



2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
May 2017, Cancun, Mexico

Joint-statement on behalf of the members of the Human Security Network, a cross-regional Network composed of Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Panama, Switzerland, Slovenia, Thailand, and South Africa (observer), submitted at the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Multiple, complex and highly interrelated challenges around the globe and high levels of uncertainty of threats and risks are part of today's reality. Disasters present a major threat to human safety, impede the full enjoyment of human rights, and hamper the achievement of sustainable development, particularly that of vulnerable societies and developing countries. In addition, they put further stress on limited resources, which can spark conflicts or aggravate existing ones.

The Human Security Network recognizes these common challenges. At its core, human security reinforces the notion that peace and security, human rights, and development are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. It is about protecting people from threats to their life, safety, fundamental rights and dignity.

Today's complex and interrelated challenges require greater awareness and acknowledgement that disaster risk reduction, including disaster risk management is our common responsibility which requires collective efforts. Strengthening all three pillars of human security can contribute to greater resilience to disaster risk, decrease the vulnerability of people in vulnerable situations, and speed up recovery processes. A human security approach has a strong potential to help mitigate the multidimensional consequences of disasters and strengthen the capacities of communities to manage these risks -

By interlinking peace and security, development and human rights through inclusive partnerships, a human security approach will further strengthen disaster resilience and preparedness. Only by working together with all development partners and all relevant stakeholders and breaking down the silos can we ensure a comprehensive approach and timely, effective and coordinated response to global challenges.

In this regard, we invite Member States to enhance the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reductions 2015-2030 and relevant initiatives, including the Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework, with a view to ensuring more systematic cooperation, coherence and integration between disaster and health risk management."

We, therefore, encourage States to integrate the human security approach in their national plans to mitigate disaster risk and to help address effectively not only the persistence of multiple and complex and multidimensional challenges, including poverty, biological hazards, growing inequalities, environmental degradation, but also challenges such as natural disasters, epidemics, effects of climate change and armed conflicts. In order to strengthen the sustainability of development activities they must be risk-informed.

Human security is a unifying concept that bridges notions of security at all levels, from the individual, community, local to the national and global levels. Universal, integrated, transformative and people-centered nature of human security is a true pledge to uplift the quality of human lives by eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities and "leaving no one behind".

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