

ROME DECLARATION of STAKEHOLDERS

SECURING EUROPE'S PROSPERITY – REDUCING RISK OF DISASTERS

We, the Heads of the national delegations and practitioners responsible for disaster risk reduction in Europe, having met in Rome, Italy, from 21 to 23 November 2018 at the 2018 European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction:

1. Express gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Italy for its warm hospitality in hosting the European Forum and leadership in disaster risk reduction;
2. Express deep concern at the growing frequency and intensity of extreme weather and climate-related events, and continuing impact of disasters in the region, resulting in unacceptable loss of human lives and livelihoods, displacement of people, and environmental and economic damages, including to critical infrastructure and cultural heritage;
3. Acknowledge that economic losses due to disasters pose a serious challenge to the sustainability, growth and prosperity of the European region;
4. Recognise the devastating, and often life changing, impact that all forms of disaster may have on their victims, including the crucial need to ensure that adequate compensation for losses;
5. Underline that disasters disproportionately affect specific groups of people, including women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, as well as migrants and forcibly displaced persons;
6. Consider that climate and disaster risks are two sides of the same coin, calling for an integrated approach to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction actions;

7. Stress the need to comprehensively address significant and increasingly complex threats posed by diverse man-made and technological risk; to address factors such as poor or insufficient regulation, implementation of standards, or governance mechanisms; and to incentivise multi-hazard approaches, which can decrease risk and disaster impacts;
8. Highlight the need to focus on underlying, interconnected and evolving risk factors such as ageing and interdependent infrastructure, impacts on capital markets and their volatility, urbanization, gender and age inequality, and displacement;
9. Recognise the importance of ensuring coherence among global frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the New Urban Agenda, as well as relevant European Union legislation, and other resilience initiatives;
10. Renew our commitment to ensure continuity of the work in disaster risk reduction, build on the 2015-2020 EFDRR roadmap implementation, and recognise the role of the EFDRR Secretariat in this regard;

Call on all governments and stakeholders to:

11. Welcome the vital role played by stakeholder groups as enablers, partnering with governments and communities, in the implementation of the EFDRR Road Map at regional, national and local levels, including the importance of innovative, multi-sectoral partnerships.
12. Urgently accelerate actions for developing and implementing national and local strategies on disaster risk reduction, thereby meeting target (e) of the Sendai Framework by 2020;

13. Commit to translating greater coherence and effective enforcement of global frameworks into appropriate policy and practice, to achieve resilience at all levels and across all sectors; including through the strengthening of governance arrangements and the provision of practical guidance to ensure effective and efficient management of disaster risk;
14. Support a more systematic integration of the risks of climate change into disaster risk reduction, prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction actions, including through engagement with relevant institutions; explore innovative decision-making support tools to help stress test current systems against realistic climate impact scenarios;
15. Recognise the value and benefits of ecosystem services and nature-based solutions for disaster risk reduction;
16. Promote risk- and climate-sensitive public and private investments for building disaster resilience, making full use of the opportunity of on-going wider developments around sustainable finance; convene a dedicated financial enquiry on unlocking disaster resilience investments;
17. Implement "Build Back Better" policies, improve early warning and disaster communication systems, as well as urban and land use planning, as a means to mitigate future disaster impacts and break any cycle of recurring events;
18. Commit to greater accountability and improved governance, including through encouraging a broad societal and political dialogue, systematically collecting and recording disaster damage, losses and people affected, conducting and sharing risk assessments and analysis to inform national and local strategies, and establishing relevant monitoring baselines;
19. Make full use of the Sendai Framework Monitor to identify trends, assess progress and draw lessons in achieving global and national targets, through

disaggregated data at all levels;

20. Ensure the use of disaster risk assessments as a prerequisite for infrastructure investments, with time horizons commensurate to their life cycles, as well as complementary measures to incentivise resilience investments;
21. Dedicate specific attention to the safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, especially in focusing efforts on the applications of new technologies to understand risks and manage disasters including its role in supporting community engagement;
22. Ensure improved inclusion of science, data and technology in, and utilisation of, evidence-based decisions and risk informed policies, through systematic engagement of all relevant stakeholders such as scientific and academic communities, basic service providers and public authorities in National and Local Platforms for disaster risk reduction, and relevant governance mechanisms;
23. Facilitate the relationship with civil society in implementing the Sendai Framework, recognising their critical role in supporting a people-centered, all-of-society approach, ensuring the protection of basic human rights, recognising the importance of risks linked to animals and in grounding the Sendai Framework at the community-level;
24. Ensure an inclusive approach to disaster risk reduction by drawing attention to gender-neutral policies and practices, including the integration of vulnerable groups such as, inter alia, people with disabilities, migrants, forcibly displaced persons, children and youth, elderly and isolated people in disaster risk reduction policies, strategies and practices;

Adopted on 23 November 2018, in Rome, Italy