



Bali, Indonesia | 23 -24 May 2022



## **JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON RECONSTRUCTING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE World Reconstruction Conference 5**

The Fifth Edition of the World Reconstruction Conference (WRC5) was held in Bali, Indonesia on May 23-24, 2022 in conjunction with the Seventh Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and gathered people representing 160 countries with 1600 in-person and online participants from national and local governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, and international organizations from around the world. The conference was jointly organized by the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, the United Nations Development Programme, and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction under the umbrella of the International Recovery Platform.

WRC5 addressed the theme of "Reconstructing for a sustainable future: Building resilience through recovery in a COVID-19 Transformed World" and shared experiences on resilience and sustainability dimensions of recovery, with a view to advance the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. The conference noted that, with the advent of COVID-19, the world has been transformed with severe socioeconomic consequences that are likely to outlast the pandemic, particularly for the most vulnerable, disadvantaged groups, including persons living with disabilities, and threatens to unravel decades of development progress, and derail global prospects for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

The international community now faces an era of unprecedented multiplicity and complexity of crises due to the pandemic, disasters, climate change, rapid environmental degradation, armed conflict and forced displacement and migration. This complexity, in the context of COVID-19, has necessitated a rethinking of how recovery is planned, financed and managed in order to protect socio-economic gains, build resilience and contribute to sustainable development.

Building upon the conference themes, the participants at the conference were able to: a) take stock of the approaches, methodologies, and tools as well as emerging best practices and challenges for estimating and addressing the socio-economic effects and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the SDGs; b) advocate for greater commitment and integration of social and economic recovery, greening and Building-Back-Better in disaster recovery and development planning at all levels; and c) discuss and propose more effective, innovative, and coordinated planning, financing and management tools

and institutional systems for recovery from complex and interconnected disaster-conflict events, including pandemics, natural hazards and climatic shocks and stressors.

Deliberations on the issue of recovery for a sustainable future have strengthened our resolve to:

➤ **Use recovery from the pandemic, disasters, conflicts, and other threats as an opportunity to reset the development pathway towards a greener and more resilient future**

A greener, more resilient and inclusive approach to recovery will help to address social and economic impacts of COVID-19, accelerate climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, and restore momentum on poverty reduction and human security. This integrated approach seeks to achieve a more sustainable and equitable recovery and growth by: i) promoting investments in “greener” systems of production and consumption; ii) supporting resilience building to a variety of shocks – economic, social, climate, or health-related; iii) considering investment in anticipatory action in the preventative states of the disaster risk management cycle to reduce recovery costs; and iv) ensuring that the recovery does not leave anyone behind. Successful long-term recovery outcomes depend in part on the extent to which countries and communities, including the private sector and civil society organizations, have planned, anticipated, and prepared for recovery. Developing the human capacities, tools, baseline data and systems, plans, pre-arranged financing and risk governance arrangements pre-disaster is instrumental in building back stronger, faster, and more inclusively.

➤ **Address the social and economic effects and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on “hard-won” development gains**

Noting that COVID-19 has disproportionately affected the most vulnerable population such as children, elderly, persons with disabilities, migrants, and refugees and exacerbated inequalities. There is a need to have organized responses to stabilize economies and societies, seeking to forestall further damage and lay the basis for a sustainable recovery and work towards long term outcomes of human well-being.

➤ **Re-think our recovery governance models in order to better plan and manage recovery from complex and interconnected disaster-conflict events in the post-COVID-19 world**

Addressing the challenges for recovery in urban environments demands approaches that consider the interconnectedness of urban systems, the complexity of vulnerabilities and needs of the urban poor and leveraging local knowledge and diverse financing. Innovative solutions for urban recovery include ex ante planning, investments and programmes aligned with development plans and strategies that maximize co-benefits to sustainable development, climate change and local resilience. Key governance approaches that need to be reviewed include the role of National Disaster Management Authorities in a public health crisis; challenges in recovering from complex crisis including capacity constraints (human, financial, institutional); and strategies to build resilience to future shocks in a way that helps to resolve conflict. Participants identified innovative approaches and good

practices that address these issues and provided examples for improved governance models for adoption.

- **Change our behaviour and actions to build resilience through recovery and reconstruct for a sustainable future.**
- ***We call for and commit to a resilient recovery process that will build back better, puts agency in the hands of affected people, implements predictable and pre-arranged financial, institutional and technical measures at all levels***, and embraces and explores new technologies and mechanisms such as anticipatory action and prioritize medium to long term outcomes recognizing that recovery takes a long time.
- ***We call on all policy makers to install health systems that incorporate sustainable risk management measures, resilient health infrastructure, Universal Health Coverage*** at the center of all recovery efforts to support all people to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health.
- ***We emphasize the need for a shock responsive universal social protection for all vulnerable groups to ensure a secure income and consumption to sustain communities during a crisis.*** We seek to strengthen national social protection systems by drafting and updating National Social Protection Policies, transitioning towards digitalisation of processes, establishing efficient institutions that deliver social assistance and social insurance to all citizens and residents, and exploring linkages with anticipatory financing.
- ***We encourage a strong collaboration with civil society and communities, utilization of local knowledge in recovery of critical infrastructure*** and coherence with SDG9. Infrastructure recovery strategies should be redesigned to address risks, while integrating alternative and contingent recovery strategies, and avoiding siloed thinking.
- ***We seek the cooperation of all governments, partners and agencies to closely monitor recovery programmes to ensure they are green, sustainable*** and directing recovery funds into domains such as renewable energy, waste management, green jobs and nature-based solutions to contribute towards disaster and climate resilience and sustainable development.
- ***We seek to promote women as recovery leaders and adopt gender-responsive recovery governance, strategies, and processes*** to address the gender dimensions of disasters, conflict and fragility, and other threats such as Covid-19; to ensure the human rights, needs, and priorities of women and girls in all their diversity for a risk-informed and inclusive recovery. This includes situating women as leaders in recovery decision-making processes and mobilizing finance and technical resources to enable women's meaningful participation.

**Resilient and sustainable recovery is not a luxury; it is an imperative for a better future.**

**Bali, 24 May 2022**