Partnership and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy
1 Context and Rationale

The 2030 Agenda, comprising of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, Paris Climate Agreement, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), New Urban Agenda and outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit clearly sets the imperative for change across the world. A key element to achieving 2030 Agenda is the effective reduction of climate and disaster risks. But this can only be attained through an all-of-society approach. Whilst governments remain responsible for integrating disaster risk reduction in core social, economic and development planning, this also requires a change of behavior across all sectors and levels. Changing the way we think, live and invest can only be done through close partnership and collaboration between governments and all stakeholder groups. In particular, those who are most affected and vulnerable to disasters, must be engaged in the design and implementation of inclusive policies, plans and standards. The notion of inclusiveness and collaborative action is also reflected in the ongoing UN Reforms, which include strong calls for new partnerships between the United Nations and stakeholders at large.

This Partnership Strategy will provide the framework for UNDRR as the custodian UN agency for the Sendai Framework to engage stakeholders and partners from all sectors in effectively reducing disaster risks. As the focal point in the United Nations system to ensure coordination and synergy among disaster risk reduction activities of the United Nations system and regional organizations and activities in socio-economic and humanitarian fields (UN General Assembly resolution 56/195), UNDRR is well placed for promoting inclusion and collaboration as a critical element for building resilience and risk-sensitive development at all levels. As an example, the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP), created by the UN General Assembly in 2006 and organized by UNDRR on a biannual basis since, was one of the first global UN-led conference bringing together governments and stakeholders from across many sectors. Now in its sixth edition, the Global Platform regularly gathers thousands of participants to discuss the progress made by the international community in reducing risks and building resilience and in developing new partnerships, tools and mechanisms for enhanced action.

Lastly, an enforced strategic and systematic approach to stakeholder engagement and partnerships is important as the Sendai Framework significantly broadened the scope of disaster risk reduction. UNDRR is thereby tasked to focus not only on natural but also man-made hazards and environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks and reach out to relevant stakeholder groups beyond the traditional disaster risk reduction community.

2 Definitions

Under this Strategy, the following definitions apply:

Partnerships

Voluntary and collaborative relationships between various parties, both state and non-state, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and to share risks, responsibilities, resources, competences and benefits. Partnerships should deliver concrete results and products measured against agreed outcomes.

Partner

A “partner” is a person, organization, network or association who works collaboratively with UNDRR as part of a defined agreement, project or framework to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and to share risks, responsibilities, resources, competences and benefits.

Stakeholder

“Stakeholders” are defined as persons, organizations, networks or groups with an interest or concern in disaster risk reduction and risk-sensitive development. Stakeholders may engage with UNDRR in broader advocacy campaigns and initiatives, as well as Global and Regional Platforms and other events. The focus of stakeholder engagement is providing support to governments for inclusive implementation of the Sendai Framework, while catalyzing action at the national and local levels in principle.
3  Goal, Objectives and Scope

This strategy is developed in direct support of paragraph 35 of the Sendai Framework:

"While States have the overall responsibility for reducing disaster risk, it is a shared responsibility between Governments and relevant stakeholders. In particular, non-state stakeholders play an important role as enablers in providing support to states, in accordance with national policies, laws and regulations, in the implementation of the present framework at local, national, regional and global levels. Their commitment, goodwill, knowledge, experience and resources will be required."

The strategy also takes into consideration the role and responsibilities of international organizations to support developing countries through international cooperation and global partnerships for development (Sendai paragraph 48).

Goal

Aligned with this, the goal of this strategy is to build and enable systematic engagement and action between governments and stakeholders to reduce existing risks and prevent the creation of new risks for resilient socio-economic development at the global, national and local level.

Overarching Objectives

1. Promoting the value proposition including tangible results of engaging in disaster risk reduction and risk-informed development and investment;
2. Engaging partners and stakeholders for an inclusive approach for designing and implementing integrated disaster risk reduction strategies at national and local levels;
3. Breaking down silos between and within governments, the United Nations system and stakeholder groups;
4. Initiating behavioral change towards risk-informed decision-making and investment;
5. Encouraging enhanced North-South, South-South and triangular collaboration, particularly in support of target (f) and section VI of the Sendai Framework.

Scope

The scope of the strategy covers UNDRR’s engagement with partners as well as stakeholders in the broader sense. It also aligns with paragraphs 36 and 48 of the Sendai Framework, namely:

Para 36: Public and Private Stakeholders:

Civil society, community based and volunteer organizations, specifically including women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, migrants, older people, indigenous people, business, professional associations and private sector financial institutions, academia, science and technology institutions and media.

Paragraph 48: International Organizations:

• United Nations system entities;
• Other international and regional organizations, including the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;
• International and regional financial institutions, including World Bank and regional development banks;
• Global and regional parliamentarian networks, including the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU);
• City and local government bodies and organizations, including the United Cities and Local Government Organization (UCLG).

The Strategy encompasses the full scope of hazards as outlined in Sendai paragraph 15:

‘The present framework will apply to 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. It aims to guide the multi-hazard management of disaster risk in development at all levels as well as within and across all sectors.’

4  Added Values and Benefits

Partnerships and stakeholder engagement offer a range of added values and benefits to policies and projects for the implementation of the Sendai Framework. This includes:
• Strengthening complementarities and synergy between governments and stakeholders for collective results and greater impact for sustainable and resilient societies;
• Identifying and aligning key priorities for coherent implementation of disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development;
• Providing an overview of capacities, roles and initiatives to enhance understanding and collaboration and reduce duplication of efforts and resources among different actors;
• Bridging the science-policy-practitioners divide and developing innovative and integrated approaches through cross-sectoral ideas sharing and exchanges;
• Enabling behavior change to take place at local and community levels.

Specific benefits for partners and stakeholders from engaging with UNDRR include:
• Access to policy discussions at all levels;
• Engagement in activities and initiatives led by UNDRR raising their profile and power to influence;
• Enhanced information exchange, capacity and partnership building with governments and other stakeholder groups;
• Enhanced visibility of work and achievements.

Specific benefits for UNDRR from engaging with stakeholders and partners include:
• Ensuring broad reach and impact of the promotion and support for the implementation of disaster risk reduction at the local and community level, including through transmission of messages and experiences from the global to the local and community level and vice versa;
• Engaging partners as advocates for disaster risk reduction and to leverage the technical capacity and human resources to support and enhance activities and initiatives as part of UNDRR’s mandate.

5 Guiding Principles

All partnerships and stakeholder engagement under this strategy must apply the following guiding principles:
• Anchored in the UNDRR mission and strategic objectives;
• Geared towards impact at the national and local level, in particular for the most vulnerable;
• Guided by common values, professionalism and UN principles, including respect for human rights, dignity, gender equality, equity and geographical balance;
• Following good governance rules, notably professionalism, respect, integrity and independence of and for each partner, commitment to obligations, transparency, accountability and sound financial management;
• In principle, whilst joint fundraising opportunities may be sought, UNDRR is not a funding or grant-making facility.

6 Engagement Modalities: Stakeholders

UNDRR is engaging with all stakeholder groups included in paragraphs 36 and 48 of the Sendai Framework through its global and regional processes and mechanisms. The main aim of this engagement is to provide stakeholders with platforms to review progress, exchange experiences and lessons learned, identify opportunities and build partnerships in support of new policies, tools, initiatives and innovations. This is done in and through exchanges and collaboration with Member States, with the final goal to support implementation at the national and local level.

UNDRR processes and mechanisms for multi-stakeholder engagement include:
• The Global and Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction offer stakeholders, UN agencies and Member States the opportunity to meet, take stock on progress, exchange information and experiences, agree on priorities and build new initiatives, partnerships and alliances.
• The Sendai Framework Monitor (SFM) is the global mechanism to review progress of the implementation of the Sendai Framework. Closely interlinked with the SDG and Paris Agreement monitoring systems, the SFM supports enhanced coherence and cooperation at the national level. Though
Member States are the key actors to the monitor, they can grant access to stakeholders to submit supplementary input. Results also feed into the editions of the Global Assessment Report (GAR) and Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF).

- The Sendai Voluntary Commitments Platform (VC): In support of paragraph 37 of the Sendai Framework, which calls on all stakeholders to make and publicize commitments in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework, UNDRR will establish an online platform to register, take stock, mobilize, and monitor stakeholder commitments and action in the implementation of the Sendai Framework. Global and regional platforms, will be used to publish progress and discuss gaps and opportunities of this platform.

- The Making Cities Resilient Campaign (MCR) brings together local governments and stakeholders to address issues of local governance and urban risk and resilience. The campaign is led by the UNDRR but is self-motivating and city-driven with an aim to raise the profile of resilience and disaster risk reduction among local governments and urban communities worldwide.

Other elements and occasions of UNDRR's broad stakeholder engagement include:


- The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (13 October) and World Tsunami Awareness Day (05 November);

- Preventionweb and knowledge management as opportunities to enhance awareness, share information and build partnerships and collaborative action.

**The UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (UNDRR-SEM)**

One of the key goals of (non-State) stakeholders is to engage in intergovernmental decision- and policy making processes through access to intergovernmental processes and events. To address this, nine major groups were established for the first United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 as main channels through which broad participation would be facilitated in UN activities related to sustainable development. By today, these groups expanded to a total of 17 Major Groups and other stakeholders (MGoS), the majority of which represent civil society and community-based organizations and demonstrate a high level of engagement in all major intergovernmental processes related of the 2030 Agenda. In 2018, UNDRR set up the "UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism" (UNDRR-SEM) to leverage the convening and advocacy powers of the MGoS for the integration of disaster risk reduction into the broader 2030 Agenda. The UNDRR-SEM creates an open and structured avenue for close engagement of stakeholders in the implementation of the Sendai Framework through key global, regional and national policy processes.

As the main interlocutor between UNDRR and stakeholders, key functions of the UNDRR-SEM include to:

- Build an inclusive and broad movement for the implementation of the Sendai Framework;
- Create avenues to influence policy design and implementation;
- Strengthen citizen-led and social accountability mechanisms;
- Promote coordination, information exchange and harmonization between stakeholder groups.

Major Groups and other Stakeholders

Aligned with the UNDRR Partnership and Stakeholder Strategy, the UNDRR-SEM offers representational space for all "non-state" Sendai stakeholders as set out in paragraphs 36 and 48 of the Sendai Framework.
Nations system entities, Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), international and regional financial institutions and banks (IFIs) and parliamentarians are organized through other mechanisms and agreements. Stakeholders can join the mechanism through signing up to their respective MGoS. Elected focal points of each of the MGoS, as well as a small number of other groups, constitute the "Stakeholder Advisory Group", which is an integral part of the UNDRR-SEM and acts as a key interlocutor with UNDRR, and enables, leads and supports an all-of-society engagement in the implementation of the Sendai Framework at the local, national, regional and global levels.

The Stakeholder Advisory Group is constituted of up to two representatives per MGoS as well as other invited constituency groups. The aim thereby is to cover all "non-government" and "non-state" stakeholders listed in Sendai Framework paragraphs 36 and 48. The mechanism therefore does not include representatives of Member States, United Nations system entities, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), international and regional financial institutions and banks (IFIs) or parliamentarians.

The Advisory Group will offer the representational spaces under the following main headings:

**Major Groups and other stakeholders (MGoS)**

- The nine major groups as identified by Agenda 21 (1992): Women; Children and Youth; Indigenous Peoples; NGOs; Local Authorities; Workers and Trade Unions; Business and Industry; Scientific and Technological Community; Farmers;

- Stakeholders mentioned in the Rio+20 Outcome Document (2012): Older Persons; Local communities; Migrants and families;

- Stakeholders mentioned in UN GA Resolution A/67/290: Foundations/Philanthropy; Educational and academic entities; Persons with disabilities; Volunteer groups.

**CSO Groups focusing on specific 2030 Agenda policy processes**

- 2030 Agenda/Sustainable Development Goals - Financing for Development;

- Paris Climate Agreement;

- New Urban Agenda;

- Agenda for Humanity/World Humanitarian Summit Outcomes;

- Sendai Stakeholder Group of the Coordination Mechanism for Major Groups and Other Stakeholders for the High Level Political Forum (CM-MGoS-HLPF).

**UNDRR groups and stakeholders mentioned in the Sendai Framework but not covered by the MGoS**

- UNDRR Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE)

- UNDRR Science and Technology Advisory Group (STAG) - IFRC (Paragraph 48(e) Sendai Framework)

- Media (Paragraph 36(d) Sendai Framework)

The Sendai Stakeholder Group of the Coordination Mechanism for Major Groups and other stakeholders for the High Level Political Forum (CM-MGoS-HLPF) is a self-organized, open group of non-state actors in support of the Sendai Framework which was set up in June 2018 under the Coordination Mechanism for Major Groups and other stakeholders for the High-Level Political Forum. UNDRR is working closely with the group focal points to ensure coordinated messages to the CM-MGoS-HLPF members about ongoing developments and opportunities for engagement in Sendai Framework implementation and related policy processes as well as to provide guidance and promote and support the integration of DRR to the HLPF and creating coherence with the implementation of the SDGs.

### 7 Engagement Modalities: Partnerships

Next to the broader stakeholder engagement, UNDRR is engaging with targeted partners and/or partner groups for the implementation of well-defined initiatives and activities. These focus, among other aspects, on: global, regional and national policy development, norms and standard setting, knowledge and information development, dissemination and management, development and implementation of scientific and technical advice and support, and mobilization of resources. Typically, these engagements are based on written agreements,
which include expected concrete results, clearly defined roles and responsibilities of the partners and exit and sustainability strategies. Examples include engagement of partners in partner-specific groups such as the Science and Technology Advisory Groups (STAGs) and Board of the Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilience Societies (ARISE), activity-related groups such as the Global Assessment Report (GAR) Advisory Group or Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF) Expert Group or UNDRR engagement in partner-led groups such as the Insurance Development Forum (IDF) or Platform for Disaster Displacement (PDD).

The following section outlines UNDRR partnerships as to individual partner groups and specific focus areas of engagement.

7.1 Partnerships with the Private and Financial Sector\(^{11}\)

The private sector as the main investor, employer, service and product provider and integral part of communities in any given country is a critical partner for UNDRR and the UN at large. The main focus of UNDRR’s engagement with the private and financial sectors is as follows:

- Integrating disaster risk into business management strategies and practices, including through capacity development and education;
- Promoting risk-informed business investment, including through the development of required policies, standards and regulation;
- Encouraging the use and development of private sector expertise and innovation in disaster risk reduction activities at the national and local level.

The UNDRR Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE), launched in December 2015, consisting of a Board and regional and national ARISE networks, plays a key role in these efforts.

ARISE Board members serve as advocates for risk-informed business investment, including through engagement at global and regional policy processes and advocacy amongst their peers. The key function of Board members is to promote the development of ARISE national and regional networks, and help channel experiences from the networks to the broader business community as well as policy makers and other stakeholders.

ARISE National Networks bring together private sector companies and as appropriate governments and other stakeholder groups located in a country or region. Focusing on risk-informed business investment, they are critical to promote the integration of disaster risk into their members’ business strategies and investment. As appropriate, ARISE Networks work with national and local governments and other national private sector networks, such as the UN Global Compact Local Networks, Connecting Business Initiative (CBI) Networks or International and National Chambers of Commerce.

UNDRR also engages closely with global private sector organizations and networks such as the UN Global Compact, World Economic Forum, International Chambers of Commerce, and relevant business roundtables and initiatives such as the Insurance Development Forum. These partnerships are established towards agreed goals and results, including enhanced advocacy, data collection and risk modelling, resilient infrastructure, regulatory change, and capacity building.

7.2 Partnerships with Science, Technology, Research and Academia\(^{12}\)

Priority 1 of the Sendai Framework calls for enhanced understanding of disaster risks, including “Policies and practices for disaster risk management should be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment...” (Sendai paragraph 23). Science, technology, research and academia has a critical role to play in developing the sound scientific basis needed to achieve this.

Aligned with Sendai paragraphs 25(g) and 36(b), UNDRR’s main engagement mechanism for Science and Technology (S&T) partners are the global and regional UNDRR Science and Technology Advisory Groups (STAGs). Consisting of high-level experts, STAGs are expected to provide policy and engagement advise based on their expertise to UNDRR and the SRSG on recent trends, challenges and opportunities, as well as lead on agreed
initiatives in particular within the expanded hazard scope of the Sendai Framework. Guided by the Science and Technology Roadmap for the Sendai Framework, focus lays in four areas:

(i) Catalyzing and strengthening research, innovation and partnership, including on the "new Sendai hazards;"

(ii) Enhancing inter and trans-disciplinary, and inter-generational research and science;

(iii) Promoting integrated and applied research, information exchange;

(iv) Capacity building to bridge the science-policy divide.

To implement initiatives and activities, UNDRR and STAGs can draw further capacity from the Science and Technology Partnership, which was established as a broad, open network in 2016 to strengthen the scientific and technical expertise for the implementation of paragraph 25(g). UNDRR also engages in a number of thematic initiatives or networks, such as the Integrated Research for Disaster Risk (IRDR) programme of the International Science Council (ISC), ICHARM and the International Landslide Consortium.

Based on areas of expertise, individual S&T partners are encouraged to engage in activities or initiatives led by UNDRR at the global, regional or national levels. Recognizing the increasingly important role of (new) technologies in disaster risk reduction, efforts will be made over the course of 2019-2021 to establish partnerships with the technology community.

7.3 Partnerships with Civil Society, Community Based and Volunteer Organizations

Civil society, community-based and volunteer groups, including women, children and youth, persons with disabilities and their organizations, older persons, indigenous peoples and migrants, are critical partners for UNDRR, in particular as agents of change, the development of innovative solutions and to enhance the implementation of disaster risk reduction at the national, local and community levels ensuring that inclusivity. Within this, main focus areas for this partnership include:

• Advocacy for and inclusive and all-of-society disaster risk management that strengthen synergies across groups;

• Innovation and knowledge sharing;

• Education and capacity-building;

• Provision of guidance and technical support to governments and practitioners, including for the development of normative frameworks, standards and plans for disaster risk reduction;

• Enabling behavior change at the local and community level.

Due to the sheer number, breadth and diversity of these groups engagement is divided into a three-tiered approach:

The SSEM is the primary tool for regular engagement and information exchange with all groups (see above). Secondly, UNDRR is collaborating with and supporting individual groups and networks in the achievement of targeted results, for example the Global Network for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) and the Huairou Commission as focal points of the Sendai Stakeholder Group under the CM-MGoS-HLPF (see above) or the IFRC and its national societies. Thirdly, aligned with priorities established by the UN Secretary-General, UNDRR is strengthening its collaboration with the following groups over the course of 2019-2021.

1) Women

Women have been long recognized as being both vulnerable to disasters but also agents of change for effective disaster risk reduction. Focus areas for partnerships thereby include:

• Increased participation and leadership by women in the design, resourcing and implementation of gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes;

• Promotion of gender-disaggregated data and analysis;

• Capacity building.

Key elements of UNDRR’s work is to ensure close collaboration with womens’ groups for increased advocacy and awareness raising and a joint initiative with IFRC and UN Women, launched at the Global Platform in 2017, on the protection of women in disasters and their engagement in disaster risk management.
2) Youth

Aligned with "Youth2030: Working with and for Young People", the 2018 youth strategy of the UN Secretary-General, UDMRR supports and harnesses the energy and motivation of youth to find solutions to risks and participate in disaster risk reduction for enhanced resilience. UDMRR works closely with the DRR Working Group of the UN Major group on Children and Youth (UNMGCY), Science Policy Interface Platform, youth representatives of the UN Major Group on Science and Technology and the Global-Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Youth. Key focus areas include:

- Advocacy and implementation of the Sendai Framework and coherence, including the development of guidance at all levels;
- Catalyzing and empowering youth as drivers of innovation and new ways of communication including through social media and other new technologies;
- Capacity building and risk education for children and youth.

Within these efforts, UDMRR will also seek close collaboration with UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women to ensure coherence, cross-fertilization and coordination in the implementation of the Youth2030 Strategy and other initiatives such as "Generation Unlimited" led by UNICEF.

3) Persons with Disabilities

UDMRR is committed to advancing accessibility and inclusion for disaster risk reduction with UN Member States and other stakeholders. Together with the "Disability and DRM Stakeholder Group" led by the International Disability Alliance under the UN Stakeholder Group on Disability which focuses on the implementation of the 2018 Dhaka + Declaration on Disaster Risk Management and Disability, main areas of focus include:

- The engagement of persons with disabilities in strategy development and decision-making, including in UDMRR-led meetings and processes;
- Collection of disability-disaggregated data;
- Development of guidance and training materials on inclusion and accessibility.

7.4 Engagement with the Media

Media plays a critical role in the implementation of disaster risk reduction and resilience worldwide. This includes

- Raising public awareness, education and understanding of risks and options to reduce these;
- Disseminating timely disaster risk, hazard and disaster information and early warnings;
- Encouraging community involvement in resilience building;
- Influencing policy makers and the general public to trigger change of behavior towards risk-sensitive decision-making.

UDMRR will expand its collaboration with key media representatives such as the World Broadcasting Union, regional broadcasting unions as well as individual media outlets with a view to improve packaging and communication on the Sendai Framework and disaster risks in the broader context of sustainable development and climate change.

7.5 Partnerships with International and Regional Financial Institutions

In light of an estimated USD6 trillion investment in new infrastructure for the achievement of the SDGs until 2030, it is important that disaster risk reduction not only focuses on reducing existing risks and transferring residual risks, but prevents the creation of new risks. Risk-sensitive investment, that is not only the investment in disaster risk reduction activities but also integration of risk consideration across all investment, is critical to achieving this.

Bretton Woods institutions, namely the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and other international and regional financial development banks, financial institutions and major funds influence macroeconomic and social policies and investment across the globe, particularly in lower and middle income countries which are most at risk of disasters. Aligned with strategic framework agreements such as the UN-World Bank Strategic Partnership for the 2030 Agenda, UDMRR will strengthen and expand its engagement with these entities with the following goals:
• Influence Ministries of Finance, Planning and Economics to consider disaster risk as a key component of sustainable development; this includes engagement in meetings and processes of Finance Ministers such as under the G7, G20 and Commonwealth Group but also IMF and World Bank-led events;

• Encourage integration of disaster and climate risk into the strategies, business models and investment decisions of IFIs and other financial institutions;

• Integrate disaster risk reduction in discussions and related activities such as the review of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Forum for Financing Development;

• Promote the integration of disaster risk in infrastructure investment decisions, including as part of major global infrastructure initiatives such as the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative and the Global Infrastructure Coalition launched by India in 2016.

7.6 Partnerships with Parliamentarians

The Sendai Framework calls for parliamentarian action through developing new or amending legislation, setting budget allocations and holding governments accountable for their actions to reduce disaster risks and protect their populations. As representatives of the people, parliamentarians can play a major role to voice and strengthen the participation of all sectors of society in resilience building.

Building on its engagement with parliamentarians through the UNDRR Parliamentary Network established under the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, as well as achievements such as the disaster risk reduction and management bill adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the East African Community (2016) and the decision by the European Parliament to integrate disaster risk in legislative changes on sustainable finance as part of the EU Capital Markets Union Action Plan (2018), UNDRR will further strengthen this partnership with focus on three key areas:

(i) Development of (model) disaster risk reduction laws and legal frameworks at the regional and national levels;

(ii) Advocacy for the integration of disaster risk reduction into national and local budgets and enhanced oversight and accountability;

(iii) Capacity development and trainings for parliamentarians.

Key partners for this work will include the International Parliamentary Union (Sendai paragraph 47) and other global and regional networks. Partnerships with individual parliamentarians as “advocates” will be sought aligned with clearly identified goals and targets at the national level.

7.7 Engagement with thematic platforms and multi-stakeholder partnerships

Partnerships with thematic platforms and multi-stakeholder initiatives such as the Partnership for the Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR), Platform for Disaster Displacement (PDD), Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems Initiative (CREWS), Global Resilience Partnership (GRP) or International Recovery Platform (IRP) are critical not only for enhanced integration of disaster risk reduction in these areas but also to build enhance coherence across the 2015 agendas. As part of the implementation of this Strategy, UNDRR will conduct a comprehensive review of its current and future engagement in thematic and multi-stakeholder initiatives to assess and ensure a clearly defined role, added value and impact, and also to set priorities.

7.8 Engagement with UN System Partners, International and Regional Intergovernmental Organizations

Partnerships with UN system partners are guided by the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development (UNPoA). The UNPoA was adopted in 2011 at the request of the UN Chief Executives Board (CEB) and revised in 2016 to align with the Sendai Framework. Engagement of UN system partners focuses on three main outcomes:

(i) Strengthening system-wide coherence in support of the Sendai Framework and other agreements, through a risk-informed and integrated approach;
(ii) Building UN system capacity to deliver coordinated, high quality support to countries on disaster risk reduction;

(iii) Ensuring that disaster risk reduction remains a strategic priority for UN organizations.

UNDRR has been tasked to facilitate the implementation of the UNPoA. Overseen by a UN Senior Leadership Group (UN SLG), a DRR Focal Points group is tasked to translate UN SLG decisions into concrete action plans and support and monitor their implementation at HQ and country level.

UNDRR will facilitate the implementation of the UNPoA in three areas:

Coordination and Strategy

While the responsibility for implementing the UNPoA rests with different parts of the UN system, the SRSG will play a lead role in facilitating and promoting coordinated and coherent action for disaster risk reduction at all levels, including as part of the UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). The SRSG will thereby convene a Senior level Leadership Group (SLG) to oversee strategic and policy aspects on the operationalization of the UNPoA, review progress, agree on annual priorities and address gaps and issues related to the implementation, and ensure linkages and coherence with processes related to the 2030 Agenda. SLG work will be supported by a DRR Focal Points Group and Regional DRR Coordination groups facilitated by UNDRR at HQ and regional levels. Specific thematic areas and sectoral activities will be picked up by interagency groups and initiatives as appropriate.

Monitoring and Reporting

UNDRR will facilitate a two-tiered approach for annual reporting that feed into the UN Secretary General’s Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, the UN Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) Report and relevant reporting requirements of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG). On the other hand, biennial reports on the Results Based Analytical Framework will be produced for the sessions of the biennial Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the broader 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development reporting.

Communication, advocacy and partnerships

As a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) as of 2018, UNDRR will engage with Executive Heads of UN organizations, the new UN Resident Coordinator System and the Regional Commissions and Regional UNSDG to raise the visibility of the UNPoA.

UNDRR will also seek strategic partnerships with individual UN system entities, global and regional intergovernmental organizations with the aim to integrate disaster risk reduction into their respective mandated areas of work, strategies and activities. Key partners will be the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) as well as the G20 and Regional Economic Commissions and Development Banks.
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Notes

1This is the UN Global Compact definition of partnerships. https://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/issues_doc/un_business_partnerships/UNBusinessPartnershipHandbook.pdf

2Oxford Dictionary: A person with an interest or concern in something.

3Sendai Para 37: ‘With reference to General Assembly resolution 68/211 of 20 December 2013, commitments by relevant stakeholders are important in order to identify modalities of cooperation and to implement the present Framework. Those commitments should be specific and time-bound in order to support the development of partnerships at local, national, regional and global levels and the implementation of local and national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans. All stakeholders are encouraged to publicize their commitments and their fulfilment in support of the implementation of the present Framework, or of the national and local disaster risk management plans, through the website of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.’

4https://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/

5Women; Children and Youth, Indigenous Peoples, Non-Governmental Organizations, Local Authorities, Workers and Trade Unions, Business and Industry, Scientific and Technological Community, Farmers.

6https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups/about

7Since the first United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 - known as the Earth Summit, it was recognized that achieving sustainable development would require the active participation of all sectors of society and all types of people. Agenda 21, adopted at the Earth Summit, drew upon this sentiment and formalized nine sectors of society as the main channels through which broad participation would be facilitated in UN activities related to sustainable development. These are officially called ‘Major Groups’. Two decades after the Earth Summit, the importance of effectively engaging these nine sectors of society was reaffirmed by the Rio+20 Conference. Its outcome document “The Future We Want” highlights the role that Major Groups can play in pursuing sustainable societies for future generations. In addition, governments invited other stakeholders, including local communities, volunteers and foundations, migrants and families, as well as older persons and persons with disabilities, to participate in UN processes related to sustainable development, which can be done through close collaboration with the Major Groups. Major Groups and other stakeholders (MGs) continue to demonstrate a high level of engagement with intergovernmental processes at the UN. The coordination of their input to intergovernmental processes on sustainable development has been led by UNDESA/Division for Sustainable Development (DSD). Member States ultimately decide upon the modalities of participation of MGs. Thus, the engagement and participation of MGs in intergovernmental processes related to sustainable development varies depending on the particular sustainable development topic under discussion.

8Sendai paragraph 48(e): Other international organizations and treaty bodies, including the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, international financial institutions at the global and regional levels and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to support developing countries, at their request, in the implementation of the present Framework, in coordination with other relevant frameworks.

9Sendai paragraph 36(d): Media to take an active and inclusive role at the local, national, regional and global levels in contributing to the raising of public awareness and understanding and disseminate accurate and non-sensitive disaster risk, hazard and disaster information, including on small-scale disasters, in a simple, transparent, easy-to-understand and accessible manner, in close cooperation with national authorities; adopt specific disaster risk reduction communications policies; support, as appropriate, early warning systems and life-saving protective measures; and stimulate a culture of prevention and strong community involvement in sustained public education campaigns and public consultations at all levels of society, in accordance with national practices.

10https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/12947HLPFMGoSCM-ToRJan2017.pdf

11Sendai paragraph 36(c): Business, professional associations and private sector financial institutions, including financial regulators and accounting bodies, as well as philanthropic foundations, to integrate disaster risk management, including business continuity, into business models and practices through disaster-risk-informed investments, especially in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises; engage in awareness-raising and training for their employees and customers; engage in and support research and innovation, as well as technological development for disaster risk management; share and disseminate knowledge, practices and non-sensitive data; and actively participate, as appropriate and under the guidance of the public sector, in the development of normative frameworks and technical standards that incorporate disaster risk management.

12Sendai paragraph 25(g): To enhance the scientific and technical work on disaster risk reduction and its mobilization through the coordination of existing networks and scientific research institutions at all
levels and in all regions, with the support of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Scientific and Technical Advisory Group, in order to strengthen the evidence-base in support of the implementation of the present Framework; promote scientific research on disaster risk patterns, causes and effects; disseminate risk information with the best use of geospatial information technology; provide guidance on methodologies and standards for risk assessments, disaster risk modelling and the use of data; identify research and technology gaps and set recommendations for research priority areas in disaster risk reduction; promote and support the availability and application of science and technology to decision-making; contribute to the update of the publication entitled “2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction”; use post-disaster reviews as opportunities to enhance learning and public policy; and disseminate studies.

13 Sendai paragraph 36(a): Civil society, volunteers, organized voluntary work organizations and community-based organizations to participate, in collaboration with public institutions, to, inter alia, provide specific knowledge and pragmatic guidance in the context of the development and implementation of normative frameworks, standards and plans for disaster risk reduction; engage in the implementation of local, national, regional and global plans and strategies; contribute to and support public awareness, a culture of prevention and education on disaster risk; and advocate for resilient communities and an inclusive and all-of-society disaster risk management that strengthen synergies across groups, as appropriate.

14 Sendai paragraph 36(a)(i): Women and their participation are critical to effectively managing disaster risk and designing, resourcing and implementing gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes; and adequate capacity building measures need to be taken to empower women for preparedness as well as to build their capacity to secure alternate means of livelihood in post-disaster situations.

15 Sendai paragraph 36(a)(ii): Children and youth are agents of change and should be given the space and modalities to contribute to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with legislation, national practice and educational curricula.

16 Sendai Paragraph 36(a)(iii): Persons with disabilities and their organizations are critical in the assessment of disaster risk and in designing and implementing plans tailored to specific requirements, taking into consideration, inter alia, the principles of universal design.

17 Sendai paragraph 36(c): Business, professional associations and private sector financial institutions, including financial regulators and accounting bodies, as well as philanthropic foundations, to integrate disaster risk management, including business continuity, into business models and practices through disaster-risk-informed investments, especially in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises; engage in awareness-raising and training for their employees and customers; engage in and support research and innovation, as well as technological development for disaster risk management; share and disseminate knowledge, practices and non-sensitive data; and actively participate, as appropriate and under the guidance of the public sector, in the development of normative frameworks and technical standards that incorporate disaster risk management.

18 Sendai paragraph 48(h): Business, professional associations and private sector financial institutions, including financial regulators and accounting bodies, as well as philanthropic foundations, to integrate disaster risk management, including business continuity, into business models and practices through disaster-risk-informed investments, especially in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises; engage in awareness-raising and training for their employees and customers; engage in and support research and innovation, as well as technological development for disaster risk management; share and disseminate knowledge, practices and non-sensitive data; and actively participate, as appropriate and under the guidance of the public sector, in the development of normative frameworks and technical standards that incorporate disaster risk management.