

Sendai Stakeholders Position to COP26

When people work together, they thrive together. Our lives are entirely interdependent and disasters - from COVID to climate-induced disasters - perhaps more than any other events, demonstrate this reality.

Hazards are increasing in severity and frequency, a trend that is likely to accelerate with global climate change and the large-scale degradation of ecosystems, leading to new humanitarian crises. Disasters cause far-reaching economic and structural disruption and have long-term socio-cultural and psychological impacts.

Invest in prevention & risk reduction

Risk reduction and prevention is the clearest strategy to reduce negative impacts. This is as true for bicycle helmets and seatbelts as it is for natural hazards and climate change. We call on the Member States to act responsibly in the face of the increasing risk of humanitarian disasters of all kinds. Risk reduction is the most economic approach - a dollar of prevention can save fifteen dollars in recovery cost. . When inclusive of all marginalized groups risk reduction is the most humane approach - the largely economic 'sacrifices' of investment can both save lives and livelihoods while concurrently building resilience.

Address the data gap to understand the true extent of climate-induced loss and damage

There is insufficient analysis and understanding of the true extent of loss and damage that results from disasters. Direct climate-induced loss and damage have been the focus, but what has been missed is the long term, indirect and wider impacts of climate change and its induced disasters. Without clear knowledge of the consequences of inaction, it is difficult to ensure action. As such, we must enhance evidence-based knowledge and awareness of climate-induced loss and damage, including indirect effects and its effect on marginalized groups including women, children, persons with disabilities, and older persons. We must share practices to reduce risks, and thereby enhance disaster resilience.

Community engagement & financing in reducing climate change

While disasters may be national, regional, or even global, risks have a strong local presence. Hazards unfold in locally specific contexts of poverty, weak governance, unreliable infrastructure, and limited access to health and response services. To effectively understand the true calculation of loss and damage, it is important to empower, capacitate and include local actors, especially community-based organisations including organizations representing marginalized groups such as women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, and older persons, in the development and implementation of local, as well as national DRR strategies. Flexible financing and resourcing mechanisms should be made available to community-based organisations to enable them to direct resources to shift needs in relation to emerging risks.

Collaborate

Today's institutional and social structures, grounded largely in a culture of competition and antagonism, perpetuate power imbalances and entrench inequalities. Unsustainable patterns of human behavior, including a growth-first mentality and the pursuit of power, also aggravate rather than ameliorate the challenges. We must put the reality of our shared humanity and dependence on the wellbeing of the planet and each other at the center of our deliberations and actions. Let us set aside outdated conceptions of us and them, and commit to the collective, unified, and inclusive measures needed for all to flourish. We call on not only Member States and policymakers, but all people of all ages, sexuality, and gender identity, and with different abilities, to work together rather than in silos.