

SESSION 1

The challenge of mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction for the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

PANEL 4

Disaster Risk Reduction in the housing, public works (schools and hospitals), transport and urban planning sectors.

Please refer to the agenda by entering: <http://eird.org/ran-sendai-2016/eng/agenda-english.html>

1. Introduction

The Americas continues to be one of the most vulnerable regions facing natural hazards, and one of its main gaps is the need to integrate disaster risk reduction within the development planning processes and the related sectoral efforts.

This task is one of the biggest challenges for the region, and its advancement will only be possible if governments, civil society and the private sector integrate disaster risk reduction as a key element of their development planning and investment.

In this context, the commitment by United Nations Members States, having adopted the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030** (March, 2015, Sendai, Japan), is to address disaster risk reduction and increased resilience to disasters with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

The structure of this new Framework includes, among others, a set of principles, goals and priorities with global, regional, national and local lines of action. The new Sendai Framework thus aims to achieve the following outcome in the next 15 years:

"The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses caused by disasters, both in terms of lives, livelihoods and health as well as economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of individuals, companies, communities and countries."

To attain the expected outcome, the Framework suggests pursuing the following goal:

"Prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience."

The achievement of this outcome requires the strong commitment and involvement of political leadership in each country at all levels both in the implementation and follow-up of the present Framework as well as in the creation of the necessary conducive and enabling environment. To this end, the National Emergency Secretariat of Paraguay (SNE) jointly with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), through its Regional Office for the Americas, aims to promote a discussion of ministerial representatives and high-level authorities of all countries of the Americas, to identify a regional action plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas.

2. Background on the issue

Why is this topic important and why does it justify a work session?

The Sendai Framework aims to achieve “the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses caused by disasters, both in terms of lives, livelihoods and health as well as economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.” Measuring progress of the Hyogo Framework through the HFA Monitor tool, showed that over the last 10 years of implementation, countries achieved significantly less progress in addressing the underlying risk factors (priority 4). The analysis of this lack of progress indicates the limitations of countries in influencing development sectors for the integration of disaster risk considerations in sectoral plans and policies. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction once again calls for progress towards this integration, and for this, countries recognized that the achievement of this outcome requires leadership and strong political commitment in all sectors of public administration and of society to create a risk-sensitive development. The risk reduction plans have to be linked to national development plans to ensure the implementation of the vision of the Sendai Framework and objectives of sustainable development at the national level.

In the housing sector for example, the region of the Americas faces a growing trend towards urbanization, where by 2030 nearly 75% of the population will live in cities. It is therefore a priority to deepen the reflection on how housing policies can influence decisions on the expansion of cities or in addressing land use that accounts for the areas of exposure, as well as how these policies incorporate standards that consider natural hazards and can provide immediate benefits in building resilience to disasters and reduce the risk of present and future generations.

In terms of the social development sector, evidence in recent years shows that disasters have a disproportionate effect on the poor. Between 1975 and 2000, the population living in extreme poverty concentrated 68% of disaster mortality. By 2030, about 325 million poor people in the world would be located in the 49 countries most vulnerable to hazards. The positioning of disaster risk reduction planning at the centre of achieving sustainable development goals is already an important step in the global, national and local efforts to alleviate poverty. In this context, it is necessary that countries in the Americas reflect on how to integrate disaster risk reduction into national policies, plans or strategies for poverty reduction.

In the public works sector, the integration of risk analysis planning and the use of standards is an important strategy for the achievement of more resilient societies. The norms governing the provision and quality of public works are essential to economic activity, trade and infrastructure, protection and well being of the community in important areas such as trade, transport, health and the environment. In many cases, these standards have not considered the risk conditions due to natural hazards. Evidence collected in recent years in the region, allows us to show how the integration of considerations of risk in public infrastructure has a significant impact on reducing economic loss and in ensuring operational continuity and governance in countries.

In the agriculture sector, the impact of disasters causes serious long-term damage to livelihoods and often slows or reverses the progress in agricultural development and negatively affects food security and malnutrition. The vulnerable population often has greater food insecurity while being exposed to multiple risks. A reflection by countries is needed, in light of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, on how to move forward in incorporating disaster risk reduction in the agricultural sector and in agricultural investment planning. It thus seeks to promote a more sustainable use of vital resources as central to addressing the underlying risk and promote resilient ecosystems, nutrition and livelihoods.

In the education sector, disaster reduction has been integrated as part of formal and informal education, learning and training activities in recent years. Education and knowledge will be crucial in the coming years in building a global culture of safety and resilience. In the Americas, important challenges remain, such as the integration of disaster reduction into national development policies and education plans, as well as achieving greater progress in ensuring that schools constitute safe spaces to hazards.

Also, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction emphasizes health as a key element of disaster reduction. Health is included in the expected outcome and objective of the Sendai Framework. Four of the seven overall objectives within the Sendai Framework are directly related to health, including reducing mortality and the number of people affected by disasters, and damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, including health services. The health sector, at the global level and in the region of the Americas, has made great strides towards engaging countries in developing policies that allow for safe hospitals¹. Effective implementation of the Sendai Framework requires increased cooperation between the health authorities and relevant stakeholders and an increase in public and private investment in the field of disaster reduction, including the promotion of technology and improved multi-hazard early warning systems. This space will allow countries to promote the identification of opportunities to integrate health plans and strategies for disaster risk reduction and how to approach this process.

¹ A safe hospital is a health facility whose services remain accessible and functioning at maximum capacity and with the same infrastructure immediately after a disaster occurs. The term covers all health facilities, whatever their level of complexity. It is safe because it has the maximum possible protection, access roads to the health facilities and potable water supply services, operational electricity and telecommunications, which ensures continuous operation and absorb the additional demand for medical care.

3. Objective of the session

The objective of the session is for States to reflect on how to ensure the cross-cutting nature of disaster risk reduction is taken into account. For such purposes, successful cases of DRR integration in sectoral policies in the sectors of Housing, Public Works, Transportation and Education will be presented. The objectives to be achieved at the end of this session are:

- To disseminate, through successful experiences, ways in which sectors have considered the integration of disaster risk reduction in development and sectoral policies.
- A set of guidelines for countries on how to advance the integration of DRR in sectoral policies for housing, transportation, public works [schools and hospitals] and urban development and livelihood protection and adaptation.

4. Session outline and issues to address

Structure and discussion agenda

The panel will be moderated by UNISDR and the SEN.

110 min.

Panel: Disaster Risk Reduction in the housing, public works (schools and hospitals), transport and urban planning sectors

1. Introduction and welcoming remarks (5 min.)

- **Lori MacDonald**, Assistant Deputy Minister of Public Safety, Canada

2. National experiences on sectoral integration of DRR (90 min.)

Group 1

- **Edmond Castro**, Minister of Transport and National Emergency Management, Belize
- **Rosendo Pujol**, Minister of Housing, Costa Rica
- **Manuel Orlando Quinteros Aguilar**, Minister of Public Works, El Salvador
- **Zoraima Cuello**, Vice-Minister of the Presidency, Dominican Republic
- **Luis Tagle**, General Policy Director, Ministry of Housing, Construction and Sanitation, Peru

#SendaiAmericas

8 y 9 de Junio, 2016 | Asunción, Paraguay

1ra Reunión Ministerial y de Autoridades de Alto Nivel sobre la Implementación del Marco de Sendai para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres 2015-2030 en las Américas

Group 2

- **Adriel Brathwaite**, Minister of Home Affairs, Attorney-General and Member of Parliament, Barbados
- **Oscar Hugo Lopez Rivas**, Minister of Education, Guatemala
- **Luis Fernando Correa**, Chief - Office for land management, emergencies and disasters, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Colombia
- **Morine Williams**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, National Reconciliation & Ecclesiastical Affairs, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

3. Questions (15 min.)