

## The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

The [Sendai Framework](#) on Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) is an ambitious agreement that sets out the overall objective to substantially reduce disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.

It pursues 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 Framework recognizes that the strong commitment and involvement of political leadership in every country is crucial. State level governments share their responsibility to reduce disaster risk with other stakeholders such as local government, the private sector and other non-State actors. It puts in place 4 clear priorities for action and 7 global targets for the substantial reduction of disaster risk.

The Sendai Framework covers technological hazards, in addition to natural hazards, which represent an evolution compared to its predecessor, the Hyogo Framework for Action. These technological hazards include chemical/industrial hazards further to radiological, nuclear, biological, and others.

➤ **The seven global TARGETS are:**

1. Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower average per 100,000 global mortality between 2020-2030 compared to 2005-2015.
2. Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100,000 between 2020-2030 compared to 2005-2015. 7
3. Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030.
4. Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030.
5. Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.

6. Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of this framework by 2030.
7. Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030.

## ➤ **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The implementation of the present framework will be guided by the following principles, while taking into account national circumstances, and consistent with domestic laws as well as international obligations and commitments:

1. Each State has the primary responsibility to prevent and reduce disaster risk, including through international, regional, subregional, transboundary and bilateral cooperation. The reduction of disaster risk is a common concern for all States and the extent to which developing countries are able to effectively enhance and implement national disaster risk reduction policies and measures in the context of their respective circumstances and capabilities can be further enhanced through the provision of sustainable international cooperation;
2. Disaster risk reduction requires that responsibilities be shared by central Governments and relevant national authorities, sectors and stakeholders, as appropriate to their national circumstances and system of governance;
3. Managing the risk of disasters is aimed at protecting persons and their property, health, livelihoods and productive assets, as well as cultural and environmental assets, while promoting and protecting all human rights, including the right to development;
4. Disaster risk reduction requires an all-of-society engagement and partnership. It also requires empowerment and inclusive, accessible and non - discriminatory participation, paying special attention to people disproportionately affected by disasters, especially the poorest. A gender, age, disability and cultural perspective in all policies and practices; and the promotion of women and youth leadership; in this context, special attention should be paid to the improvement of organized voluntary work of citizens;
5. Disaster risk reduction and management depends on coordination mechanisms within and across sectors and with relevant stakeholders at all levels, and. it requires the full engagement of all State institutions of an executive and legislative nature at national and local levels and a clear articulation of responsibilities across public and private

stakeholders, including business and academia, to ensure mutual outreach, partnership, complementarity in roles and accountability and follow-up;

6. While the enabling, guiding and coordinating role of national and federal State Governments remain essential, it is necessary to empower local authorities and local communities to reduce disaster risk, including through resources, incentives and decision-making responsibilities, as appropriate;
7. Disaster risk reduction requires a multi-hazard approach and inclusive risk-informed decision-making based on the open exchange and dissemination of disaggregated data, including by sex, age and disability, as well as on the easily accessible, up-to-date, comprehensible, science-based, non-sensitive risk information, complemented by traditional knowledge;
8. The development, strengthening and implementation of relevant policies, plans, practices and mechanisms need to aim at coherence, as appropriate, across sustainable development and growth, food security, health and safety, climate change and variability, environmental management and disaster risk reduction agendas. Disaster risk reduction is essential to achieve sustainable development;
9. While the drivers of disaster risk may be local, national, regional or global in scope, disaster risks have local and specific characteristics that must be understood for the determination of measures to reduce disaster risk;
10. Addressing underlying disaster risk factors through disaster risk-informed public and private investments are more cost-effective than primary reliance on post-disaster response and recovery, and contribute to sustainable development;
11. In the post-disaster recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase it is critical to prevent the creation of and to reduce disaster risk by “Building Back Better” and increasing public education and awareness of disaster risk;
12. An effective and meaningful global partnership and the further strengthening of international cooperation, including the fulfilment of respective commitments of official development assistance by developed countries, are essential for effective disaster risk management;
13. Developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income and other countries facing specific disaster risk challenges need adequate, sustainable and timely provision of support, including through finance,

technology transfer and capacity-building from developed countries and partners tailored to their needs and priorities, as identified by them.

## ➤ **PRIORITIES FOR ACTION**

### **1. Understanding disaster risk**

- The Convention stresses the importance of identifying potentially hazardous activities to be able to target actions for prevention, preparedness and response.
- It sets out preventive measures to be carried out by national authorities and operators, including legislative and institutional measures.
- The Convention also deals with the siting of hazardous installations as part of land-use planning policies and measures to minimize risks to the population and the environment.

### **2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk**

- The Convention provides a framework for Parties to set up their legal and institutional frameworks at local, national and regional levels to address the prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents.
- It focuses on disaster risk reduction arising from hazardous activities which can cause a transboundary effect in case of accident.
- The Convention can be regarded as a mechanism for regional and subregional cooperation, as it addresses local and transboundary disaster risk reduction in case the consequences of an accident travel across borders and supports capacity development.

### **3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience**

- The Convention promotes the prevention of technological disaster risks through institutional, legislative and practical measures adopted by authorities and operators.
- This comes with an obligation to adopt legislation for disaster risk reduction, requiring operators of hazardous installations to ensure and demonstrate the safe performance of their activities.
- To ensure implementation of these measures, Parties need to include financial means as well.
- The Convention therefore also promotes coherence across sectors by stipulating cooperation among national authorities, which includes the private sector.

- Proper investments in all elements of DRR and industrial accident prevention are critical in order to strengthen resilience.

#### **4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction**

The Convention promotes the organization of transboundary exercises to train relevant authorities and the population on preparedness and response. More specifically, in line with the Sendai Framework, the Convention contains obligations to:

- a. Prepare, review and periodically update disaster preparedness and contingency policies, plans and programmes, ensuring the participation of all sectors and stakeholders, in particular when preparing on- and off-site contingency plans as required by the Convention
- b. Promote regular disaster preparedness, response and recovery exercises
- c. Develop and strengthen, as appropriate, coordinated regional approaches and operational mechanisms to prepare for and ensure rapid and effective disaster response, for example, through the use of the UNECE Industrial Accident Notification System to request and render mutual assistance in a cross-border context.