Concept Note

EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (GP2025)\(^1\)

*Every Day Counts, Act for Resilience Today*

2-6 June 2025, Geneva, Switzerland

Introduction and Context

Our global risk landscape has changed markedly since the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework). We live in a world with increasingly interconnected and compounding risks and disasters affecting more and more communities while also exacerbating existing inequalities and disproportionally affecting particular groups.

Exacerbating the existing challenges posed by climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic proved to be a global disaster of epic proportions, not just setting back health outcomes but also devastating economic and financial markets and throwing millions more into poverty. Following the height of the pandemic, the return to a “new normal” was quickly disrupted by conflicts and instability in many parts of the world, some of which cascaded into follow-on crises, such as those related to food, energy, and gender inequality.

Managing complex and interconnected risks, such as those related to climate change, pandemics, ecosystem degradation, desertification, land degradation, drought, nature, and biodiversity loss, represent some of the most pressing global challenges of today, requiring systems thinking and innovation. Notably, a growing number of populations are increasingly exposed to frequent and multidimensional risks, which has led to increased flows of human mobility and displacement, which in turn is intensifying risk for pockets of the population, creating a cycle that needs to be monitored and managed. Poor urban planning and unplanned urbanization are also a critical aspect that requires concerted attention in our pursuit to effectively reduce the risk of disasters; failure to plan sustainable cities, villages, and infrastructures that are resilient to multiple hazards remains a collective challenge with drastic potential repercussions.

Nine years since the adoption of the Sendai Framework, remarkable progress has been made in building resilience. Understanding of risk has both expanded and deepened, with over 110 countries systematically collecting data on disaster impacts and several applying this data to better inform risk governance. Over 80 percent of countries have started using the global tool, Sendai Framework Monitor, to report progress, allowing us to have an increasingly comprehensive global overview of DRR implementation. An impressive 129 countries have reported the development of national disaster risk reduction strategies to guide national implementation. Additionally, global partnerships to strengthen local resilience continue to advance with momentum, with the Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative mobilizing 1650 local governments, 30 national governments, and 11 national municipality associations to date. Implementation has also been accelerated through the launch of

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\(^1\) 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.
focused initiatives like the Early Warning for All, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, inter alia, while synergies with climate action are continuing to be consolidated with notable initiatives in adaptation and loss and damage.

This foundational progress now needs to pick up considerable pace and acceleration. The High-Level Meeting on the Midterm review of the Sendai Framework underscored\(^2\) deep concern about the pace of implementation of the Sendai Framework being neither sufficient nor equal\(^3\). Taking place at “a defining point in history”, and against the challenging backdrop of multiple global crises, Member States called for better governance, greater investments in resilience, integration of disaster risk reduction in the work of financial authorities, data capacity enhancement, and focus on a broader and more people-centered preventive approach to disaster risk reduction, reflecting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In his opening remarks, the President of the 77\(^{th}\) session of the United Nations General Assembly identified the midterm review as “the last chance for course correction before 2030” and urged Member States to evolve risk governance and management in ways that are proportionate to emerging and future challenges.

The Political Declaration adopted by the UN General Assembly, identified the upcoming Global and Regional Platforms as the mechanisms to assess and discuss progress on the implementation of the Sendai Framework, including the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Political Declaration. The High-Level Meeting of the midterm review highlighted the increased relevance of disaster risk reduction across international agendas. At the same time, the first Global Stocktake (GST) of the Paris Agreement adopted under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, while highlighting limited progress in implementation, called for greater coherence between climate action and disaster risk reduction, including progress in averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage. The abovementioned provide a clear direction for continuing to strengthen the good progress already made in ensuring mutual alignment and coherence in the monitoring and implementation of these interconnected agendas.

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**About the Global Platform**

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 and to advance concerted implementation of disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Its outcomes are also recognized by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Embodying an all-of-society approach, the Global Platform is an accessible and inclusive 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 goals and related targets and indicators, as well as relevant SDG targets, by sharing good practices and lessons learned, energizing the global disaster risk reduction community around new initiatives, identifying gaps, and making recommendations.

The Global Platform has also become a crucial mechanism to foster coherence in the implementation of other global agendas, including the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. In fact, the Global Platform directly contributes to the risk-informed implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as outcomes of the Global Platform are considered in the deliberations of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

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\(^3\) Political Declaration of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 A/RES/77/289, adopted in New York on 18 May 2023, paragraph 5
The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction is mandated by the UN General Assembly to convene and organize the Global Platform. Since 2007, seven sessions of the Global Platforms have taken place.

I. Background

The most recent Global Platform took place from 23 to 28 May 2022 in Bali, Indonesia (GP2022) under the overall theme ‘From Risk to Resilience: Towards Sustainable Development for All in a COVID-19 Transformed World’. It was co-chaired by H.E. Prof. Muhadjir Effendy, Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Cultural Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, and Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Organized in a hybrid format, the Global Platform had over 4000 participants from 185 countries. Progress towards gender parity and disability accessibility was evident throughout the Global Platform. Half of the panelists and 40 percent of the participants were women. Over 200 persons with disabilities actively engaged in panels and discussions, doubling the number since the 2019 Global Platform.

GP2022 took stock of the implementation of the Sendai Framework, based on the experience of practitioners and policymakers at local, national, and regional levels, progress reported by Member States through the Sendai Framework Monitor, and findings in the United Nations 2022 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, and other recent reports such as the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

With the theme From Risk to Resilience: Towards Sustainable Development for All in a COVID-19 Transformed World, GP2022 especially offered lessons learned from the pandemic and pathways to address risks posed by our ongoing climate emergency. Its outcome, Bali Agenda for Resilience (BAR), underscored that urgent action is necessary to accelerate efforts to correcting the course on achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework. The BAR’s core recommendation was to apply a ‘Think Resilience’ approach to all investments and decision-making and to integrate disaster risk reduction with the whole-of-government and whole-of-society. It also underscored inclusive, multistakeholder, participatory and human-rights based approaches and urged the establishment of a gender action plan to achieve the Sendai Framework. A strong call was made to all Member States, regional organizations, and all stakeholders, including private sector, children, youth, older persons, civil society and persons with disabilities, to engage in the midterm review of the Sendai Framework to clearly understand the implementation challenges and obstacles and possible corrections to accelerate efforts for achieving the Sendai Framework goals by 2030.

This upcoming Global Platform (GP2025), then, serves as an important milestone between the High-Level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework (May 2023) and the five final years before the Sendai Framework will come to an end. The GP2025 is indeed expected to assess and discuss progress made in the implementation of the recommendations put forward through the Political Declaration adopted by the UN General Assembly in May 2023, and to give practical guidance to accelerate its further implementation. The following sections provide initial details towards the planning of GP2025.

“We look forward to the Global and Regional platforms for disaster risk reduction to be held before 2030 to assess and discuss progress on and give practical guidance to the implementation of the Sendai Framework, including on the implementation of the present political declaration.”
II. The 2025 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2025)

The eighth session of the Global Platform (GP2025) is scheduled to take place from 2-6 June 2025, at the International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG), in Switzerland, hosted by the Government of Switzerland. GP2025 will be co-chaired by the host country and UNDRR. It will be a key opportunity for Member States and all stakeholders to gather globally two years after the midterm review of the Sendai Framework, to assess the impact of the “course correction” and implementation of the recommendations made in the Political Declaration of the midterm review. The GP2025 will also provide a platform to address relevant global issues related to disaster risk reduction, such as challenges with implementing sustainable development, climate change, food insecurity, water scarcity, and water-related hazards, and to initiate the discussion on ‘what and how’ beyond 2030, including how disaster risk reduction should be addressed in the post-Sendai era.

The deliberations under the official programme of GP2025 will be captured in the Co-Chairs’ Summary and will provide actionable recommendations to be considered by Member States and stakeholders. The outcome will need to particularly focus on how to accelerate implementation of the Sendai Framework for tangible results and impact on the ground.

The GP2025 agenda development 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 midterm review of the Sendai Framework, GP2022 Co-Chairs’ Summary and outcomes of the Regional Platform meetings in 2023-2024.

The agenda is expected to encompass the following four aspects:

- Strengthen implementation of the Sendai Framework in light of progress and challenges identified in its midterm review and the Political Declaration, paying particular attention to key areas of progress and success and areas where concerted efforts are needed, as well as commitments required to accelerating its implementation;
- Bolstering national and local strategies and plans for disaster risk reduction, taking into account the risks and impacts of recent disasters;
- Strengthen existing, and forge new networks and partnerships at international, national, and local levels, sharing good practice and knowledge (including community and indigenous knowledge) on disaster risk-informed policies, programmes and investments, including on sustainable development, climate change, resilient infrastructure, Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative and Early Warnings For All (EW4all) initiative; and
- Promote the integration of comprehensive risk management approaches within and across relevant sectors, and at all levels of society.

The outcomes of the Global Platform are expected to contribute to the deliberations of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, other relevant UN bodies and platforms including the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) and intergovernmental processes. The framing of the GP2025 programme will consider their alignment and relevance across the thematic areas of focus.

III. Expected outcomes
GP2025 is expected to deliver the following outcomes:

- Consolidated stock-take of Sendai Framework implementation progress and challenges faced by Member States and stakeholders at all relevant levels, and of disaster risk-related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- In line with an all-of-government approach, recommendations of actions for policymakers across sectors including in the areas of sustainable development, finance and economic planning, infrastructure, climate and ecosystem actions, international cooperation on disaster risk reduction, preparedness, early warning, and recovery. Recommendations should consider the varying needs and specificities across regions and groups, including (but not limited to) the specific needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and African countries, as well as Middle-Income Countries (MICs) facing specific challenges ensuring that no one and no country is left behind;
- Increased awareness on good practices in implementing the Sendai Framework, including on improved disaster data availability and access, and building resilience using innovative approaches, tools, and methodologies; and
- A reaffirmed political commitment to accelerate efforts in achieving the Sendai Framework.

IV. Guiding Principles

Over the years, UNDRR has established the following principles to guide the organizational planning of Global and Regional platforms, which will also guide the logistical and substantial preparation of GP2025:

- Coherence with relevant global agendas;
- All-of-society approach and multi-stakeholder engagement (e.g., representation in consultation process and attendance of the conference);
- Focus on those most at risk and ensuring that no one is left behind;
- Interactive, innovative, and impact-focused;
- Accessibility and inclusion;
- Gender equality and the promotion of women’s agency and leadership (e.g., 50/50 gender parity in all panels);
- Green and environmentally sustainable meeting, minimizing negative environmental footprint;
- Risk-conscious, including consideration of disease transmission (COVID-19);

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

Member States and the Secretary-General declared the 2020s as the Decade of Action for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). The Political Declarations of the 2019 SDG Summit, ‘Gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development’ and the 2023 SDG Summit contains a clear commitment to reduce disaster risk and build resilience to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Member States have also articulated their commitment to implementing the calls to action in the Political Declaration of the midterm review of the Sendai Framework, and to promote a disaster risk-informed approach to sustainable development at the local, national, regional, and global levels. They also recognized that the outcomes of the midterm review can provide important input to other relevant major intergovernmental outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, and environmental fields.
The collective global success in turning this commitment into results is partially contingent on creating synergies between global processes as well as between national, regional, and global efforts. With this in view, efforts will continue to be prioritized to mutually align GP 2025 with General Assembly-recognized processes including the findings of the Midterm Review, the Regional Platforms, and the relevant sustainable development global processes.

Regional Platforms (RPs) to be held during 2024, together with the Regional Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean hosted by Uruguay in February 2023, 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, enhance 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 GP2025, specifically those related to the stocktaking of achieving the goals and targets of the Sendai Framework.

The GP2025 will consider the latest knowledge on emerging risks. It will also aim to align with and reinforce the DRR-related achievements and the recent outcomes of global policy processes, such as those related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, Addis Ababa Action Agenda and Programmes of Action for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. In addition, the forthcoming global deliberations, including the 2024 Summit of the Future and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in 2025 will be important opportunities for mutual policy synergies and to advocate for increased investments in DRR to achieve the SDGs.

VI. GP2025 Thematic Focus and Consultation Process

Overall theme: Every Day Counts, Act for Resilience Today

The theme for the GP2025, "Every Day Counts, Act for Resilience Today", embodies an urgency to correct the trajectory of progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework goals, as articulated in the midterm review. Since the midterm review of 2023 and five years remaining until 2030 until the end of the Sendai Framework, the GP2025 provides a final window of opportunity to accelerate action. Towards this end, the GP2025 aims to mobilize collective action towards building resilience through assessing progress and giving practical guidance on accelerating the implementation of the Sendai Framework and of the calls made in the Political Declaration itself.

The recent UNGA resolution on Disaster Risk Reduction (A/RES/78/152), referred to the upcoming Global Platform in paragraph 62, which “encourages the eight session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to include in its discussions ways to enhance preparedness, build resilience, promote early actions, reduce risks and to address the El Nino/La Nina phenomenon, as appropriate, as well as to assess the progress made on the calls to action of the political declaration on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework”.

The proposed conceptual structure of the next Global Platform outlined below has been built around the recommendations, priorities, and call to action identified in the Political Declaration. At the same time, in line with the spirit of the Sendai Framework, a multi-stakeholder, accessible, and inclusive approach is at its heart. In addition, crosscutting themes and purpose-designed questions throughout the conference will aid in eliciting outcomes that identify crucial gaps, stock-take progress, derive lessons learned, recognize good practices, and propose actionable and practical measures.
As part of an inclusive consultation process through an online survey, UNDRR has defined the scope and thematic focus of the Global Platform by receiving input and feedback from Member states, the UN System, and Stakeholder groups. Consultations with Member States were facilitated through the Permanent Missions to the UN in Geneva through the UNDRR Support Group Members. The UN system was also consulted to provide their expert feedback and recommendations on specific elements of the concept note and the thematic areas. Additionally, consultation with Stakeholder groups were facilitated through the UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM) which is an inclusive, open and structured avenue for close engagement of stakeholders with UNDRR and Sendai Framework.

The following table summarizes the key issues identified in the Political Declaration, that will inform the development of the agenda for the GP2025. From the many suggested cross-cutting themes that interact with these key issues, three cross-cutting themes have been elicited from the consultation inputs listed as core elements that will need to be woven across and throughout the agenda. Note that the topics listed in the table below are not session titles but rather indicate the key issues that will form the focus of deliberations at GP2025.

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<tr>
<th>Conceptual structure - GP2025</th>
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<td><em>(based on the priorities identified in the Political Declaration of the Sendai Framework MTR)</em></td>
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<tr>
<th>Understanding Disaster Risk (Priority 1)</th>
<th>Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance (Priority 2)</th>
<th>Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction (Priority 3)</th>
<th>Disaster Preparedness, Build Back Better and Recovery (priority 4)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Enhanced risk surveillance and advancing understanding of systemic risk</td>
<td>Strengthening comprehensive risk management including national and local DRR strategies (DRR, climate change, SDGs etc)</td>
<td>Advancing innovative DRR and climate financing strategies</td>
<td>Enhanced multisectoral action to address the underlying drivers of risk in preparedness, response, rehabilitation and reconstruction</td>
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<td>Strengthened data on disaster impact and losses and damages</td>
<td>Strengthening legal and regulatory frameworks for shared accountability, transparency and responsibility</td>
<td>Integrating DRR in the global financial system</td>
<td>Enhanced risk knowledge monitoring, preparedness, forecasting, multi-hazard early warning and anticipatory action</td>
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<td>Enhanced risk awareness and risk communication</td>
<td>Leave no one behind - making all-of-society engagement and leadership a reality</td>
<td>Risk informed financing and policies for resilient infrastructure</td>
<td>Risk reduction in protracted crises and humanitarian emergencies</td>
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<td>Harnessing science, technology and innovation to reduce risk</td>
<td>Promoting nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches to reduce disaster risks</td>
<td>Engaging with private sector to scale up investments and resourcing in DRR</td>
<td>Accelerating Progress with Building Back Better: Resilient Recovery in the Face of Rising Climate Risks</td>
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<td>Urban resilience – localizing Sendai Framework</td>
<td>Enhancing international cooperation for disaster risk reduction</td>
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<td>Strengthening governance to reduce disaster displacement risk</td>
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**Crosscutting themes**
1. Managing current and future risks and uncertainties in a rapidly changing climate and global context

2. Prioritizing gender equality, accessibility and inclusion to leave no one behind

3. Accelerate action for our collective sustainable future

VII. Format of the GP2025

GP2025 will take place over five days, including two preparatory days (2-3 June) and three official days (4-6 June).

The official programme (4-6 June) will feature thematic sessions, high-level dialogues and ministerial roundtables. A series of multistakeholder plenary sessions will take place to allow a guided discussion on the progress made, ways to address remaining gaps and identification of actionable measures to accelerate progress for the remaining five years of the Sendai Framework. Furthermore, the plenary may spark initial thoughts and reflections on the future of global DRR policy.

A series of side events, learning labs and innovation platform will supplement the official programme.

The GP2025 preparatory days will feature three global meetings: the third Stakeholder Forum; the sixth World Reconstruction Conference; and the first global Multistakeholder Forum on Early Warning 4 All (EW4All)\(^4\). Additional details on these meetings will be made available by respective organizing entities.

GP2025 is expected to take place as a hybrid meeting with possibilities for both in-person and online participation. Details on the exact format will be shared at a later stage.

\(^4\) Building on the previous international MHEW conferences that took place at the GP in 2017, 2019 and 2022.