structures in order to change practice over time. Therefore, involving political leadership from across the spectrum, including experts, volunteers and local leaders in order to work towards a holistic methodology for DRR and climate change adaptation is required. National commitments for SDG's are necessary but there is a need to be taken up at regional, city and local levels, including individuals.



Speakers:

Ms. Maira Mora, Director-General, Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat

Mr. Mark Fletcher, Director, ARUP

Mr. Vladimir Bekker, Chairman, Committee of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Republic of Kazakhstan

Ms. Maria Joao Telhado, Adviser Lisbon City Hall, Portugal

Mr. Ivan Baras, Assistant Head of the Sector for International Cooperation, Ministry of Interior of Republic of Serbia (Sendai National Focal Point)

Mr. Cees van de Guchte, Advisor to the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, The Netherlands

Moderator:

Ms. Aminda Leigh, Moderator and Journalist

Reducing risk to cultural heritage

The working session on *reducing risk to cultural heritage* emphasized the need of an inclusive approach through the participation and engagement of all local actors in the protection of cultural heritage. Often local actors, such as property owners, are not aware of existing disaster risks. Sharing information with all stakeholders, particularly those who are not experts in risks, is therefore crucial. Panellists also expressed the need for more detailed guidance in the process of risks assessments. In this process, impact assessment represents one component and would not be a stand-alone exercise. Capacity building and the training of volunteers (both specialized and civil) can be of particular importance in this process and awareness raising at the local level. Panellists have agreed that innovation and new technologies are essential to increase local knowledge about risks, which is not enough, if not disseminated properly. This session also recognized risk mitigation activities at low cost, such as, the protection of movable cultural heritage and highlighted the need for creation of Cultural Heritage Risk Management Units. At the end, discussing the complexity of emergency management during the 2016-17 Central Italy earthquake, panellists concluded that, as positively occurred in that case, experts should meet within 30 minutes after earthquake, since emergency management in the first few hours after disasters is crucial.

Speakers:

Mr. Gianluca Vacca, Undersecretary for the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Italy

Ms. Cristina Escudero Ramirez, Coordinator, DRM Unit for Cultural Heritage, Junta de Castilla y Leon

Ms. Valérie Magar, Project Manager, Conservation of immovable Heritage, ICCROM

Mr. Jean Claude Eude, Director-General, Etablissement Public de la Loire

Mr. Mauro Dolce, Director, Civil Protection, Italy

Moderator:

Prof Michael Turner, UNESCO Chairholder and Professor, the Bezalel, Academy of Arts and Design

Addressing the Grey Rhino and the Black Swan

The Working Session on Grey Rhino and Black Swan addressed the latest understanding and efforts to tackle high-intensity and slow-onset events. Participants discussed that black swan events come as a surprise and have major impact. They are often neglected, as the current state of global science has not yet developed the capacity to predict them, or due to psychological

biases. Grey Rhino events do not come as a surprise but rather occur after multiple warnings and have visible evidence. The complex interaction of several grey rhinos can result in unforeseeable disasters and thus black swans. The speakers pointed to the importance of citizen awareness and that information is power to engage people in tackling these risks and thinking through the 'unthinkable'. It is important to include marginalised groups, including LGBTQ. Looking to specific sectors, the challenges of solely on climate models was highlighted – as there will be surprises in the next decades as climate realities harden. The need to think ahead on proactive legislation was emphasised, highlighting the current challenge with forest fires in Europe and the lack of regulation on wood products. Overall, there is a need to raise the issue of grey rhino events higher on the agenda of policy makers.

Speaker:

Ms Christina Andersson, Risk Communication Strategist, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)

Mr. Kevin Blanchard, Director, DRR Dynamics

Mr. Markus Stowasser, Head of Cat Research 8. Development, Allianz Reinsurance

Mr. Nicolas Faivre, Policy Officer, Climate Resilience, European Commission DG Research

Mr. Raed Arafat, State Secretary, Department for Emergency Situations, Romania

Mr. Giuliano Di Baldassarre, Director, Centre of Natural Hazards & Disaster Science, Uppsala University

Mr Korbinian Breinl, Researcher, TU Wien

Moderator:

Ms Dominika Reynolds, Advisor, Department of Crisis Management, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic

Gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction

The need for inclusivity of marginalised groups, including gender, disability and the elderly was discussed in two sessions: The plenary session on *Every Life Counts: Inclusive and quality based disaster risk reduction strategies* and the working session on *Gender- sensitive Disaster Risk Reduction*. The working session addressed perspectives and risk assessments as necessary to provide protection for societies inclusive of women, men, children and people with disabilities. Participants acknowledged that gender needs to be included at all levels, otherwise risks are exacerbated for women. Participants reiterated the need for gender disaggregated data to inform decision-making, while stronger participation at the central level in conjunction with the local /community level is required to strengthen women's leadership with regard to DRR, as clearly called by the Sendai Framework. Panellists noted that gender sensitivity is included in the EUROPA Major Hazards Agreement as well as in the European Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). This includes climate change. There is a need for a collective approach to address these further, however.

Speakers:

Mr. José Oliveira, National Director, National Authority for Civil Protection, Portugal

Ms. Stephanie Oberleitner, Associate, Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism, Austria

Ms. Sabine Freizer, Head of Office, UN Women, Turkey, a.i.

Mr. Danihelka Pavel, Professor, Head of Laboratory of Risk Research and Management, Technical University of Ostrava, Czech Republic

Ms. Margarita Hakobyan, Representative of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Armenia in other countries and international organizations (Sendai National Focal Point)

Moderator:

Ms. Sandra Nedeljkovic, Deputy Director, Public Investment Management Office, Republic of Serbia

Every Life Counts: Inclusive and quality based disaster risk reduction strategies

The plenary session dedicated to *“inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction strategies”*, underscored the critical importance of addressing all stakeholders in order to understand the views of the ‘other’. Social isolation often leads to marginalisation by dint of race, social class or poverty. However, although stronger social capital exists within these marginalised groups, there was difficulty facing outwards to address their vulnerabilities. In Austria, for example, new risks due to climate change are increasing vulnerabilities because those impacted may be unseen. Bridging social capital, including connections as part of planning through partnerships with NGO’s and local government, allows for stronger social networks while widening communities of practice. Recognising these connections is essential to understanding risks and responding to them more effectively. Issues of undocumented migrants and refugees was also discussed, there is a need to acknowledge their presence in our societies and have a greater understanding from a disaster risk reduction and human rights perspective.



Keynote Speaker

Mr. Erland Hedin, Forest Sector Representative, Sweden

Speakers:

Mr. Michael Staudinger, Director-General, Austria’s Central Institution for Methodology, Austria (Sendai National Focal Point)

Ms. Minna Bodin, Sendai National Focal Point, Sweden

Mr. Gilles Reckinger, Professor, University of Innsbruck

Ms. Kirsty Bangall, Communication & Influence Officer, Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organization

Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, Chairperson, Committee of Emergency Situations, Republic of Tajikistan

Mr. Mehmet Güllüoğlu, President, Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD)

Moderator:

Ms. Nicole Stolz, Head of Department, Advisory Services, Caritas

Understanding urban and local challenges and opportunities

The *“urban challenges and opportunities”* session recognised that displacement is an important issue for the Sendai Framework implementation. Displacement can have long-term impact, alongside more short-term humanitarian needs. For instance, climate change is exacerbating some displacement challenges, while also driving migration. DRR is part of the positive narrative to address underlying causes of displacement and migration; while the importance of engaging migrants and displaced population in DRR contributes to the resilience of any given city or

country. Cities are interconnected, and interdependent and need to be viewed as such when attempting to prepare for disaster risks. OECD reported the value of making the economic case to finance resilience in megacities, connecting policy agendas and implementing risk regulation. The Seine flooding in the Ile de France region (France), provided a case study in risk assessment, demonstrating key challenges, and pointing to changes alongside positive narrative that used innovation and risk reduction actions to build resilience. At a city level, it is crucial to approach multi-level risk governance, to connect scales of action and build partnerships on co-benefits. This should be informed by relevant technologies and tools.

Keynote speaker: Mr. Sepehr Mousavi, Sustainability Strategist & Standardization Expert, Plantagon - Sustainability and Standardization

Speakers:

Ms. Noémie Fompeyrine, Deputy Chief Resilience Officer, City of Paris
Mr. Luigi D'Angelo, Operational Director for Emergency Coordination, Civil Protection, Italy
Mr. Charles Baubion, Risk Governance Expert, Public Governance Directorate, OECD
Mr. Deal Necmioglu, Tsunami National Contact, Turkey
Mr. Richard Haigh, The University of Huddersfield

Moderator:

Ms. Dilanthi Amaratunga, Professor, The University of Huddersfield

National and Local strategies: Addressing Target E

Debating on good practices for developing National and local DRR strategies, the working session “*National and Local strategies: Addressing Target E*”; highlighted that having the same people collaborating on the same tasks as part of a national platform, keeps co-ordination of progress and learning, avoiding repetition, allowing for risk and responses to be taken seriously. Nevertheless, one size does not fit all, so there is a need to address the Target (e) of the Sendai Framework from local and regional strategy perspectives too. Monitoring and evaluation are key to this process, with peer review and risk assessment essential tools for moving Target (e) forward. Furthermore, participants agreed on the need to define the competencies of different actors and their roles, to learn from others and to ensure that inclusivity and equality is embedded in DRR actions.

Speakers:

Ms. Natasa Holcinger, Sendai Technical Focal Point, Croatia
Mr. Adam Banaszak, Vice President of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Regional Parliament, Poland
Mr. Piet Sleeking, Vice Mayor, City of Dordrecht, The Netherlands
Ms. Claudia Hostenstein, Sendai Technical Focal Point, Switzerland
Mr. Ljuban Tmusic, Sendai National Focal Point, Montenegro
Ms. Gulshat Kadyrova, (Sendai Technical Focal Point), the Kyrgyz Republic

Moderator:

Ms. Nacira Boulehouat, Head of Unit for Disaster Risk Reduction, DG ECHO, European Commission

Addressing resilience in a changing climate

The keynote speech opening the plenary session on “Resilience in a Changing Climate”, examined the difference on disaster risk between limiting global warming to 1.5°C or at 2°C. The panel discussion focused on responding to these risks from the scientific and policy spheres. Co-ordination and co-operation are required to bring separately acting bodies together to co-operate at different levels. With government, scientists, and environmentalist operating collectively towards a common goal. This must be inclusive of all stakeholders.

With risks substantially lower at 1.5°C than 2°C, it is required to upscale and accelerate far-reaching multi-level and cross sectoral mitigation and transformational adaptation. There is also a need to focus on prevention and protection mechanisms. Stress tools may help addressing climate change risks by allowing neighbouring countries to plan before an event occurs and respond with concrete actions when it does occur.



Speakers:

Ms. Elisabetta Gardini, Head of the EPP Italian Delegation - Forza Italia

Mr. John O'Neill, Head of Adaptation Division, Dpt of Climate Change and Environment, Ireland

Ms. Diana Reckien, Associate Professor, Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation, University of Twente

Ms. Nina Birkeland, Senior Adviser on Disaster and Climate Change, Norwegian Refugee Council

Mr. Carlo Cacciamani, Climate Specialist, National Civil Protection Department, Italy

Ms Bérangère Basin, Head of the Flood and Coastal Risk Unit, Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, France

Moderator:

Ms. Aminda Leigh, Moderator and Journalist

Emerging challenges: interwoven risks

Finally, the “*emerging challenges and priorities working session*” warned against maladaptation to climate change and was highlighted as a potential challenge. If emerging challenges and wicked risks are to be addressed, they will require political leadership, as well as public participation and engagement. A shift to greater global competitive dynamics to intensify the search for novel solutions and ideas may also heighten conflict, while caution is also required so that when risk is externalised, it doesn’t create further risk, especially to the most vulnerable. This will mean that social policies are also built around supporting these groups, but there is also a danger that the political economy of risk is not well understood, meaning that these policies may not be adequate.

Panellists acknowledged that the triggering and cascading effect/ use of natural versus natech or terroristic events needs to be better assessed and a dedicated framework/policy needs to be developed that would integrate these risks with feasible scenarios that would include these emerging risks. These emerging risks include “fake news” and the rise of information which contributes to fear-mongering regarding disasters and climate induced migration which limits the political response due to polarisation.

One response is to promote resilience and equity across countries, working from the bottom up, combining culture with policy alongside quality of life and sustainability that brings human populations together.

Speakers:

Mr. Jorgen Sparf, Member of the European Science & Technology Advisory Group and Assistant Professor, Mid Sweden University

Ms. Camilla Born, Senior Policy Advisor, E3G's Climate Diplomacy

Mr. Paolo Garonna, Secretary General of the Italian Banking, Insurance and Finance Federation

Mr. Dominique Burgeon, Director of Emergency and Rehabilitation Division and Strategic Programme Leader -Resilience, FAO

Moderator:

Ms. Emily Hough, Editor in Chief, Response Journal

Game scenario: decisions of the decade



In order to support greater innovation and dynamism on DRR, the Forum included a game scenario, aiming to improve awareness about the importance of prevention and resilient investments in a changing climate. Developed, and facilitated by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, the game scenario gathered more than 50 participants, interested to experience on deep uncertainty concepts, and to get a concrete illustration of the correlation and consequences between resilient investments and climate change. In 90 minutes, participants managed to travel in time, through four decades of political and economic decisions, running in parallel with global changing risks. At the end of the session, both winners and losers expressed emotions and insights, reaching an agreement about the shared responsibility of prevention, the critical importance of information and forecast, and the need to work as a team when facing outstanding issues.

Moderator: Dr. Pablo Suarez, Associate director for Research and Innovation, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

Conclusion

In conclusion, the EFDRR Rome outcome provides a meaningful way forward set around universal values and human rights, all of which needs to be at the heart of our resilience measures. Two documents are adopted: High-Level Communique of the Chair: Protecting Europe's Citizens and Rome Declaration of Stakeholders.

The Damir Čemerin Award and Making Cities Resilient Campaign Ceremony

The Damir Čemerin Award for Local Change, the major award given at each European Forum, was won by the Global Earthquake Model (GEM). GEM has carried out seismic risk assessments in over 150 countries since it was established in 2009 as a non-profit foundation in Pavia with the support of over 30 sponsors including governments and insurance companies.



John Schneider, GEM Secretary-General accepted the Damir Čemerin Award from the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, Mami Mizutori, at a ceremony in Rome. He used the occasion to provide the audience with a sneak preview of new set of global earthquake risk maps which provide an overview of risk through a mosaic of models made at national and regional level and assembled globally using the unique OpenQuake platform.

At the European Forum, five new cities joined UNISDR's Making Cities Resilient Campaign, committing to step up action on the disaster risk reduction. At the ceremony, the cities of Amalfi (Italy), Catania (Italy), Maiori (Italy), Tramonti (Italy) and Centar (Skopje) received certificates. The cities will now be able to access the Disaster Resilience Scorecard which provides for in-depth analysis of the specific risks faced by local governments.

Documents Adopted

High-Level Communique of the Chair: Protecting Europe's Citizens: The Social Contract on Disaster Resilience. (<https://www.unisdr.org/conference/2018/efdrr>)

Rome Declaration of Stakeholders – Securing Europe's Prosperity – Reducing Risk of Disasters (https://www.preventionweb.net/files/57664_romedeclaration2018.pdf)

Acknowledgements

The European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction was kindly hosted by Italy and opened by H.E Giuseppe Conte, Prime Minister of Italy. In addition, the members of the EFDRR Secretariat, Council of Europe and European Commission kindly provided support and input. The organisers would like to thank Confindustria and Enel Foundation for their support and contribution.



ROME DECLARATION OF STAKEHOLDERS SECURING EUROPE'S PROSPERITY – REDUCING RISK OF DISASTERS

We, the Heads of the national delegations and practitioners responsible for disaster risk reduction across Europe, having met in Rome, Italy, from 21 to 23 November 2018 at the 2018 European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction:

1. Express gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Italy for its hospitality in hosting the European Forum and leadership in disaster risk reduction;
2. Express deep concern at the growing frequency and intensity of extreme weather and climate-related events, and continuing impact of disasters in the region, resulting in unacceptable loss of human lives and livelihoods, displacement of people, and environmental and economic damages, including to critical infrastructure and cultural heritage;
3. Acknowledge that economic losses due to disasters pose a serious challenge to the sustainability, growth and prosperity of the European region;
4. Recognise the devastating, and often life changing, impact that all forms of disaster may have on their victims, including the crucial need to ensure that adequate compensation for losses;

5. In line with the 2017 Istanbul Outcomes, reiterate that disasters disproportionately affect specific groups of people, including women, children and youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, as well as migrants and forcibly displaced persons;
6. Consider that climate and disaster risks are two sides of the same coin, calling for an integrated approach to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction actions;
7. Stress the need to comprehensively address significant and increasingly complex threats posed by diverse man-made and technological risk; to address factors such as poor or insufficient regulation, implementation of standards, or governance mechanisms; and to incentivise multi-hazard approaches, which can decrease risk and disaster impacts;
8. Highlight the need to focus on underlying, interconnected and evolving risk factors such as ageing and interdependent infrastructure, impacts on capital markets and their volatility, urbanisation, gender and age inequality, and displacement;
9. Recognise the importance of ensuring coherence among global frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the New Urban Agenda, as well as relevant European Union legislation, and other resilience initiatives;
10. Renew our commitment to ensure continuity of the work in disaster risk reduction, build on the 2015-2020 EFDRR Roadmap implementation, and recognise the role of the EFDRR Secretariat in this regard;

Call on all governments and stakeholders to:

11. Welcome the vital role played by stakeholder groups as enablers, partnering with governments and communities, in the

implementation of the EFDRR Road Map at regional, national and local levels, including the importance of innovative, multi-sectoral partnerships;

12. Urgently accelerate actions for developing and implementing national and local strategies on disaster risk reduction, thereby meeting target (e) of the Sendai Framework by 2020;
13. Commit to translating greater coherence and effective enforcement of global frameworks into appropriate policy and practice, to achieve resilience at all levels and across all sectors; including through the strengthening of governance arrangements and the provision of practical guidance to ensure effective and efficient management of disaster risk;
14. Support a more systematic integration of the risks of climate change into disaster risk reduction, prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction actions, including through engagement with relevant institutions; explore innovative decision-making support tools to help stress test current systems against realistic climate impact scenarios;
15. Recognise the value and benefits of ecosystem services and nature-based solutions for disaster risk reduction;
16. Promote risk- and climate-sensitive public and private investments for building disaster resilience, making full use of the opportunity of on-going wider developments around sustainable finance; explore the potential of a dedicated financial enquiry on unlocking disaster resilience investments;
17. Implement “Build Back Better” policies, improve accessible early warning and disaster communication systems, as well as urban and land use planning, as a means to mitigate future disaster impacts and break any cycle of recurring events;

18. Commit to greater accountability and improved governance, including through encouraging a broad societal and political dialogue, systematically collecting and recording disaster damage, losses and people affected, conducting and sharing risk assessments and analysis to inform national and local strategies, and establishing relevant monitoring baselines;
19. Make full use of the Sendai Framework Monitor to identify trends, assess progress and draw lessons in achieving global and national targets, wherever possible through disaggregated data at all levels;
20. Ensure the use of disaster risk assessments as a prerequisite for infrastructure investments with time horizons commensurate to their life cycles, and complementary measures to incentivise resilience investments;
21. Dedicate specific attention to the safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, especially in focusing efforts on the application of new technologies to understand risks and manage disasters including its role in supporting community engagement;
22. Promote improved inclusion and utilisation of science, data and technology in evidence-based decisions and risk informed policies, through systematic engagement of all relevant stakeholders such as scientific and academic communities, basic service providers and public authorities in National and Local Platforms for disaster risk reduction, or relevant governance mechanisms, while also ensuring accessibility and universal design;
23. Facilitate the relationship with civil society in implementing the Sendai Framework, recognising their critical role in supporting a people-centered, all-of-society approach, ensuring the protection of basic human rights, recognising the importance of risks linked to animals and in localising the Sendai Framework at community-level;

24. Ensure an inclusive approach by drawing attention to gender-neutral policies and practices, including the integration of vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, migrants, forcibly displaced persons, children and youth, elderly and isolated people in disaster risk reduction policies, strategies and practices, building on the outcomes of the Istanbul Outcomes;

Adopted on 23 November 2018, in Rome, Italy

ROME: High-Level Communiqué of the Chair Protecting Europe's citizens: the social contract on disaster resilience

22 November 2018

1. The High-Level Roundtable was held on Thursday 22 November 2018 in Rome, Italy, at the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, chaired by H.E. Giuseppe Conte, Prime Minister of Italy.
2. The roundtable, co-chaired by Mr. Edoardo Rixi, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Transport for the Government of Italy and Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, saw the participation of Ministers and Deputy Ministers from 20 Countries, the Council of the Baltic Sea States, the European Commission and the World Bank.
3. The High-Level Roundtable recognized that, disasters caused by natural and man-made hazards are leading to unsustainable economic losses affecting the economy both globally and at European level. Between 1980 and 2016, disasters accounted for 83% of the monetary losses in EU Member States. The Roundtable also highlighted that the European region has experienced devastating heatwaves and floods and deadly forest fires which have exposed the vulnerability of citizens and natural systems.
4. Acknowledged the correlation between demographic changes, urbanization, food security, impacts on capital markets and ageing infrastructure that undermine current efforts for sustainability and prosperity.
5. Considered the fundamental value of cultural heritage for the resilience of the communities.
6. Emphasized the interlinked nature of our society and cascading effects of hazards that demands an integrated approach.
7. Considered that disasters affect the security of nations and communities and pose severe risks across borders and within the European region and that climate change and disaster risks linked to

natural and man-made hazards are overwhelming our systems and our capacities. This is a trend that heavily challenges the capacity of the affected but also neighboring countries, compromising and in the worst case reversing hard-won development achievements, whilst also driving humanitarian needs.

8. Highlighted the opportunities offered by the current ongoing reforms implemented by the European Region in terms of investment requirements, many of which related to infrastructure.
9. Stressed that ensuring new decisions that are risk-informed is essential to deliver a sustainable future.
10. Reiterated that under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, governments have committed to national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020, a fast approaching deadline. Their effectiveness depends on the political leadership to articulate how they will better protect citizens.
11. Agreed that in addressing these challenges, a shift from enhancing disaster response to managing disaster risk in the long term is urgently required to ensure safety and resilience in Europe and beyond.
12. Highlighted the importance of a whole-of-society approach, which must involve key stakeholder groups including women, persons living with disability, youth and children, elderly persons, the private sector and civil society in all its diversity.
13. Underlined the crucial role of prevention, preparedness, innovation (technical and financial) and public-private partnerships as tools for disaster and climate resilience.
14. Valued that building resilience to disasters is an effective way to tackle the underlying causes of fragility and crises.

Building on the 2015-2020 EFDRR Roadmap, resolved to work together towards:

15. Establishing and enabling the National and Local disaster risk reduction strategies through a system wide approach promoting inclusiveness and resilient investments;
16. Ensuring disaster risk assessments as a prerequisite for infrastructure investments, with time horizons commensurate to their life cycles and for cultural heritage conservation;
17. Promoting public and private risk informed investments and capital flows while ensuring that the private sector is engaged in contributing to building resilience to disasters;
18. Support the disaster risk management and civil protection authorities to better systematically integrate the risks of climate change into risk reduction, prevention, preparedness and response actions, including through engagement with relevant institutions; explore innovative decision-making support tools to help stress test current systems against realistic climate impact scenarios;
19. Putting people at the center of disaster risk reduction investments, paying special attention to those groups which are disproportionately vulnerable to the effects of disasters.

Thus, accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, in coherence with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change with renewed leadership and engagement.