



UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS



United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction



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Ministry of Sustainable Development, Wildlife & Regional
Development

**Practitioner-to-Practitioner Forum
on**

**Strengthening Capacities of Public Administration
in Island States**

***Equipping Public Institutions, Strengthening Resilience and Building Effective
Partnerships for Implementing the 2030 Agenda from an Island States
Perspective***

20 to 24 August 2018

Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA)
28/10, Malalasekara Mawatha, Colombo
Republic of Sri Lanka

Co-organized by

Ministry of Sustainable Development, Wildlife and Regional Development of Sri Lanka

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

United Nations - Sri Lanka

BACKGROUND

Adopted in 2015 by all United Nations Member States, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims to achieve the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** as a holistic and interdependent agenda to be achieved in both developed and developing countries. It aspires to “leave no one behind” and calls for a special effort to ensure that Island States make rapid progress towards realizing the SDGs. The **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030** is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda with its seven targets and indicators embedded across the SDGs. The Sendai Framework advances the achievement of eleven goals, particularly 1,2,3,4,5,6,9,11,13,14 and 15 among others to ensure resilience¹ in progress on sustainable development across all Member States.²

For Island States with finite borders come finite resources, especially in terms of natural resource constraints, requiring them to address sustainable development and resilience strategies in tandem. Island states are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and the increasing intensity and frequency of natural disasters.³ The pursuit of more collaborative and coordinated efforts to deal with increasingly limited resources is required as global progress towards meeting disaster risk reduction targets.⁴ The growing risks from climate change continue to impact all countries, with the most vulnerable least able to cope. SIDS are faced with unique and particular challenges due to their small size, remoteness, narrow resource and export base, and exposure to global environmental challenges and external economic shocks.⁵

As an island economy forging a sustainable development pathway, Sri Lanka's economic prosperity is increasingly being planned in accordance with the country's commitments to the 2030 Agenda. In July 2017, Sri Lanka released a national statement during the 2017 High Level Political Forum, in which it provided detailed information on the key institutional arrangements the country has established in support of SDG implementation. In 2018, the Government has further elaborated on its sustainable development achievements through its Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the 2018 HLPF, on the theme of “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”.⁶

In line with the above, the learning objectives of the Forum are implementation and results-oriented, based on the outcomes of the 2018 HLPF. At the conclusion of the visit, it is expected that participants will have:

1. Increased knowledge of results-based management in realizing resilience, including through planning and policy design, management of funds, partnerships and stakeholder engagement;
2. Increased awareness to support the integration of the SDGs in national development plans and policies through evidence-based policymaking, institutional coordination and policy coherence to achieve the SDGs in line with national public administration systems;
3. Strengthened skills to help mobilize resources, technologies and other means to strengthen public service delivery and implement the SDGs from national to local levels, ensuring that no one is left behind;
4. Compared partnership models and stakeholder engagement mechanisms for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
5. Examined key dimensions of disaster risk reduction (DRR) with enhanced awareness of proven good practices to strengthen resilience including through information and communication technology (ICT) innovations.

¹ UNISDR defines resilience as “The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management”. https://www.preventionweb.net/files/50683_oiewgreportenglish.pdf

² https://www.unisdr.org/files/50438_implementingthesendaiframeworktoach.pdf

³ <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/176899/ewp-466.pdf>

⁴ UNISDR Global Capacity Development Strategy to Support Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Accessed at: https://www.preventionweb.net/files/56922_sfdrrcdstrategyzerodraft20180223.pdf

⁵ SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action [S.A.M.O.A.] Pathway, Paragraphs 51-52 of the 2014 Outcome document. Online at: <http://www.sids2014.org/index.php?menu=1537>

⁶ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2018#prep>

Day 0 – Monday – 20 August 2018

| Time | Agenda Item | Objective |
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| 18:00 – 19:00 | Welcome Reception | Informal gathering |

Day 1 – Tuesday – 21 August 2018

| Time | Agenda Item | Objective |
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| 09:00 – 09:30 | Registration | |
| 09:30 – 10:15 | Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Sustainable Development, Wildlife and Regional Development Mr. Terence Jones, UN Resident Coordinator a.i. Mr. Chae Gun Chung, Head, Project Office on Governance, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government, UN DESA Mr. Animesh Kumar, Deputy Head, Regional Office for Asia-Pacific, UNISDR | Welcome remarks from host institution and organizers and introduction of visiting delegates. |
| 10:15 – 10:30 | Group Photo and Coffee Break | |
| 10:30 – 12:30 | SESSION 1 – Strategic Planning for an Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Transformation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Trends in Mainstreaming the SDGs in national planning and institutional arrangements – Mr. Chae Gun Chung, UN DESA Implementing Global Frameworks in Coherence: The Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Mr. Animesh Kumar, UNISDR Strategic Planning for a Sustainable and Resilient Society from an Island Perspective – the Case of Sri Lanka – Mr. Sugath Yalgama, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Wildlife, and Regional Development Regional Voices in Implementing Global Frameworks – Ms. Gina Bonne, Head of Mission, Indian Ocean Commission and Ms. Teea Tira, Coordinator, Strategic Program for Climate Resilience Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat | Examining the most effective scenarios for strategic planning and implementation of the 2030 Agenda at horizontal and vertical levels of public governance, with a focus on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 targets and its interlinkages within the 2030 Agenda. |
| | Question & Answer (Q&A) Session | |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch | |
| 13:30 – 15:00 | SESSION 2 – Addressing Institutional Capacity Gaps for SDG Implementation and the Sendai Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Overview of Capacity Gaps for Achieving Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience – Ms. Ana Thorlund, UNISDR | This session will examine capacity gaps and proposed institutional solutions to implement and achieve the SDGs and integrated Sendai Framework targets |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | Coffee and Networking Break | |
| 15:30 – 17:30 | SESSION 3 – Planning for Inclusive Governance Mechanisms that Drive Resilience | Framework presentation on planning mechanisms to ensure inclusive |

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| | | governance for resilience. |
| SESSION 3.1 Engaging Civil Society Leaders in Climate Resilient Resource Management <i>Case study exercise on civil society engagement in conducting the 2018 HLPF Voluntary National Review – Lessons Learned in Sri Lanka – Government of Sri Lanka and UN Resident Coordinator's Office</i> | | Interactive one-hour exercise on stakeholder engagement and inclusion, focusing on planning and monitoring for the SDGs and Resilience. |
| SESSION 3.2 Empowering Women for Building Resilience <i>Policy exercise on ensuring disaster risk planning is gender inclusive – UNISDR and UN DESA</i> | | One-hour applied exercise on women's empowerment through inclusion in governance for DRR. |

Day 2 – Wednesday – 22 August 2018

| Time | Agenda Item | Objective |
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| 09:00 – 10:30 | SESSION 4 – Monitoring, Review, and Follow-up in the context of the SDGs and Sendai Framework Targets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrating SDGs and Sendai Framework Monitoring – Ms. Sara Castro-Hallgren, Programme Expert, UN DESA Voluntary National Reviews: The case of Sri Lanka – Mr. Sugath Yalegama, MSDW National and Local DRR Strategies (achieving <i>target e</i> of Sendai Framework) – Ms. Ana Thorlund, UNISDR Engaging other stakeholders in setting the targets, follow up, and review – Ms. Ana Thorlund, UNISDR Question & Answer (Q&A) Session | Reflecting on SDG implementation with a focus on monitoring, review and follow-up and the Sendai Framework case. Discussion on the Government of Sri Lanka's preparatory work for HLPF 2018. Overview of VNRs from the participating country perspectives. Innovation in review mechanisms and discussion on progress enablers for SDG monitoring. |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Working Coffee Break | |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | SESSION 5 – Strategizing on Means of Implementation (Mol) for Resilience in SIDS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Animesh Kumar, Deputy Head, UNISDR ROAP Ms. Teea Tira, Coordinator, Strategic Program for Climate Resilience Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Ms. Gina Bonne, Head of Mission, Indian Ocean Commission Question & Answer (Q&A) Session | Examining the needs and priorities for SIDS in terms of technology, finance, and capacity development to achieve the SDGs, with a presentation of project models and progress for resilience from the Indian and Pacific Oceans. |
| 12:00 – 13:30 | Lunch | |
| 13:30 – 15:00 | SESSION 6.1 – Transformation towards a Sustainable and Resilient Society - ICT Innovations for Disaster Risk Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Government and Open Data for Resilience in Singapore – Mr. Justin Lee, Senior Manager (Strategic Planning & International), Government Technology Agency, Singapore Exploring Frontier Technologies for Digital Governance: Artificial Intelligence, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) – UN DESA and UNISDR Question & Answer (Q&A) Session | Reflecting on resilience in public services delivery and public governance through ICT and digital government. Exploring innovations in ICT to ensure resilient planning and disaster risk reduction. |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | Coffee and Networking Break | |

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| 15:30 – 17:00 | SESSION 6.2 – Transformation towards a Sustainable and Resilient Society – Implementing ICT Innovations in Practice Facilitators: UN DESA and UNISDR Facilitated Panel Discussion and Q&A Session | Discussion and exercise on how to implement innovations in ICT for resilience amid rising challenges for Island States with climate change. |
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Day 3 – Thursday – 23 August 2018

| Time | Agenda Item | Objective |
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| 09:00-12:00 | SESSION 7 – Site Visit: National Disaster Management Centre, Ministry of Disaster Management of Sri Lanka The mission of Sri Lanka's Disaster Management Centre is to create a culture of safety among communities and the nation at large through systematic management of natural, technological and man-made disaster risks. It acts for safer communities and sustainable development in Sri Lanka. | |
| 12:00 – 13:30 | Lunch | |
| 13:30 – 16:30 | SESSION 8 – Site Visit: Platform for Real-time Information and Situation Monitoring (PRISM) Led by the Government of Sri Lanka and the World Food Programme (WFP), PRISM is a smart, responsive information and service delivery platform that helps the Sri Lanka improve the effectiveness of emergency preparedness to combat the effects of climate shocks. According to the Global Climate Risk Index, Sri Lanka is ranked 4th out of 181 countries prone to climate shocks. | |

Day 4 – Friday – 24 August 2018

| Time | Agenda Item | Objective |
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| 09:00-10:30 | SESSION 9 – Financing Resilience: Building Resilience for Climate-related Disasters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Teea Tira, Coordinator, Strategic Program for Climate Resilience, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Ms. Gina Bonne, Head of Mission, Indian Ocean Commission Sri Lanka Climate Finance case Selected country cases | Applied learning on Climate Finance to strengthen knowledge of government finance, readiness, and lessons learned in navigating financing mechanisms. |
| | Question & Answer (Q&A) Session | |
| 10:30-10:45 | Coffee and Networking Break | |
| 10:45-12:00 | SESSION 10 – Financing Resilience through National Budgets and Mechanisms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilience in Government Budgeting – Sri Lanka's Blue-Green Budget Initiative Selected country cases | Discussing national cases and <i>How Tos</i> of ensuring financing and managing finances in disaster risk reduction and resilience. Examining Green Initiatives in Sri Lanka's 2018 Blue-Green Budget |
| | Question & Answer (Q&A) Session | |
| 12:00 – 13:30 | Lunch | |
| 13:30 – 14:30 | SESSION 11 – Exploring Trends and Cases of Innovative Financing Mechanisms in Asia-Pacific <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNISDR | Exploring policies that unlock corporate investment for development; privat |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selected country cases <p>Question & Answer (Q&A) Session</p> | <p>e sector financing products for development including green bonds, impact investment, and micro-insurances.</p> |
| 14:30 – 15:00 | Coffee and Networking Break | |
| 15:00 - 16:00 | <p>SESSION 12 – The Partnership Marketplace: Action Planning on Opportunities for South-South Cooperation and SDG Co-Implementation in the context of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway</p> <p>Facilitators: UN DESA and UNISDR</p> | <p>Setting up partnerships between the officials working on resilience and the SDGs and the country representatives for follow up.</p> <p>Evaluation of Forum.</p> |
| 16:00 – 17:00 | <p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certificate Ceremony Word of Thanks | <p>Certificates of completion to be presented to country participants in recognition of their work during the Forum.</p> |