



2nd

Central Asia and South Caucasus

Sub Regional Platform

FOR

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

26-27 June, 2018

YEREVAN, ARMENIA

***An integrated platform for sustainable development  
and building resilience.***



Central Asia and South Caucasus countries are highly vulnerable to disasters. In recent years, a large number of small and medium-scale disasters caused by natural hazards have impacted the region, and compounded one another with on-going challenges related to water, energy and food insecurity, and violent conflicts. At the same time, climate change serves as a threat multiplier, aggravating these stressors.

It's clear that it is necessary to scale up efforts on disaster risk reduction, and that this is a critical time to do this. Many Central Asian countries are undertaking significant economic and social reforms with major infrastructure investment and urbanization.

Across the Central Asian South Caucasus region, the threats of natural disasters are often of trans-border nature, with potential regional impacts. Substantially reducing disaster risk requires close cooperation and joint disaster preparedness efforts through an approach that is sensitive to this context. These risks include different types of natural hazards (earthquakes, floods, landslides and mudslides) as well as political instability through intra- and inter-state conflicts and terrorism. These are exacerbated by for example geostrategic energy competition, internally displaced people, territorial disputes, population growth and migration. Many countries in the region face problems of poverty, economic fragility and vulnerability related to the high dependency on remittances. Capacity to respond is also relatively weak in the region.

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) supports countries to develop and implement comprehensive risk management Strategies. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction defines targets and priorities for action for reducing the risk of disasters for the period 2015-2030. While some of the member countries have established National Emergency Management strategies, most efforts were predominantly focused on responding to emergencies with some level of investments in preparedness.

There is increased political commitment and determination in the region to establish a sustainable legal and institutional structure. While countries have made considerable advancements in the institutional and coordination mechanisms and at the national and regional levels during the last decade, there are still severe gaps in technical expertise and capacities to systematically adopt and sustain effective actions for disaster risk reduction. This need for continued investment in building disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management capacities, including in monitoring and reporting has been reiterated throughout various assessments. It will be important to capitalize on recent achievements to keep the momentum at both political and technical levels.

All this considered, Central Asian and South Caucasus countries have the potential of becoming a reference model for best practice in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, alongside with the Paris Climate Change Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. But a bold and determined change of gear is required, and several underlying conditions have to be realized.

## **REGIONAL PLATFORMS FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 recognizes the Global and Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction, as key mediums for its implementation, building on the pivotal role that they have played in supporting the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

The Global and Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, as recognized by the UN General Assembly, is the main forum at the global and regional level for strategic advice, coordination, partnership development and the review of progress in the implementation of international agreements on disaster risk reduction.

The Sendai Framework also underscores the need for the Global Platform and Regional Platforms to function as a coherent system of mechanisms in order to fully leverage the potential of collaboration across all stakeholders and sectors to provide guidance and support in implementation.

### **2nd Central Asia and South Caucasus (CASC) Sub-regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**

The first Sub - Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Asia and South Caucasus was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 12 July 2016 and was attended by heads of delegations of the countries and high-level authorities and adopted the Dushanbe declaration.

The CASC sub-regional platform provides an integrated platform to address sustainable development and build resilience. It also provides an opportunity to address issues through cross-border leadership and solutions that can benefit the people and the countries of the region. The 2<sup>nd</sup> CASC sub-regional Platform will serve as instruments to<sup>1</sup> :

- Forge partnerships;
- Periodically assess progress on implementation,
- Share practice and knowledge on risk-informed policies, programmes and investments, including on development and climate issues;
- Promote the integration of disaster risk management in other relevant sectors;
- Contribute to the integrated and coordinated follow-up processes to United Nations conferences and summits.

THEME AND OUTCOME

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<sup>1</sup> Ref: Sendai Framework paragraphs 28 (c) and 49

This year's platform to be held in Yerevan will build on the 2016 Dushanbe Declaration, the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in Mexico and EU action in the region.<sup>2</sup> It aims at addressing key issues that can accelerate in the implementation of the Sendai Framework in coherence with the SDGs and Paris Agreement taking into account the theme of the 2018 European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction taking place in Italy and 2019 Global Platform.

While taking stock of the 2016 Central Asia and South Caucasus Roadmap for implementation of the Sendai Framework, this year's sub-regional platform will address some of the below topics amongst others:

- a. Promoting sustainable and resilient development in the region<sup>3</sup>;
- b. From monitoring progress to implementing strategies;
- c. Promoting effective public private partnerships towards risk sensitive investment;
- d. Understanding risks and accounting for losses – the economy of disasters;
- e. Land-use and urban planning for risk informed decisions;
- f. Leaving no-one behind: An all of society approach to build resilience;

Outcomes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> CASC sub-regional platform will be reported back to the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR).

#### AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

The CASC sub-regional platform for 2018 will feature the following events:

- Statements by National Governments
- Plenary Sessions
- Working Sessions
- Field visits

#### PARTICIPATION

The 2018 CASC 2018 platform is expected to host participants from Central Asia and South Caucasus countries, Ministers, Sendai Framework focal point, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations and international organizations, and stakeholder groups including National Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations, Children and Youth, Civil Society and Community Practitioners, Women, Parliamentarians, Local Authorities, Science and Technology and Academia, Private Sector, Media, Disability, etc. Experts beyond the sub-region will be engaged based on the topic to share good practices and build partnerships.

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<sup>2</sup> In particular, where relevant, the EU Eastern Partnership Declaration 2017 and the EU PPRD East Programme to support policy development in disaster risk management.

<sup>3</sup> 2018 CASC Sub-regional platform will explore coherence in implementation of Sendai Framework and SDG Goal 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15.

All the participants are required to register through the 2<sup>nd</sup> CASC Platform website, to be available soon.

**Contacts**

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