



Name of Event: [Featured Event] Dialogue with Parliamentarians and Mayors on Disaster Risk Reduction

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Panellists:

- Mr. Mel Sen Sarmiento, Member of the National Assembly, Philippines (Facilitator)
- Ms. Nelly Gray de Cerdán, Senator of Mendoza, Argentina
- Ms. Saumura Tioulong, International Parliamentarian Union Second Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, Cambodia
- Mr. Xie Ruiwu, Vice Mayor of Chengdu, Sichuan, China
- Mr. Peter Williams, Distinguished Engineer and Chief Technology Officer, USA IBM
- Mr. Alex Byarugaba, Member of Parliament, Uganda
- Mr. Khalifa Sall, Mayor of Dakar, Senegal

1) Outline

Among the key issues discussed were: (1) the increasing role of national and local government leaders, especially parliamentarians and mayors, in promoting disaster risk reduction, resilience, and sustainable development; (2) the imperative for increasing investment and allocating public funds for disaster risk reduction; (3) the need to raise awareness and foster collaboration and cooperation among government, parliaments, civil society, and the communities in disaster risk reduction.

2) Key messages, outcomes, recommendations

- Parliamentarians must actively assume their oversight function and responsibility to ensure good governance in disaster risk reduction by requesting government agencies to report to the parliament on the progress in reducing disaster risk.
- The current state of national capacities for disaster risk reduction challenges national and local leaders to articulate more and apply existing disaster risk reduction approaches in governance.

- The political commitment to reduce disaster risk should transcend any political party affiliations and allow for synergy of action in achieving the shared goal of sustainable development.
- Strengthening legislation at the national and local levels is important to ensure sustained funding and mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development processes.
- All are challenged to adopt an integrated approach for concerted action, to foster multi-partnerships, and to secure funding allocations in reducing disaster risk.

3) Conclusions

Disaster risk reduction is a shared responsibility of all in which parliamentarians and local government leaders are increasingly assuming a prominent and crucial role. To translate political commitment and government policies on disaster risk reduction into effective action, national and local leaders need to adopt a long-term development perspective, ensure that funding mechanisms for sustained efforts are in place, and transcend partisan politics in favor of achieving sustainable development.