

## Concept Note

### **UNISDR-MIKTA Seminar on Strengthening the Role of National and Local Governments in Reducing Economic Losses and Building DRR Capacity**

*in Commemoration of the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR)*

**October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

#### **Background**

1. In order to promote the seven global targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (hereinafter will be referred to as the Sendai Framework), the UN Secretary-General launched 'The Sendai Seven Campaign.' The UN will focus on one target per year over the course of seven years and this year's target is target (c): reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030.
2. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has designated 13 October as International Disaster Risk Reduction. UNISDR has confirmed the theme of this year's IDDR, in line with "The Sendai Seven Campaign" as follows:  
*International Day for Disaster Reduction 2018 - #ResilienceForAll  
'Reducing Economic Losses from Disasters has the Power to Transform Lives'*
3. This theme is highly relevant as this year witnessed an estimated economic loss of US\$350 billion – insured and uninsured – which severely impacted the availability of public funds for social expenditures, hence negatively affecting growth rates especially in lower income countries and small island developing states (SIDS).
4. It is therefore very timely to encourage investment in disaster risk reduction and prevention which generally represents a large saving in terms of avoided losses and reconstruction costs with cost benefit ratios ranging from 3:1 to 15:1 or higher in some cases. A change of mindset from managing disaster to managing disaster *risk* is also required to minimize losses.
5. The innovative partnership of MIKTA – consisting of Mexico, Indonesia, The Republic of Korea, Turkey, and Australia – is highly committed in disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts. Each of the MIKTA countries have hosted or will host a major DRR forum: Mexico hosted the Global Platform for DRR in 2017, Indonesia hosted the AMCDRR in 2012, The Republic of Korea hosted the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) in 2010, Turkey hosted the European Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) in 2017, and Australia will be hosting the AMCDRR in

2020. Also, in the sidelines of the Fifth Global Platform for DRR in Cancun on 22-26 May 2017, MIKTA convened a side-event themed *'Removing barriers and promoting private-public cooperation in disaster risk reduction'* MIKTA supports the notion to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework and strongly believes that humanitarian leadership is vital in DRR.

6. In addition to the upcoming UNISDR events in Geneva on 10 October 2018, New York on 11 October 2018, and Tunis on 13 October 2013, MIKTA and UNISDR will convene a seminar to commemorate IDRR 2018 with the theme *'Strengthening the Role of National and Local Governments in Reducing Economic Losses and Building DRR Capacity.'* MIKTA realizes that the discussion of target (c) will be incomplete without the discussion of target (e) since reducing economic losses would entail devising effective public policy and DRR strategies.

### **Seminar**

7. The seminar will be held on 19 October 2019 13:30-15:00 at Room XXV, Palais des Nations. Light lunch and drinks sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea will be provided from 12:30 at Escargot Bar (*Third floor, E Building*)
8. The seminar will start with the trailer of the film produced by a private sector company from the Arise Network called "Built to Last?" which focuses on disasters' impact on infrastructure. The trailer serves as a trigger to the discussion around the economic costs of disasters. Please find the following news on the film <https://www.unisdr.org/archive/58997>.
9. Following the short film, a panel consisting of speakers from MIKTA countries and international organizations representatives will discuss: (1) the importance of reducing the economic losses from disasters (including the cost benefit calculations when investing in disaster risk reduction efforts and best practices); (2) international cooperation in building DRR capacities; and (3) the role of national and local governments in reducing economic losses from disasters. A question and answer session will follow the presentations.

\*\*\*