

NATURAL DISASTERS AND CLIMATE CHANGE: MANAGING RISKS & CRISES DIFFERENTLY

HIGH-LEVEL LEADERS' ROUNDTABLE

Core Responsibility Four of the Agenda for Humanity

**“Anticipate,
do not wait
for crisis”**

Report of the
Secretary-General for
the World Humanitarian
Summit

CORE COMMITMENTS

Typhoons, floods, droughts, earthquakes and other natural hazards cause massive loss of life and livelihoods. In recent years, on average there have been 218 million people affected, over 26 million displaced and \$250-300 billion in economic losses each year. Millions of people face repeated shocks from recurrent disasters, leaving them more vulnerable to each new shock and more dependent on assistance.

Due to the concerted efforts of governments, as well as local responders, civil society, the private sector and the international community, improvements have been made in building people's resilience. However, climate change, rapid and unplanned urbanization and other trends will increase the frequency and intensity of disasters. They threaten to increase people's suffering, and cause a disproportionate effect on women, children and people in vulnerable situations. They will stretch the capacity of local, national, regional and global organizations.

A change in approach is urgently needed. There is a need to anticipate and act early on identified risks, making use of advances in risk analysis and early warning. There is a need to reinforce, rather than replace national and local systems. Preparedness and response should be 'as local as possible, as international as necessary'. Women's participation should be full and effective. Current fragmentation in managing risk should shift to systematic, collective and longer-term approaches by using the right incentives.

Fulfilling the commitments of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change is critical to reduce disaster risk, protect development outcomes and adapt to the consequences of natural disasters and climate change through risk-informed development. There is a need for their rapid and coordinated implementation, as well as the forthcoming New Urban Agenda at Habitat III.

Substantial reduction in humanitarian needs also requires increased investment in national, local and regional preparedness and establishing predictable response arrangements, such as shock responsive social protection and safety nets. Early action, made feasible by pre-agreed response and recovery plans with clear lines of responsibility, triggers for action and pre-committed financing



#1
PREVENT AND
END CONFLICT



#2
RESPECT RULES
OF WAR



#3
LEAVE NO ONE
BEHIND



#4
WORKING DIFFERENTLY
TO END NEED



#5
INVEST IN
HUMANITY

arrangements, saves lives and livelihoods, and is more cost-effective than reactive post-disaster action.

Trust, collaboration and shared expectations needs to be built between all actors. Regional and global humanitarian support should be complementary to national and local action, avoiding parallel coordination and response mechanisms. There is also a need to integrate better the private sector.

The five proposed core commitments for this roundtable are anchored in Core Responsibility Four of the Secretary-General's Agenda for Humanity.

- **Core Commitment 1:** Commit to accelerate the reduction of disaster and climate-related risks through the coherent implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, as well as other relevant strategies and programs of action, including the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.
- **Core Commitment 2:** Commit to reinforce national and local leadership and capacities in managing disaster and climate-related risks through strengthened preparedness and predictable response and recovery arrangements.
- **Core Commitment 3:** Commit to improve the understanding, anticipation and preparedness for disaster and climate-related risks by investing in data, analysis and early warning, and developing evidence-based decision-making processes that result in early action.
- **Core Commitment 4:** Commit to increase investment in building community resilience as a critical first line of response, with the full and effective participation of women.
- **Core Commitment 5:** Commit to ensure regional and global humanitarian assistance for natural disasters complements national and local efforts.



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Natural Disasters & Climate Change: Managing Risks and Crises Differently

HIGH-LEVEL LEADERS' ROUNDTABLE

Sample Commitments

Core Commitment 1: Commit to accelerate the reduction of disaster and climate-related risks through the coherent implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, as well as other relevant strategies and programs of action, including the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

- [Name of Member State] commits to take a more systematic and integrated approach to risk management through measures that better integrate planning in climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, response and recovery, and through closer collaboration between different sectors and partners, so that investments in each are complementary, and based on a common analysis of risk and costs.
- [Name of Member State/Organization] commits to increasing funding for disaster risk reduction and preparedness activities and to do this in a coherent way from multiple sources, including enhanced domestic resource mobilization and private sector investment, and higher proportions of development and climate adaptation finance, such as the Green Climate Fund.
- [Name of Member State/Organization] commits to support the OCED DAC in rapidly completing the work to have arrangements in place to track official finance flows to disaster risk reduction and preparedness, with a view to setting a target for increased investment at the next Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, whilst noting the UN Secretary General's proposal in the Agenda for Humanity that the "percentage of ODA allocated for disaster risk reduction and preparedness be doubled to at least 1 per cent by 2020."
- [Name of Member State] commits to assess the vulnerability of critical infrastructure to dominant risks by 20[XX] and strengthen it to allow rapid and effective response and recovery, and the opportunity to "build back better".
- [Name of Member State] commits to strengthen measures to prevent and avoid

disaster-induced displacement by integrating this risk into climate change adaptation and disaster risk management strategies.

Core Commitment 2: Commit to reinforce national and local leadership and capacities in managing disaster and climate-related risks through strengthened preparedness and predictable response and recovery arrangements.

- [Name of Member State] commits to create national preparedness strategies and/or partnerships to strengthen national and local emergency management systems for natural disasters, which include:
 - a) inclusive contingency plans for response and recovery that set out clear lines of responsibility, triggers for early action, and pre-committed finance; and include, when regional and global support is required, in what form and how it will be coordinated;
 - b) identification of populations at risk of displacement, and evacuation corridors and sites;
 - c) long-term investment in national and local preparedness, response and recovery capacities capable of responding to natural hazards, including civil protection, social protection, basic services, agriculture and other systems.
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] commits to enhance countries' preparedness, and accelerate this initially in twenty of the most at-risk countries, so they reach a minimum level of readiness by 2020.
- [Name of Member State] commits to make the private sector an integral part of all natural disaster response and recovery planning, and to promote business continuity.
- [Name of Private Sector actor] commits to create and support private sector-led local, national and industry specific networks, as part of the Connecting Business Initiative, to facilitate their coordinated engagement in risk and crisis management.
- [Name of Member State] commits to develop or reinforce domestic rules, procedures and institutional arrangements for facilitating and regulating international disaster assistance.
- [Name of Development/ Humanitarian actor] commits to develop a program of action to increase the knowledge and confidence in risk financing, including how it links to disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response.
- [Name of Development actor] commits to help develop or scale up risk financing, and new instruments, such as contingent financing and insurance-based products for lower income countries, as well as schemes that reach and benefit the poorest and most vulnerable people, such as microinsurance.
- [Name of Development actor] commits to ensure all critical infrastructure investments are risk informed, and aligned with national preparedness planning and policies.

- [Name of Organization] commits to providing support to national and local leadership to ensure that longer-term, collective programming incorporates gender equality analysis and concrete steps to empower women and girls.
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] commits to increase coverage of shock responsive social protection systems, introduce safety nets in fragile contexts, and move chronically affected populations onto these programs incrementally by 2030.

Core Commitment 3: Commit to improve the understanding, anticipation and preparedness for disaster and climate-related risks by investing in data, analysis and early warning, and developing evidence-based decision-making processes that result in early action.

- [Name of Member State/ Organization] will commit to achieve the Sendai Framework target to increase people's access to multi-hazard Early Warning Systems, and disaster risk information and assessments by 2030, including through initiatives, such as the Climate Risk Early Warning Systems.
- [Name of Development/ Humanitarian actor] commits to invest in national early warning capacity in a disciplined manner that leverages global and regional support structures, is cost effective, reaches the last mile, and engages the private sector.
- [Name of Member State] commits to ensure adequate annual budgets for national early warning systems, including hazard and impact monitoring and forecasting, and communication with all stakeholders.
- [Name of Member State] commits to make freely available global earth observations and forecasts needed to help protect lives through better informed disaster early warning, response and recovery planning.
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] commits to consolidate data in open and accessible databases to guide the efforts of actors nationally, regionally and globally, and generate common analysis of the most pressing risks.
- [Names of Member State/Organization] commits to systematically collect, analyze and use data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant factors and incorporate a gender analysis when developing, implementing and monitoring disaster risk reduction and management programs.
- [Name of Development actor] commits to re-allocate or re-prioritize existing funds to support resilience-building and risk mitigation efforts in response to early warning.
- [Name of Humanitarian/ Development actor] commits to agree on actions that should be undertaken, within defined timelines, once a heightened risk of an El Niño or La Niña event is confirmed.

Core Commitment 4: Commit to increase investment in building community resilience as a critical first line of response, with the full and effective participation of women.

- [Name of Member State/ Organization] commits to join a new coalition to strengthen the resilience of 1 billion people by 2025.
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] commits to increase investment in building community resilience as a core foundation of national risk management efforts, the key elements of which could include: raising awareness of critical risks and how all community members may be affected; collaboration between local government, businesses and neighborhoods in tackling their most important risks; ensuring women's participation; reinforcing local infrastructure; and improving communities' capacity to provide a coordinated first response.
- [Name of Development/ Humanitarian actor] commits to align its support behind national and local resilience efforts, and provide vulnerable people with a mix of short term assistance to address immediate needs and longer-term assistance to improve self-reliance.
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] commits to providing a year on year increase in direct financing to local responders for both preparedness and response, and increase their share of humanitarian finance to a target of [X] per cent by 2020.
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] commits to develop and make greater use of financing tools that support front line response.
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] commits to increase substantially cash-based assistance to enable people to exercise choice and be more self-reliant, and make this the norm for humanitarian relief wherever feasible.
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] commits to the participation of civil society, including local women's groups, and the private sector in the design, implementation and monitoring of disaster risk management policies and programs.
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] commits to stimulate locally devised strategies and services, including livelihood generation and employment opportunities, to reduce dependency and vulnerability before, during and after shocks.

Core Commitment 5: Commit to ensure regional and global humanitarian assistance for natural disasters complements national and local efforts.

- [Name of Member State/ Regional Organization/ Humanitarian actor] commits to develop and commit to predictable thresholds for triggering international response to natural disasters when national capacities are overwhelmed.
- [Name of international Humanitarian actor] commits to reinforce national and local leadership in natural disaster preparedness and response by tailoring their response

to the specific context, using national mechanisms as the default coordination arrangements and ensuring assistance is targeted at filling gaps.

- [Name of Member State/ Regional Organization] commits to strengthen regional disaster management capacities and arrangements, including potential regional compacts, and develop a network of crisis management centers to facilitate bilateral and regional cooperation in preparedness and response.
- [Name of Member State/ Regional Organization] commits to develop bilateral and regional contingency plans that identify transboundary disaster displacement risk scenarios.
- [Name of Member State/ Regional Organization] commits to investing in capacity building and deployment mechanisms, particularly in the Global South, so that requesting countries can more effectively receive pre-verified and quality assured capacities, such as emergency medical teams.
- [Name of Member State / Organization] re-commits to the proper and coherent use, and the effective coordination of foreign military assets in humanitarian action.
- [Name of Member State / Organization] re-commits to, in line with the principles and concepts of the Oslo Guidelines¹, endorse common humanitarian civil-military standards for deploying, receiving, integrating and coordinating foreign military assets in natural disasters.
- [Name of Member State / Organization] will institutionalize dedicated platforms in natural disasters for information sharing and civil-military interaction to create a common situational awareness of the requirements of people in need.
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] commits to strengthen disaster preparedness and response through partnership and cooperation amongst practitioners, and to use the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW) as a platform to develop collaboratively solutions to the recurring challenges faced in local, national, regional and global preparedness and response, including those raised at the World Humanitarian Summit.

¹ Guidelines on the Use of Foreign Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief