

Concept Note

Sixth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 13-17 May 2019, Geneva, Switzerland

Proposed overall theme:

“Resilience¹ Dividend: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Societies”

I. Background

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction² is a critical component of the monitoring and implementation process of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), and the leading vehicle of the international community for wide-ranging and comprehensive discussions on understanding and managing risk. The outcomes of the Global Platform inform the deliberations of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development from disaster risk reduction perspective thus contributing to a risk-informed implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The outcomes will also provide critical inputs to the UN Climate Summit in 2019. In addition, the Global Platform is now recognized as an important element of the UN Secretary General’s newly released Integrated Platform for Prevention, thus contributing to the wider Prevention Agenda of the United Nations.

Over the past decade, the Global Platform has assumed the role of assessing and reviewing the progress in the implementation of the global disaster risk reduction agenda, and to serve as a platform for governments and stakeholders to share good practices, identify gaps and to make recommendations to further accelerate the implementation. In total, five sessions of the Global Platform have taken place since 2007. While each of the sessions focused on specific themes, the following topics have been recurrent in most of the sessions, in different forms and reiterations: 1) national and local implementation, 2) investments & economics of disaster risk reduction, and 3) linkages and coherence with climate change and sustainable development.³

The fifth session of the Global Platform (GP2017), held in Cancun, Mexico, was the first to take place after the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, and it reaffirmed that full implementation of the Sendai Framework will reinforce the achievement of other international agendas. It also reconfirmed the Global Platform as a fundamental mechanism to foster practical

¹ The scope of resilience in this context is in line with the paragraph 15 of the Sendai Framework and encompasses the risk of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks.

² Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was established in 2006 and is recognized by the UN General Assembly (GA resolution 61/198) as the global multi-stakeholder forum for assessing progress on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as to share practice and knowledge on disaster risk informed policies, programmes and investments, including on development and climate issues.

³ See Annex I for details.

coherence in implementation of disaster risk reduction with other international agendas, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement on climate change and the New Urban Agenda. The outcomes of the Global Platform are also relevant for the humanitarian assistance, as reducing disaster risk can also contribute to preventing and reducing humanitarian crises, and as the Agenda for Humanity calls for the anticipation of disaster and crises and for addressing the needs of most vulnerable. As stated in the Chair's summary, the multi-stakeholder nature of the Global Platform has been acknowledged as a critical driver for fruitful deliberations, and for the effective implementation of the Sendai Framework.

The participation of representatives from a wide range of sectors of governments and stakeholder groups reflects the shift – enshrined in the Sendai Framework – from managing disasters to managing disaster risk. It is now acknowledged that reducing disaster risk is a shared responsibility which concerns everyone – from citizens to high-level political leaders, government institutions, private sector, civil society and scientific and technical institutions.

II. The 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

The sixth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2019) will take place in Geneva, Switzerland from 13 to 17 May, 2019, convened and organized by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and hosted by the Government of Switzerland. The session will be co-chaired by Switzerland and UNISDR. It will represent the next important opportunity for the international community to boost the implementation of the Sendai Framework related goals of the 2030 Agenda, as well as commitments of the Paris Climate Agreement, and the last global gathering for all stakeholders before the deadline for the achievement of Target E of the Sendai Framework: substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.

The sixth session of the Global Platform will build on the momentum created in Cancun, amplified by the integration of disaster risk elements in the implementation of the SDGs, so as to take the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda to the next level. The next Platform will take place 15 months after the launch of the Sendai Framework Monitor, is preceded by the launch of the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2019, and will see the launch of the Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF). It will allow the first stock take of the progress made in implementation, according to data submitted by Member States⁴. The sense of urgency in achieving Target E by 2020 will receive much attention at the next Platform. The programme will be designed in a way that will allow ample space for sharing of experiences, good practices and challenges in achieving this target. While countries are rallying to meet the Target E, it is important to ensure that all seven targets and the four priorities are pursued in parallel if the goal and outcome of the Sendai Framework are to be achieved by 2030.

⁴ The Sendai Framework Monitor was launched in March, 2018.

The Chair's summary of the fifth session identified areas of special focus that require particular attention and follow up by member states and stakeholders and will be taken into account in the preparation of the next session. These are: a) monitoring implementation of the Sendai Framework, b) achieving target E: substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020, c) coherence with the sustainable development and climate change agendas, d) gender-sensitive and inclusive disaster risk reduction, and e) international cooperation initiatives.

UNISDR is committed to scaling up efforts towards integrated gender perspective as well as gender parity throughout the preparations for the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. This will entail fostering women's participation in the Global Platform whilst ensuring an equal gender representation in the sessions. Efforts will also be made to ensure that gender perspective is mainstreamed throughout the Global Platform discussions to ensure a proper recognition of women's role and contribution to disaster risk reduction governance, especially in the context of Governments' efforts in developing inclusive national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction by 2020 in support of Target E.

Links between Global and Regional Platforms and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

The Global and regional platforms for disaster risk reduction, as well as the data gathered from the Sendai Framework monitor provide important contributions to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable development, by informing its deliberations from disaster risk reduction perspective that are relevant for the themes of respective HLPF sessions. There are a number of ways how these linkages are concretized, in particular the following:

- The chair's summary of the Global Platform 2017 sets out directions for the setting of the agendas of the Regional Platforms that will take place in 2018.
- The Regional Platforms will take stock on progress at the regional level, identify gaps and make recommendations for the next session of the Global Platform. They will also provide inputs from disaster risk reduction perspective that are relevant for the HLPF session.
- The outcomes of the 2018 Regional Platforms will be presented and discussed in a dedicated session at the Global Platform 2019.
- The data collected through the Sendai Framework Monitor, that is relevant for the disaster risk reduction targets in the SDGs, will inform the preparation of the SDG progress reports.
- The outcomes of the Global Platform 2019 will also inform the discussions at the 2019 Climate Change Summit.

The outcomes of the Global Platform 2019 will be submitted to the President of ECOSOC and will inform the deliberations at the High-Level Political Forum sessions in 2019. Additional efforts will be made to ensure that disaster risk reduction will feature in the agenda and discussions of the HLPF 2019, through specific events.

III. Guiding Principles

UNISDR has established the following guiding principles that will be followed in the preparation of the Global and Regional Platforms:

- Coherence with other global agendas
- Multi-stakeholder approach
- Interactive and Innovative
- Inclusion and Accessibility
- Integrated gender perspective and balance
- Green and Paper Smart

IV. Standing Items and Elements

The following standing items and elements are expected to feature in the agenda of all the future Global Platforms:

- 1) Opening & closing ceremonies
- 2) Dedicated high-level discussion on the progress made in implementing the Sendai Framework, in synergy with the 2030 Agenda and Paris Climate Agreement at the regional level, in the context of global risk trends
- 3) Session(s) on the Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF) and presentation & discussion on the key risk trends and findings of the GAR
- 4) Sessions on Sendai Framework monitoring
- 5) Official Statements (runs as a parallel session throughout the GP)
- 6) Ignite Stage & DRR Innovation Platform

In addition to these standing items, there will be a number of sessions, including high-level dialogues or panels, ministerial roundtables, plenaries, working sessions, side events, learning labs and special events that can focus on a specific theme(s).

V. Agenda

The setting of the agenda of the Global Platforms is guided by the Sendai Framework, in particular paragraphs 28 c) and 49, as well as the four priorities, and the seven global targets (paragraphs 18).

The agenda of the 2019 Global Platform is expected to encompass the following:

- 1) Monitor and review progress in implementation of the Sendai Framework⁵, in the context of trends in global risk⁶, as well as stakeholders' voluntary commitments;
- 2) Take stock of development and implementation of national and local strategies and plans for disaster risk reduction, in line with the Sendai Target E, and in synergy with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change;
- 3) Forge partnerships and share practice and knowledge on disaster risk-informed policies, programmes and investments, including on development and climate issues; and
- 4) Promote the integration of disaster risk management in other relevant sectors

The Global Platform outcomes are expected to contribute to the deliberations of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, General Assembly and other relevant UN bodies and processes, such as the 2019 UN Climate Change Summit. The alignment and relevance with the themes of the HLPF 2019 will need to be taken into consideration when shaping the programme of the Global Platform.

VI. Expected Outcomes

The platform is expected to have the following main outcomes:

- The first stock take on progress made in implementing the Sendai Framework by Member States and stakeholders, and achievement of disaster risk-related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Understanding of the state of global risk, and launch of the Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF).
- Recommendations and actionable suggestions for key policy makers in charge of sustainable development, finance & economic planning and disaster risk reduction.
- Increased awareness on good practices in implementing the Sendai Framework, including innovative approaches, tools and methodologies.
- A contribution to the discussions of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to be held in New York in July 2019, as well as the UN Climate Change Summit in September 2019.

VII. Thematic Focus

The shaping of the thematic focus for each Global Platform need to consider the following aspects: global risk updates and emerging new risks, outcomes of the previous Global and Regional Platforms, global policy context and links to other international frameworks, - in particular the themes of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the specific SDGs that

⁵ Based on countries' reports through the Sendai Framework Monitor tool

⁶ As elaborated by the Global Risk Assessment Framework

will be reviewed, as well as feedback received from Governments and stakeholders. As has been the practice, UNISDR will follow a consultative and inclusive approach in defining the scope and the thematic focus of the platform.

Based on the lessons learned and feedback received from the previous Global Platform, efforts will be made to ensure that the next Global Platform will focus on fewer topics and that sessions are designed in a way that will allow more time for dialogue, interaction and focus on solutions. At the same time, it is important to maintain the multi-stakeholder and inclusive approach which is acknowledged as an imperative for effective implementation of the Sendai Framework.

It is proposed that the Global Platform will have one overall theme that will set the tone for the 6th session. The overall theme could be supported by two or three specific themes, i.e. each of the three official days could be dedicated to one specific theme. The different sessions, including plenaries, special sessions and side events would offer opportunities for a wide range of discussions, including high-level dialogues as well as more detailed deep-dives into specific issues and technical discussions each day. At the same time, elements, such as Sendai Framework monitoring, and development of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies (Target E) should be seen as cross-cutting themes.

Proposed Thematic Focus: Resilience Dividend: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Societies

The Global Assessment Reports (GAR)⁷ have concluded that improvements in disaster management over the past two decades, in particular, the establishment of early warning systems and evacuation planning, have contributed to an overall reduction in disaster mortality globally. Far less progress has been made in integrating disaster and climate risk in investments and economic planning. As a consequence, economic losses are increasing rapidly, in some regions outstripping the GDP growth.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as well as the outcomes of the GP2017 recognized that disaster risk reduction has to become an inherent part of sustainable development, a set of practices and approaches embedded in its DNA. Without effective and inclusive disaster and climate risk management and risk-sensitive socio-economic planning, development will not be sustainable and the goals of 2030 Agenda and the Paris Climate Agreement remain unattained. Every investment in development – big or small – will affect the risk landscape, positively or negatively. It may create new risks, or amplify existing risks; equally it may reduce the existing stock of risk, or mitigate, even prevent creation of new risks. As an example, it is estimated that US\$ 90 trillion will have to be invested in infrastructure over the next 15 years⁸. Ensuring that those investments are risk-informed is a precondition for sustainable development. This notion was also captured in the High-Level Communique of the 5th Session of the Global Platform.

⁷ <https://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/>

⁸ Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015

The proposed theme of GP2019 will focus on how managing disaster risk and risk-informed development investments pay dividends in multiple sectors and geographies, across all scales, and throughout social, economic, financial and environmental fields. The concept of ‘resilience dividend’ in this context is to be interpreted in a broader sense that goes beyond monetary profit. It contributes to reducing disaster risk, fosters development and triggers multiple social, environmental and economic benefits in a long term. The sessions will be designed in a way that key players, - such as ministries of planning, economy and finance, national and international regulators, and legislators, as well as members of the business and investor communities and international financial institutions - will feature prominently as speakers and discussants, throughout the Platform, while at the same time respecting an inclusive approach and making sure that all stakeholders will have an active role to play.

Since the topic of the 2019 High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development will be on “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”. it is proposed that this theme will be prominently addressed at high-level dialogues, which will take place throughout the Global Platform. In addition, the proposed main themes of the Global Platform will contribute to the SDGs that will be reviewed at the HLPF2019 (in particular, SDG 8, 10, 13 and 16).

Overall Theme and Focus of each Day

It is proposed that the 6th Session of the Global Platform is organized under the overall theme entitled: *Resilience Dividend: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Societies*. It is proposed that each of the three official days will have a specific focus that contributes in a more concrete manner to the overall theme of the Global Platform, as follows

Day 1 will **take stock on progress made since the last Global Platform** and will contextualize progress made at local, national and regional levels. It is an opportunity for all stakeholders to come together, share experiences on good practices and to identify gaps and discuss challenges related to implementation of the Sendai Framework. Day 1 will also feature a high-level dialogue on global and regional progress, including outcomes from the regional platforms as well as a presentation and discussion on the state of global risk and future trends. Discussion could also focus on institutional strengthening, risk governance, accountability, access to data, including sex and age disaggregated data, and other aspects that are highly relevant for the achievement of the Target E.

The proposed focus of the Day 2 is on **risk-informed public and private investments, including i.e. investments in infrastructure, and innovative investment modalities**. Day 2 will also provide an opportunity to focus on some of the key issues and opportunities identified during the previous global platform session, such as the recommendation to establish a coalition of countries for critical infrastructure in order to share knowledge, tools and best practices and to build capacity of engineers and architects to enhance their understanding or risk and mitigation measures.

Day 3 will focus on **action on climate and disaster risk, including integrated national policies, strategies and planning, innovative financial and social instruments** for climate and disaster risk reduction, including gender considerations, as well as early warning awareness-raising, disaster preparedness and community resilience. These themes are highly relevant for the Secretary-General's Climate Summit that will take place in New York, in September, 2019, as well as for the achievement of the SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, which is one of the SDGs to be reviewed at the HLPF 2019.

Each day will feature different types of sessions, acknowledging the need for both political and/or high-level dialogues and more technical discussions, workshops and networking. All sessions will be designed in a way that will encourage and maximize the time for dialogue and interaction.

ANNEX I

Themes of the Previous Global Platforms

As of to date, five sessions of the Global Platforms have taken place. The first Global Platform took place in 2007, two years after the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 2015. The theme of the first session was *Acting with Common Purpose*, and the program was structured around three main themes: 1) raise awareness on reducing disaster risk; 2) share national and local experience and good practice in disaster risk reduction; and 3) assess progress in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action.

The second session of the Global Platform (GP2009) was entitled *Creating Linkages for a Safer Tomorrow*, and it focused on establishing linkages between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, as well as national and local implementation. The platform focused on four subthemes: 1) investment in disaster risk reduction; 2) reducing risk in a changing climate; 3) accelerating community resilience and livelihood protection; and 4) initial discussions on the mid-term review of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

The third session of the Global Platform (GP2011) took place in the aftermath of Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. Under the overall theme *Invest Today for a Safer Tomorrow - Increase Investments in Local Action*, the session underscored the importance of building resilience in local communities. This session also featured the first-ever World Reconstruction Conference. The GP2011 was structured around the following subthemes: 1) increased investment in local action, 2) effective financial instruments to reduce disaster risk; and 3) climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

The fourth session of the Global Platform (GP2013) was the last one to take place during the Hyogo Framework era and before the new framework was to be developed and adopted. It featured a double slogan: *Resilient People, Resilient Planet – Invest today for a Safer Tomorrow*. The program was built around the following main themes: 1) community resilience – the foundation for resilient nations; 2) private sector for resilient societies; and 3) governments and DRR – sustainable engagement. The outcomes of the informal plenary highlighted the importance of integrating disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development.

The fifth session of the Global Platform (GP2017) was the first one to take place after the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), as well as the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Change Agreement. Under the slogan, *From Commitment to Action*, the program was structured around the following four themes: 1) national and local disaster risk reduction strategies pave the way for action by all; 2) a risk informed approach to sustainable development and resilience for countries in special situations (LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs); 3) Sendai Framework Monitoring; and 4) Coherence between the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Climate Change agreement.