

Final Concept Note¹

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (GP2022)²

From Risk to Resilience: Towards Sustainable Development for All in a COVID-19 Transformed World

23-28 May 2022, Bali, Indonesia

I. Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic, a global disaster of epic proportions, has transformed our world affecting millions of people. It has devastated global economic and financial markets and thrown millions into poverty. The social impact has also been high, particularly for women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities. No one remains unaffected. It has changed the way we live, interact, behave, work, and even die. COVID-19 has exposed our vulnerability and inequities, and undermined progress towards the Decade of Action to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It has reminded us that no one is safe until everyone is safe. It has demonstrated just how essential prevention and risk reduction are for achieving a sustainable future for all.

COVID-19 has shown us that unless we take urgent action to better understand and manage risks, we will face similar catastrophic events in the future, with equally or even more devastating results. Conversely, innovation, emergent capacities and collaboration have also been forged during COVID-19 which need to be captured and consolidated for future comprehensive risk management. Furthermore, despite the temporary drop in global greenhouse gas emissions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the heating of our planet has not stopped, and climate change continues to be one of the major drivers of global risk. Managing complex and interconnected risks, such as climate change, pandemics, ecosystem degradation, nature and biodiversity loss represent some of the most pressing global challenges of today. Poor urban planning, along with other risks, is also an aspect that requires attention in our pursuit to reduce the risk of disasters, especially at community levels. In the midst of the rapid increase in urbanization, failure to plan sustainable cities, villages and infrastructures that are resilient to multi-hazards remains our collective challenge. We live in a multi-hazard world with compounded risks and disasters affecting everyone while also exacerbating existing inequalities and disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable people.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework), the global policy framework that focuses on reducing existing risks, preventing the creation of new risks, enhancing disaster preparedness and building resilience applies to both natural and human-induced or man-made hazards, as well as related biological, environmental and technological hazards. The Sendai Framework is ambitious and demands an

¹ The concept note includes inputs from Member States, the United Nations system entities and UNDRR stakeholder groups.

² The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is recognized by the United Nations General Assembly as the main forum to assess and discuss progress on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

inclusive and accessible, all of society approach in reducing risk and building resilience in our rapidly changing global risk landscape.

With this challenging backdrop, the 2022 Global Platform will provide a unique and timely opportunity to showcase the importance of international solidarity and cooperation, as well as to discuss ways to tackle underlying risk drivers, locally and globally, strengthen disaster risk governance, build stronger systems for managing all types of risks, and to recommit, with urgency, to accelerate progress toward the reduction of disaster risk and the achievement of the SDGs.

II. Background

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (Global Platform) is recognized by the United Nations General Assembly as the forum to assess and discuss progress on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and to advance concerted implementation of disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Embodying the all of society approach, the Global Platform is an inclusive and accessible multi-stakeholder platform. The Global Platform plays a crucial role in mobilizing - and fostering collaboration among - governments, stakeholders, and the UN system to accelerate the implementation of disaster risk reduction. The Platform aims to advance progress in achieving the Sendai Framework's goal and related targets and indicators, as well as those linked to the SDGs, by sharing good practices and lessons learnt, by energizing the global disaster risk reduction community around new initiatives, and by identifying gaps and making recommendations.

The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction is mandated by the UN General Assembly to convene and organize the Global Platform. Since 2007, six sessions of the Global Platforms have taken place. The outcomes are recognized by the General Assembly as a contribution to the deliberations of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), held each year in July and thus, contributing to risk-informed implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The most recent Global Platform took place from 13 to 17 May 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland (GP2019) under the overall theme '*Resilience Dividend: Toward Sustainable and Inclusive Societies*'. Around 4,000 participants attended from 182 countries. Efforts were made to ensure the global platform was inclusive and accessible with more than 120 persons with disabilities in attendance, and gender parity reached among panelists who spoke as part of the event.

GP2019 took stock of the implementation of the Sendai Framework based on the data submitted by Member States and concluded that despite many achievements, the pace and scale of action was insufficient if the world were to achieve the seven Sendai Framework global targets. This, in turn, will jeopardize the achievement of the SDGs by 2030. GP2019 recognized these challenges and called for greater ambition, commitment and leadership of all governments and stakeholders.

GP2019 made a strong social, environmental and economic case for disaster risk reduction. The overarching message was that investing in resilience pays off. The thematic focus on '*Resilience Dividend: Toward Sustainable and Inclusive Societies*' contributed to other global processes in 2019, in particular to the HLPF and the Climate Action Summit.

The next Global Platform takes place at a critical time: seven years from the adoption of the Sendai Framework, just over two years since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and one year before the inter-governmental midterm review of the Sendai Framework scheduled for 2023.

III. The 2022 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2022)

The next and seventh session of the Global Platform (GP2022) is scheduled to take place from 23 to 28 May 2022, at the Nusa Dua Convention Center in Bali, hosted by the Government of Indonesia. GP2022 will be co-chaired by Indonesia and UNDRR. It will be the final occasion for all stakeholders to gather globally before the midterm review of the Sendai Framework, and will therefore be an important opportunity to not only take stock of progress and challenges, but also to identify good practice to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework at local, national, regional and global level. Furthermore, designating the half-way of our journey to reach the Sendai Framework targets in 2030, GP2022 will serve as a good momentum for governments, stakeholders, and the UN system to reconfirm and advance their commitments in disaster risk reduction. The deliberations of the Platform will be captured in the Co-Chairs' Summary and will provide actionable recommendations to be considered at the midterm review. GP2022 will also be the first Global Platform during the Decade of Action to report against its contribution towards the SDGs. The outcome will need to focus on how to accelerate implementation of the Sendai Framework to achieve tangible results and impact on the ground and on how to ensure the risk-informed and whole of society approaches necessary to achieve the 2030 Agenda are taken.

The GP2022 agenda will be guided by the Sendai Framework, in particular its goal, four priorities for action and seven global targets, as well as the key priorities identified in the GP2019 Co-Chairs' Summary and Regional Platform meetings that will take place in 2021.

The agenda is expected to encompass the following four aspects:

- Review Sendai Framework implementation progress, identify key areas of progress and success and areas where concerted attention is needed, as well as strengthen commitments to accelerating its implementation, including in special country contexts.
- Take stock of the implementation of national and local strategies and plans for disaster risk reduction, taking into account the risks and impacts of COVID-19 and other disasters, in synergy with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other global policy processes, programmes of action and conference outcomes, including the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
- Strengthen existing, and forge new, networks and partnerships at international, national, and local levels, sharing practice and knowledge on disaster risk-informed policies, programmes and investments, including on development, climate issues, and health emergency risk management issues; and
- Promote the integration of disaster risk management within and across relevant sectors.

As the outcomes will contribute to the deliberations of the General Assembly, HLPF and other relevant UN bodies and processes, the alignment and relevance with the themes of these other processes need to be taken into consideration when shaping the GP2022 programme.

IV. Expected outcomes

GP2022 is expected to deliver the following outcomes:

- Consolidated stock-take on Sendai Framework implementation progress by Member States and stakeholders at all relevant levels, and achievement of disaster risk-related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Recommendations of actions for policy makers in the areas of sustainable development, finance and economic planning, disaster risk reduction and international trade, climate and ecosystem actions, international cooperation on disaster risk reduction, including the integration of disease outbreaks in all-hazard disaster risk management, including preparedness and recovery, as well as those actions tailored to the specific needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), with focus on ensuring that no one is left behind.
- Innovative and good practices in managing COVID-19 from the disaster risk reduction community and recommendations for whole-of-society action for preparedness and for strengthening risk management of disease outbreaks.
- Increased awareness on good practices in implementing the Sendai Framework for reducing risk and building resilience using innovative approaches, tools, and methodologies.
- Contribution to the midterm review of the Sendai Framework to be held in 2023, as well as to the HLPP to be held in New York in July 2022.
- Outcome document that indicates political commitment to advance efforts in achieving Sendai Framework (information will be shared as modalities will be developed).

V. Guiding Principles

Over the years, UNDRR has established the following principles to guide the organization of global and regional platforms, which will also guide the preparation of GP2022:

- Coherence with global agendas
- Multi-stakeholder approach
- Focus on those most at risk and ensuring that no one is left behind
- Interactive, innovative, and impact-focused
- Inclusion and accessibility
- Gender equality and the promotion of women's agency and leadership
- Green and paper smart
- Risk-conscious, including consideration of disease transmission (COVID-19)

VI. Links between Global and Regional Platforms, the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework and related global processes

Member States and the Secretary-General declared the 2020s as the Decade of Action for sustainable development (2030 Agenda). The Political Declaration of the 2019 SDG Summit, *'Gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development'* contains a clear commitment to reduce disaster risk and build resilience to achieve the 2030 Agenda. At the general debate of the UN General Assembly in 2020, the Secretary-General described the COVID-19 crisis as both a wake-up call and a dress rehearsal for future challenges, particularly those brought on by the climate emergency.

To achieve the SDGs, keen attention will have to be paid to plans for addressing COVID-19 recovery needs, given the vast increase in poverty and inequalities, two important drivers of risk. The ongoing response and recovery from COVID-19 nonetheless provides an opportunity to redouble efforts to address underlying levels of exposure and vulnerability in the development system. These efforts should work to reduce existing levels of disaster risks, prevent the creation of future risks, and manage residual risks, including through preparedness for response. In short, we must transform how we manage risk. In this context, it is critical to ensure that governments and all relevant stakeholders increase their ambition and accelerate progress to achieve the goal and targets of the Sendai Framework. Through the UNGA resolution 75/216, Member States have decided to carry out the midterm review of the Sendai Framework in 2023, recognizing that the Sendai Framework, including its core provision to "build back better", provides guidance relevant to a sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and other disasters and also to identify and address underlying disaster risk drivers, including impacts of climate change and nature loss, in a systemic manner.

Regional Platforms (RPs) held during 2021 will also play a crucial role in mobilizing governments and stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework. The RPs also play an important role in energizing the global disaster risk reduction community around existing and new initiatives and showcasing innovation in risk reduction policies and measures. They provide an opportunity for the disaster risk reduction community to network, build on existing partnerships and build new ones, and provide a forum to discuss joint acceleration of global policy agendas. The outcomes of RPs will feed into the sessions of the GP2022, specifically those related to the stocktaking of achieving the goals and targets of the Sendai Framework.

Additionally, GP2022 will take into account the DRR-related achievements, outcomes and activities of other global policy processes, action plans and conference outcomes. These include, but are not limited to, previous Global Platforms, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the New Urban Agenda, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, special development programmes and action plans for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, as well as specific policies, processes and plans covering natural, technological, biological and environmental hazards and topics such as health or biodiversity. Additionally, outcomes of other regional sustainable development policy processes and meetings will be considered in the development of the GP2022 programme and the platform outcomes.

VII. GP2022 Thematic Focus – consultation process

In developing the thematic focus for the GP2022 the following aspects have been taken into consideration: global risk updates and emerging new risks, outcomes of previous Global and Regional Platforms, global policy context and links to other international frameworks, in particular the themes of the HLPF, and the specific SDGs that will be reviewed, as well as input received from governments and other stakeholders. UNDRR facilitates a consultative and inclusive approach in defining the scope and the thematic focus of the GP.

Based on lessons and feedback from previous GPs, the next Global Platform will focus on fewer topics and sessions will be designed to maximize dialogue, interaction, and identification of actionable solutions. At the same time, in line with the spirit of the Sendai Framework, a multi-stakeholder and inclusive approach will be ensured.

Based on the successful format of GP2019, it is proposed that GP2022 will have one overall theme that will set the tone of the event. The overall theme will be supported by three related main themes, broken into more specific topics. The programme will also include three cross-cutting themes.

Pathway to developing the GP2022 theme

As a first step in the inclusive consultation process, UNDRR conducted an online survey in November 2020, asking stakeholders to provide feedback on the topics to be discussed and on the type and format of the sessions. The survey revealed that while the world is still struggling to contain the pandemic and COVID-19 has been dominating the news, there is a recognition that there are fundamental issues that remain highly relevant if we want to reduce disaster risk, including disease outbreaks, in the long-term. Issues that rated high in the survey were: 1) strengthening disaster risk governance; 2) DRR and climate change; 3) financing for DRR; and 4) vulnerability and social risk management. Furthermore, the survey indicated that many topics that have been discussed in the past continue to be relevant such as: 1) coherence between the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change; 2) Leave no one behind – investing in local action and empowering the most at risk; and 3) Progress made in implementing the Sendai Framework.

PROPOSED OVERALL THEME: From Risk to Resilience: Towards Sustainable Development for All in a COVID-19 Transformed World

GP2022 will take place just over two years after the COVID-19 pandemic began. The future evolution of the pandemic remains uncertain with the ongoing response continuing for the foreseeable future. The health, economic and social recovery process will continue globally for many years to come, in particular in LDCs and SIDS that have and will continue to suffer economic hardship. Inequitable distribution of vaccines across countries and access to health services will further exacerbate inequalities and curb international travel, of which many SIDS depend for tourism. Many sectors are unlikely to recover to pre-pandemic level until 2025. While the pandemic has affected all countries, large and small, North and South, the impact of the pandemic has been felt differently by people within countries. Adaptive social protection is an important means to reach out to most severely affected and most vulnerable groups to ensure that no one is left behind.

Impacting the pandemic recovery, and exacerbated by climate change and ecosystem degradation, the frequency and scale of other types of events have increased: extreme weather events are becoming the norm. Here again poorer communities are especially vulnerable to the negative impact of climate change and have fewer resources to adapt and cope. Countries are facing unprecedented challenges in trying to manage multiple, simultaneous and interconnected risks, while at the same time responding to and recovering from the pandemic. Business as usual is not an option and we cannot go back to where we were before the pandemic. We must learn to live with the new normal.

While the pandemic has provided unprecedented challenges for governments and the international community, it has also provided both an opportunity and a moral obligation to re-think our approaches to managing risk. We are required to build resilient systems and to transform our actions towards a more proactive, collaborative, inclusive, and prevention-focused approach. We need to examine why we were not adequately prepared for a global pandemic even when the Sendai Framework had already integrated biological hazards and referred to the International Health Regulations (2005). Moreover, we need to examine why a system failure occurred, and why the messages coming out of Sendai were not listened to. Further to its direct relevance to biological hazards, the pandemic has exacerbated vulnerabilities and risks related to all types of other hazards, including natural and man-made technological, environmental and transboundary.

COVID-19 has reinforced the call for multi-sectoral, multi-hazard, gender-responsive, inclusive, accessible, preventive and anticipatory approaches that consistently integrate disaster, climate, ecosystems, and multi-hazard risk management for strengthening the resilience of people and communities to ensure sustainable development and livelihoods. It has also reinforced the call for enhanced international and transboundary cooperation, and consideration of cross-border and transboundary hazards, including the possibility of cascading effects. In this context, it is critical that the expanded scope of hazards of the Sendai Framework (biological, technological and environmental hazards) is duly considered when strengthening disaster risk governance and that forecasting of risks is strengthened, where possible. Furthermore, since the emergence of zoonotic diseases like COVID-19 is partly linked to the destruction of ecosystems and biodiversity and their continued loss will bring further and different risks, there is a need to increase attention to the environment and ecosystem-based approaches in disaster risk reduction.

The proposed overall theme of GP2022, ***From Risk to Resilience: Towards Sustainable Development for All in a COVID-19 Transformed World***, will focus on how the COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the traditional understanding of risk and disaster risk governance. It will explore how the global crisis can be turned into an opportunity for the necessary radical transformation needed to achieve the goal and targets of the Sendai Framework, as well as of the 2030 Agenda.

The COVID-19 experience offers unique opportunities to re-think and reshape the development trajectory, from one that neglects risk to one that prevents the creation of new risk and reduces existing risk. International cooperation, among others symbolized by GP2022, plays a central role in ensuring that no one country is left behind in the efforts to reduce the multiple, simultaneous, and interconnected risks we are exposed to. At national and local levels, mainstreaming disaster and climate resilience in countries' recovery plans, in particular the Government's sectoral recovery plans and strategies, will be key.

In a world transformed by COVID-19, resilience plays an important part to ensure continuous progress in achieving the sustainable development targets, in all stages of the development continuum. Links between humanitarian response and disaster risk reduction can be strengthened, including by localizing response and emphasizing anticipatory action. COVID-19 has taught us that a strong recovery can only be achieved when all

functional sectors, including infrastructure, environment and ecosystems, economic health and social sectors, are resilient. Integrating climate, nature and development into recovery, for example through Nature-based Solutions, presents an opportunity to help societies and communities become more resilient to future shocks. Resilience must cover all elements and levels of society, to ensure that no one is left behind in the efforts of reducing disaster risk and overcoming disaster impacts. In this regard, resilience for all is a vital component to be mainstreamed in the GP2022 theme, emphasizing the importance of integrating resilience in all sectors to accomplish required breakthroughs in our collective efforts to achieve the goal of the Sendai Framework.

Against this background, the following key questions will guide the consultation process for the development of the thematic focus and identification of the sub-themes that will support the overall theme:

1. With the experience of COVID19 pandemic and its effects on different groups, and considering the ongoing climate and nature crisis, how can governments and stakeholders across society better identify and manage current and emerging systemic risks? How can better awareness and understanding of disaster risk be supported through new technologies and by various actors and how can collaboration between different technical communities be improved?
2. At global, national, and community levels, what actions are needed to accelerate progress in disaster risk management, especially in countries most at risk, including LDCs and SIDS? How can such actions be inclusive and accessible to all ensuring that those who are most vulnerable and disproportionately impacted by disasters are not left behind?
3. What actions are required to accelerate progress in managing the “new” hazards included in the Sendai Framework (biological, technological and environmental), reducing related risk and exposure? How can cascading effects be prevented and mitigated, and interactions between different hazards best be addressed?
4. What are the key areas of focus that will enable accelerated progress in achieving the goal and targets of the Sendai Framework?

GP2022 Overall Theme: From Risk to Resilience: Towards Sustainable Development for All in a COVID-19 Transformed World
Main themes:
Strengthening disaster risk governance to address systemic risk
Social and economic recovery from COVID-19 for all
Financing for DRR and risk-informed investments and development
Cross-cutting themes:
Stocktaking and accelerating progress in achieving the goal and targets of the Sendai Framework
Leave no one behind – investing in local action and empowering the most at risk
Accelerating and integrating disaster risk management to sustainable development and climate action

VIII. Format of the GP2022

GP2022 is expected to take place as an in-person meeting, provided that the travel limitations due to COVID-19 will allow this. The exact format will be decided at a later stage and in close consultation with the host country. It is expected that possibilities to participate remotely will be further increased through webcast and other means.