



Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction: An Urgent Global Imperative

Report of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Public Forum:
Taking Action toward a Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Framework and its Implementation
United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Sendai, Japan and the Progress Thereafter

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Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,
Division for Social Policy and Development,
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs,
and The University of Tokyo Komaba Organization for Educational Excellence

in collaboration with

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Japan Disability Forum, Nippon Foundation, Tohoku University,
United Nations University International Institute for Global Health, United Nations Population Fund,
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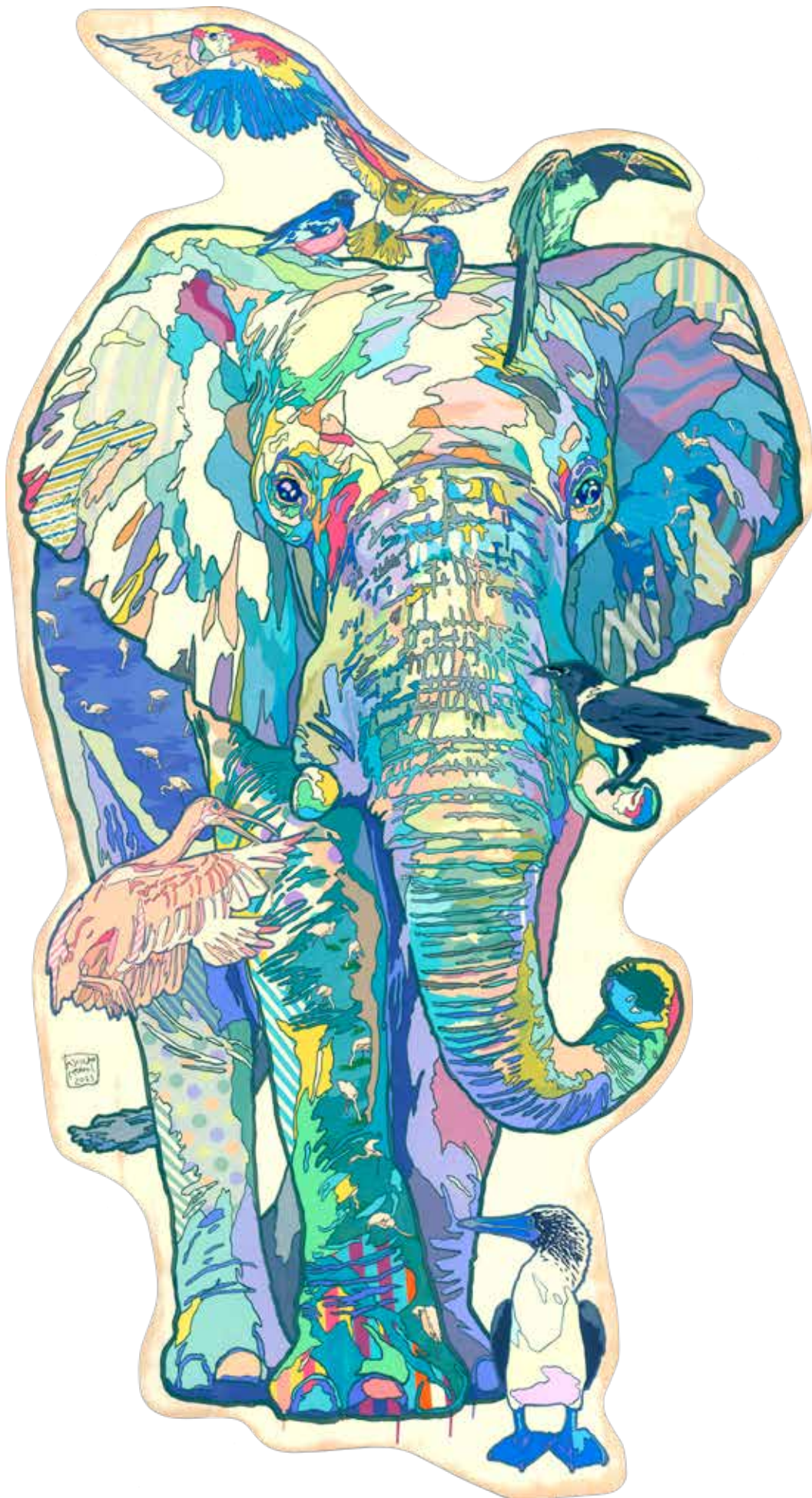
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Executive Summary

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) Public Forum on “Taking action toward a disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction framework and its implementation” was organized by the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SCRPD) of the Division for Social Policy and Development, United Nations DESA in collaboration with United Nations DESA’s global partners including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Japan Disability Forum, the Nippon Foundation, Tohoku University, United Nations University International Institute for Global Health, and the World Bank Group, on 15 March 2015, as part of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015.

The Public Forum discussed and reviewed existing disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies and programmes, as well as the progress made and lessons learned for the advancement of disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction (DiDRR) at local, national, regional and international levels. It resulted in a set of conclusions and recommendations to advance DiDRR as a contribution to the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) and outcome, namely, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted at the United Nations General Assembly. The Public Forum also strengthened the global DiDRR network for further exchange and collaboration in the field of disability in the context of global development efforts.

This report provides an overview of DiDRR including ongoing barriers and challenges, international normative frameworks, and progress made in mainstreaming disability in DRR, with a focus on good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of DiDRR to March 2018 (Part 1), and a summary of the work of the Public Forum as presented at the WCDRR held in 2015 (Part 2). This report was developed by the University of Tokyo Komaba Organization for Educational Excellence (KOMEX), the SCRPD, Kanazawa University, National Institute of Mental Health, Japan, United Nations University International Institute for Global Health, and United Nations Population Fund with contributions from the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development in partnership with global experts and practitioners.



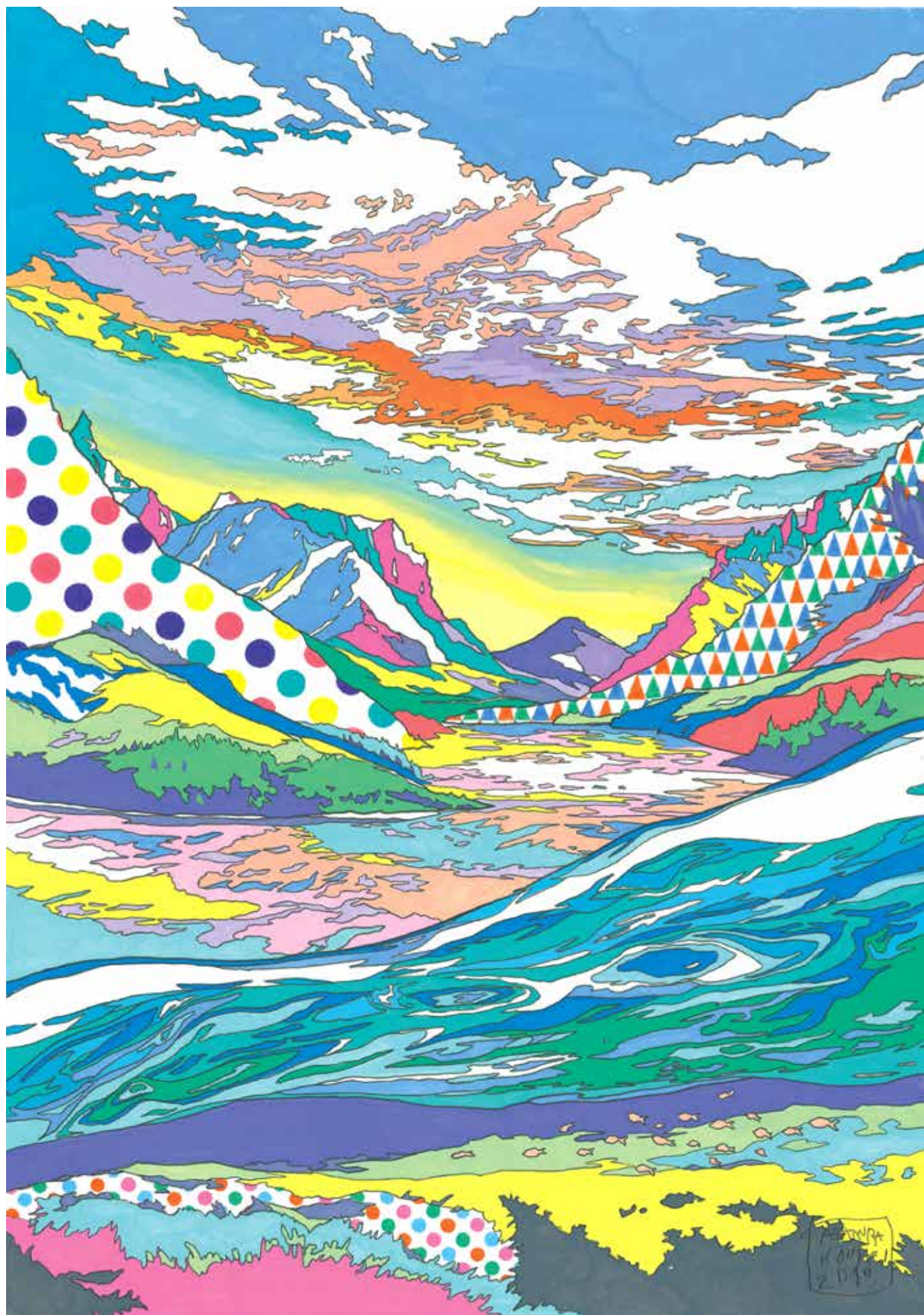


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I. Introduction

On 15 March 2015, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) Public Forum: “Taking action toward a disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction framework and its implementation” was organized by the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SCRPD) of the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of United Nations DESA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Japan Disability Forum (JDF), the Nippon Foundation, Tohoku University, United Nations University International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH), and the World Bank Group, at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR), held at Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015. The Public Forum discussed and proposed concrete recommendations toward disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction (DiDRR) as a contribution to WCDRR and its outcome, namely, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283), as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (A/RES/70/1) adopted at the United Nations General Assembly. The Forum also undertook stocktaking, review and assessment of the effectiveness of existing disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies and programmes, as well as assessing the progress made and lessons learned for the advancement of DiDRR at local, national, regional and international levels. It was also intended to strengthen and broaden the participants’ networks so that they could collaborate further to integrate disability-related issues within global development efforts.

The presenters included stakeholders from local, national, and international organizations, civil societies, academia and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) including organizations of persons with disabilities. Ms. Akiko Ito, Chief of the SCRPD, DSPD, United Nations DESA, gave the opening statement. Ms. Miki Ebara, NHK World Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Takashi Izutsu, Senior Knowledge Management Officer, World Bank Group, and Dr. Hiroshi Kawamura, Focal Point for the Disability Caucus for DiDRR, served as moderators in the subsequent sessions.

Noticeably, the accessibility needs of the participants at the Public Forum were taken fully into consideration. All the

presentations had Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) and sign language interpretations, and the venue was arranged in a way that maximized accessibility for the participants. Slopes and elevators were also available.

Since then, differing degrees of progress have been made in mainstreaming disability in DRR, with further good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of DiDRR. In addition, important milestones have been subsequently developed, such as the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, endorsed at the World Humanitarian Summit, and the New Urban Agenda (A/RES/71/256), adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), both in 2016, in addition to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs in which the international community made an explicit commitment to the advancement of the rights of persons with disabilities. Therefore, this report adds an overview of DiDRR including recent achievements, ongoing barriers and challenges, and international normative frameworks after the WCDRR to March 2018.

The report was developed by the University of Tokyo Komaba Organization for Educational Excellence (KOMEX), the SCRPD, Kanazawa University, National Institute of Mental Health, Japan, UNU-IIGH, and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) with contributions from the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development in partnership with global experts and practitioners.





Part 1

II. Overview: The situation of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction and emergency situations

a. Ongoing barriers and challenges

The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA): Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters was adopted at the World Conference for Disaster Reduction in 2005 to advance the inclusion of DRR in the social and economic development agenda and its implementation. Since the adoption of the HFA, progress has been achieved in reducing disaster risks at local, national, regional and global levels by countries and other stakeholders. Nevertheless, over the past ten years, disasters have continued to exact a heavy toll – more than 1.5 billion people have been affected by disasters in various ways, including over 700 thousand people losing their lives, over 1.4 million people being injured, and approximately 23 million people made homeless as a result of disasters.^[1] Moreover, disasters are increasing in intensity and frequency, and those exacerbated by climate change are significantly hindering progress toward sustainable and inclusive development. Increased exposure to disaster risks comes with significant socio-economic effects in the short, medium and long terms, especially on marginalized populations including persons with disabilities.

According to the World Report on Disability,^[2] there are more than 1 billion people living with some form of disability. Furthermore, these people (15 per cent of the world's population) face higher risks and are disproportionately affected by disasters and emergency situations. Available data reveal that the mortality rate of the population of persons with disabilities is two to four times higher than that of the population of persons without disabilities in many disaster situations.^[3] Too often, the early warning systems for disasters are not adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities and the evacuation efforts in disasters leave persons with disabilities behind owing

to a lack of accessible and inclusive preparation, planning, information, attitude, facilities and services. Most shelters and refugee camps are not accessible and inclusive, and persons with disabilities are often turned away because of stigma and discrimination, as well as through an incorrect perception that they require complex medical services.^[4]

With a people-centred approach emphasized, several key activities the HFA identified to enhance efforts to strengthen DRR have paid attention to persons with disabilities. However, no mention was made of how to promote the effective participation and potential contribution of persons with disabilities, and DiDRR was not explicitly addressed.

An online survey conducted by United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), focusing on persons with disabilities, indicates that only 10% of persons with disabilities believe that their local government has emergency, disaster management or risk reduction plans that address their access and functional needs, and only 20.6% of them reported that they could independently evacuate immediately without difficulty in the event of a sudden disaster. Furthermore, the needs of persons with disabilities tend to be overlooked during the course of post-disaster recovery and reconstruction efforts, and persons with disabilities are rarely consulted about their needs, while more than 50% of persons with disabilities expressed a desire to participate in community disaster management and risk reduction processes.^[5] Marginalized persons with disabilities, such as children and women with disabilities, migrants with disabilities, persons with invisible disabilities including persons with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities among others, tend to confront even more severe challenges.

b. International normative frameworks

The United Nations has sought to promote the inclusion, accessibility and participation of persons with disabilities in DRR strategies and policies within the context of its work to advance the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities in society and development, as well as in its work in the field of DRR.^[6]

[1] A/CONF.224/PC(II)/L.3 (2014) Post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction – Zero draft submitted by the co-chairs of the Preparatory committee, P.3.

[2] WHO and World Bank (2011) World Report on Disability.

[3] Rehabilitation International (RI), the Nippon Foundation and UNESCAP, "Sendai Statement to Promote Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilient, Inclusive and Equitable Societies in Asia and the Pacific" (24 April 2014). Available at www.riglobal.org/sendai-statement-to-promote-disability-inclusive-disaster-risk-reduction-for-resilient-inclusive-and-equitable-societies-in-asia-and-the-pacific/

[4] CRPD/CSP/2015/4.

[5] UNISDR (2014) UNISDR 2013 Survey on Living with Disabilities and Disasters.

[6] The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction builds upon the experience of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990-1999), which was launched by the General Assembly in 1989. The International Strategy embodies the principles articulated in several major documents adopted during that decade, including, in particular, the "Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action" and "A Safer World in the 21st Century: Disaster and Risk Reduction".





The commitment of the international community to promote the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society and development is deeply rooted in the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, along with numerous international instruments concerning human rights and development. Building on decades of effort by the United Nations, Member States, persons with disabilities and other stakeholders, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) (A/RES/61/106) was adopted in 2006, as a benchmark human rights and development instrument to transform the way society views disability and persons with disabilities, giving legal force to the long-standing commitment of the United Nations to recognize the equal and full participation of persons with disabilities as both agents of change and beneficiaries in society and development.

The CRPD, in Article 4.1, requires States Parties to undertake ensuring and promoting the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities without discrimination of any kind on the basis of disability. Article 11 specifically addresses persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and requires States Parties to take, in accordance with their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters. Furthermore, the CRPD, in Article 32, urges States Parties to undertake appropriate and effective measures to advance international cooperation and its promotion, including ensuring that international cooperation is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities, as well as facilitating and supporting capacity-building, including through the exchange and sharing of information, experiences, training programmes and best practices, among other relevant factors.

Meanwhile, a series of multi-lateral frameworks and declarations concerning DRR have been developed during the past decade, including the Millennium Declaration^[7] of September 2000, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction launched in 2000, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. As mentioned earlier, the HFA, more specifically, has identified key activities to enhance efforts to strengthen DRR worldwide, including developing early

warning systems that are people-centred, ensuring equal access to appropriate training and educational opportunities for women and “vulnerable” constituencies, and strengthening the implementation of social safety-net mechanisms to assist poor populations, older persons and persons with disabilities.^[8] These activities, if properly implemented, could all enhance the resilience of persons with disabilities in the face of disaster risks.

Since the adoption of the CRPD, the international community has witnessed progress in the advancement of rights of persons with disabilities. A series of international development frameworks have included the needs and perspectives of persons with disabilities to ensure a more inclusive, sustainable development for all.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, adopted at the WCDRR, emphasized empowerment and inclusive, accessible and non-discriminatory participation, paying special attention to people disproportionately affected by disasters, and recognized the importance of a perspective from persons with disabilities in all policies and practices. It also highlighted the positive contribution that persons with disabilities can make to providing a universally accessible response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. In particular, it called for the inclusion of and contributions from persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of policies, plans and standards on DRR. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 has been transformative in integrating a perspective of psychosocial well-being, and states that it is important to “enhance recovery schemes to provide psychosocial support and mental health services for all people in need.”^[9]

The urgency of inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action was also highlighted at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016. More specifically, the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, endorsed by Member States, United Nations agencies and numerous human rights networks and organizations, has reaffirmed a determination “to make humanitarian action inclusive of persons with disabilities and to take all steps to meet their essential needs and promote the protection, safety and respect for the dignity of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural

[8] The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (A/CONF.206/6).

[9] Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (A/RES/69/283) www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_69_283.pdf

[7] A/RES/55/2.



disasters.” The Charter established five actionable commitments that all humanitarian actors should aim to achieve for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action: non-discrimination; participation; inclusive policy; inclusive response and services; and cooperation and coordination.

More recently, the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016, pledged to eliminate discrimination, provide equal access to technology, employment and public services, including transport infrastructure, for persons with disabilities, and ensure their participation in decision-making processes in urban planning. All these factors are critical to building up the resilience of persons with disabilities in the face of risk and emergency situations.

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the international community also made an explicit commitment to the advancement of the rights of persons with disabilities as a global priority. On the principle of “leaving no one behind”, the 2030 Agenda explicitly recognized disability as a cross-cutting issue, and included it in the five Goals and seven Targets in the SDGs related to education, growth and employment, inequality, accessibility of human settlements, and data collection, monitoring and accountability. Moreover, persons with disabilities are recognized among those vulnerable groups for whom progress must be particularly monitored, as Member States aim to achieve universal goals concerning basic needs. Thus, mainstreaming disability has garnered momentum in moving forward the achievement of the SDGs as well as inclusive and sustainable development.

The international normative frameworks on disability and development, consisting of human rights and development instruments, provide legal and comprehensive guidance for policy-making, legislation and programme development for DiDRR. In addition, several studies indicate that integrating the needs and voices of persons with disabilities at all stages of disaster management processes, especially during planning and in developing preparedness, can significantly reduce risks and increase the effectiveness of the efforts made by various stakeholders.

The Sphere Handbook, fourth edition^[10] published in 2018, highlighted the importance of including persons with disabilities through consulting with persons with disabilities, ensuring accessibility through addressing barriers and discrimination, and undertaking disability-disaggregated

data collection utilizing the Washington Group on Disability Statistics^[11], among other considerations.

The United Nations Flagship Report on Disability and Development, launched in 2018, highlighted the rights of persons with disabilities in humanitarian contexts.

In addition, the United Nations Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS), a comprehensive strategy for ensuring the United Nations system is fit for purpose in relation to disability inclusion, was launched in June 2019.

Furthermore, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) has launched IASC Guidelines, Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action in November 2019.

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)[12] and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)[13] have issued guidance on including children with disabilities in humanitarian action and refugees with disabilities within forced displacement responses, respectively. The World Health Organization (WHO) and UNFPA issued a guidance note on promoting sexual and reproductive health for persons with disabilities.[14] All these various instruments and guidelines will assist in implementing effective DiDRR.

In particular, gender and sexual and reproductive health aspects have long been neglected. At the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, UNFPA advocated to ensure gender-sensitive DRR actions, including universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, prevention of and response to gender-based violence, and the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities alongside with women and young people in leadership roles for DRR.^{[15][16]}

[10] Sphere Association. The Sphere Handbook: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response, fourth edition, Geneva, Switzerland, 2018. www.spherestandards.org/handbook

[11] Washington Group on Disability Statistics. 2018. www.washingtongroup-disability.com

[12] Including Children with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action: Child Protection. UNICEF, 2017. training.unicef.org/disability/emergencies/protection.htm

[13] Need to Know Guidance: Working with Persons with Disabilities in Forced Displacement. UNHCR, 2011. www.unhcr.org/4ec3c81c9.pdf

[14] Promoting sexual and reproductive health for persons with disabilities: WHO/UNFPA guidance note. WHO/UNFPA, 2009. www.unfpa.org/publications/promoting-sexual-and-reproductive-health-persons-disabilities

[15] Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (2018). Ulaanbaatar Declaration.

[16] Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (2018). Action Plan 2018-2020 of the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2013.

III. Disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction

a. Progress made in mainstreaming disability in disaster risk reduction

The CRPD, particularly in Article 11, specifically prompted various political and civil actions to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities in situations of risk at both policy and programme levels worldwide.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted at the Third United Nations WCDRR, in taking an “all of society” approach that incorporated concepts of inclusion, accessibility and universal design, also motivated Member States and other key stakeholders to strengthen their efforts to advance DiDRR, with special attention to including persons with disabilities in all stages of DRR policy and programme development as well as in implementation. This approach complemented various activities related to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, particularly Goal 11 together with other Goals, and the principle of “leaving no one behind.”

In December 2015, Governments, UNISDR, regional and international NGOs working on disability and DRR and other major stakeholders gathered in Dhaka, Bangladesh, for the Dhaka Conference on Disability and Disaster Risk Management. Building upon the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the outcome document, the Dhaka Declaration on Disability and Disaster Risk Management, recognized that inclusive DRR policies and relevant and appropriate laws and regulations are essential to create an enabling environment for reducing existing disaster risks, preventing new risks, building resilient communities, and facilitating effective local, national, regional and international cooperation to increase already incremental investment in inclusive disaster risk management.^{[17][18]}

In 2017, the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction took place in Cancun, Mexico, and this has served as the main forum at the global level for strategic advice, coordination, partnership development and the review of progress in the implementation of international instruments on DRR. Concerning DiDRR more specifically, a consultative forum

was organized by United Nations DESA, UNISDR, CBM, the Assistive Technology Development Organization (ATDO), the Nippon Foundation, and Rehabilitation International. Approximately 50 participants from various sectors shared experiences of progress made concerning DiDRR in the context of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and discussed the barriers they encountered and possible ways forward.

The Asia-Pacific region is the most affected by disasters,^[19] and also one of the most active regions in mainstreaming disability in development and society. In 2012, the Incheon Strategy^[20] was adopted in Incheon, Republic of Korea, marking the conclusion of the second Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons and the launch of a new Decade. Building on the CRPD and regional frameworks for action,^[21] the Incheon Strategy set out 10 goals, 27 targets and 62 indicators through which the social, political and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities could be tracked. “Ensure disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and management” was listed as one of the standalone goals in the Incheon Strategy.

The Latin American and Caribbean region is also exposed to a wide variety of natural hazards, and the region has continued mainstreaming disability into its efforts concerning DRR. The Centro de Coordinación para la Prevención de los Desastres Naturales en América Central, for example, adopted standards in 2016 to strengthen the participation and protection of persons with disabilities in DRR and response policy and practice.

In Europe, the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) has contributed to global efforts in relation to DRR. The EUR-OPA aims to reinforce and to promote cooperation between Member States in a multi-disciplinary context to ensure better prevention, protection against risk and better preparation in the event of major natural or technological disasters, and its work focuses on allowing persons with disabilities to continue contributing to ensure better resilience in the face of disasters for persons with disabilities.^[22]

[19] Between 2011 and 2015, the region experienced 687 climate-related disasters, accounting for 45% of all disasters globally.

[20] The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (2012) Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.

[21] The Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.

[22] The Agreement’s work for persons with disabilities includes the publications “Major Hazards and People with Disabilities. Their Involvement in Disaster Preparedness and Response”, which includes guidelines for assistance and a recommendation for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in preparedness and response, and “Toolkit for Civil Protection Professionals”, which is intended to provide practical guidance for the improvement of services, plans and support for persons with disabilities in emergency situations.

[17]UNISDR (2015) The Dhaka Declaration on Disability and Disaster Risk Management adopted at the Dhaka Conference on Disability and Disaster Risk Management 2015.

[18] The Dhaka Declaration is recognized as providing practical guidance for inclusive implementation of the Sendai Framework. Countries have been urged to implement the Declaration and report progress in that regard when indicating progress in relation to the Sendai Framework.





b. Good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction

Coordination for disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction policies

Bulgaria has made a senior member of Government responsible for coordinating policy, plans and measures responsive to the needs of persons with disabilities in emergency and disaster situations. Currently, measures for persons with disabilities fall under the Natural Disaster Protection Act, which covers risk assessment, planning, risk reduction, resources, warning procedures, emergency response and rescue procedures. The Bulgarian Government has a policy to promote the integration of persons with disabilities, which is designed to take account of the needs of persons with disabilities and support them actively. European Union (EU) funding was used to create a register of persons with disabilities in Bulgaria.

Planning within the preparedness process

In the Dominican Republic, the Dominican Integral Development Institute (IDDI) has helped reduce the vulnerability of persons with disabilities in disaster situations, through promoting community-based preparedness and mitigation activities, self-protection measures, and facilitating increased coordination and emergency response capabilities among various community groups. More specifically, to build awareness of the unique needs of persons with disabilities during disasters, the IDDI has worked with 16 communities in the lower watershed of the Ozama-Isabela River, Santo Domingo Province, that are highly vulnerable to hydro-meteorological hazards, including flooding and landslides. This DRR project also strengthened coordination among advocacy groups for individuals with disabilities and local and municipal organizations within the National System of Disaster Risk Management. Additionally, the project helped to improve and adapt early warning systems, community evacuation routes, and emergency shelter facilities to more effectively meet the needs of persons with disabilities. To facilitate rapid response and ensure communities are adequately equipped to meet a variety of differing needs during a disaster, the IDDI provides training, tools, and equipment to the community emergency committees, including wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, stretchers, megaphones, two-way radios, emergency lanterns, and first-aid supplies.

In the Philippines, the National Council on Disability Affairs has established DiDRR programmes which all local government units are required to implement. These

programmes include capacity building for key stakeholders, participatory capacity vulnerability assessment, psychosocial support for persons with disabilities and their families, and the development of local inclusive rehabilitation and reconstruction plans. In seeking to implement these programmes, the Government and NGOs including organizations of persons with disabilities are collaborating closely. Various planning, policy and implementation system development programmes, and training, are proceeding, involving the Center for Disaster Preparedness, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the National Council on Disability Affairs, the Department of Health, the Office of Civil Defense, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, local government units, academia, NGOs and organizations of persons with disabilities.

In Japan, the Kumamoto Organization of Persons with Developmental Disability Little bit developed an information card for persons with disabilities on which possible challenges and desirable reasonable accommodations can be written in an easy-to-fill-in and easy-to-communicate form. This idea was based on lessons learned during the response to the strong earthquake in 2016 when the various barriers faced by persons with developmental disorders, for whom loud sound, bright light, unexpected events, and other aspects of emergencies can be stressful, were not well understood. Some individuals experienced substantial stress and even committed self-harming behaviours. The information card enables persons with disabilities to convey necessary messages in crisis situations when one might find communicating with words difficult. The process of filling in the card in and of itself also promotes preparedness among persons with disabilities. The Kumamoto Organization of Persons with Developmental Disability Little bit also began sharing lessons via the media and organizing awareness-raising workshops among humanitarian stakeholders. In these workshops, dialogues with persons with disabilities, rather than one-way lectures, are extensively employed so that misunderstandings and stigma can be addressed and individual differences can be understood.

Alongside the Government of Australia, UNFPA launched a four-year programme in 2018 in the Pacific subregion to transform the lives of women, adolescents and youth, with an emphasis on inclusion of marginalized groups, with special attention to persons with disabilities and survivors of gender-based violence. With a range of national, regional and global partners, UNFPA is working to increase the availability of high-quality sexual and reproductive health services and to

develop health workers' skills while aligning guidelines and protocols with international standards. UNFPA and partners expand evidence-based policies and programmes that support this work in DRR and emergency preparedness and response.

Raising awareness and capacity development

In Uganda, the National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU), an umbrella NGO comprising persons with disabilities in Uganda who advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities, is implementing a DiDRR project alongside the Norwegian Association of Disabled to help build resilience among persons with disabilities in disaster-prone districts. In response to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the project has started training persons with disabilities and their organizations on DiDRR. The training includes topics such as how to ensure inclusion and accessibility in DRR activities at both national and district levels. In addition, the NUDIPU has conducted advocacy campaigns, established partnerships with research institutions, engaged with the media on DRR and disabilities, conducted training of trainers, and developed minimum indicators for DiDRR through reviewing existing policies and laws on DRR. As a result, various stakeholders at district and national levels have started to include persons with disabilities in their programmes as active contributors.

Data collection

In 2013, the Council of Europe introduced an initiative which involved sending a questionnaire on DRR and emergency preparedness for persons with disabilities to all 26 member countries of the EUR-OPA and other members of the Council of Europe.^[23] Utilizing these data, based on the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020^[24], active inclusion and full participation of person with disabilities are monitored. A progress report^[25] was published in 2017.

In Kumamoto, Japan, when a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck right after a magnitude 6.2 earthquake, some persons with disabilities experienced exclusion from evacuation sites, including persons with mental health conditions, psychosocial disabilities and intellectual disabilities, among others. Organizations for persons with disabilities had to establish their own evacuation sites to provide accommodations and basic services. However, even among evacuation sites developed by organizations of persons with disabilities, some persons with disabilities were refused access. Those excluded persons with

disabilities tended to be out of reach in terms of data collection, and real situation and needs were not reflected in planning and decision-making. Based on that experience, the Kumamoto Organization of Persons with Developmental Disability Little bit is advocating for changing this, and they are developing a data collection system to reach out to and include those who are excluded from social services such as evacuation sites.

Emergency response

In Belgium, text messages have been used to alert deaf people to emergency situations.

In Norway, hospitals, nursing homes, and home care assistants have a general obligation to evacuate persons with reduced mobility in an emergency.

The Republic of Serbia has designed a pilot project to enable persons with hearing and speech impairments to contact emergency services on emergency numbers in an accessible manner in case of need that has been ongoing since 2013.

In New Zealand, disaster services such as emergency call centres have been made accessible to persons with disabilities. In addition, a specific call centre was set up for persons with disabilities to address their needs or refer them to appropriate services. Further, firefighters have created a unit of officers who speak sign language. During the aftermath of the Christchurch earthquake in 2011, sign language interpreters were used in all television information sessions as well.

In the United States, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has dedicated a part of its website to information resources for persons with disabilities. The website offers advice on how to support persons with disabilities and explains projects that were implemented to improve access and support for persons with disabilities following Hurricane Katrina.

In the United States, occupational health and safety requirements require an occupant emergency plan to be drawn up for major buildings. For the safe and successful evacuation of persons with disabilities, the installation and use of guidance systems, planning of alternative accessible exits, the installation of visual and acoustic alarms, special signage for persons with visual impairments and ensuring that obstacles are not present along evacuation routes are required.

One key to the success of programmes is the inclusion of persons with disabilities, and their representatives, in the decision-making process. Another is the inclusion of these programmes as an essential component within government policy-making and legislative processes, with many countries starting to act in this matter. Providing greater safety for

[23] EUR-OPA (2013) Questionnaire on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction. APCAT 2013. European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA), Council of Europe, Strasbourg.

[24] eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0636:FIN:en:PDF

[25] cc.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=16995&langId=en







persons with disabilities should be neither optional nor something that can be “left until later”, as it is a matter of basic rights. Planning, training and the provision of information are essential to ensure that these basic rights are guaranteed, along with processes involving sharing information, learning from good practice and standardizing approaches between countries.

Mental well-being and psychosocial support in disasters

The IASC, which is a platform involving a broad range of United Nations and non-United Nations humanitarian organizations, issued the IASC Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings in 2007. The Guidelines integrated disability perspectives in various sectors. The Psychological First Aid (PFA): Guide for Field Workers published by WHO, War Trauma Foundation and World Vision, in 2011, has been widely used in various emergency settings to enable a humane, supportive response to fellow human beings including persons with disabilities who are suffering and who may need support. For example, in Japan, the PFA orientation sessions have been implemented by the National Information Centre for Disaster Mental Health for more than 5000 people since 2012. The World Bank Tokyo Development Learning Center, in collaboration with UNU-IIGH and the National Institute of Mental Health, Japan, has instituted distant learning on PFA with connecting groups of Government officials and practitioners in China, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, Nepal, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. A self-learning PFA e-module was also launched for public use globally by the University of Tokyo, Kanazawa University, United Nations, the National Institute of Mental Health, Japan, UNU-IIGH, UNFPA and other partners with support from the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development.^[26]

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), together with the Government of China as well as local municipalities, implemented a capacity development programme on psychosocial support in Sichuan, China, from 2009 to 2014, after the Sichuan Great Earthquake. It integrated DiDRR perspectives in its policy development and activities implementation through including organizations of persons with disabilities. The programme paid special attention to inclusion of all persons with disabilities including persons with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities as well as persons with intellectual disabilities.

Muntinlupa City in the Philippines often experiences floods

and fire. The City Health Office has been providing training on mental health and psychosocial support after crises to community health workers and other key stakeholders, with a special focus on including persons with disabilities among participants. In addition, the Office has been conducting community-based research on mental health and psychosocial well-being and human rights including disability rights, and resilience, in order to develop globally comparative scales and identify rights-based needs, in collaboration with Kanazawa University and the University of Tokyo, Japan (see Annex IV and V).

The Ministry of Health in Malaysia dispatched a psychosocial support team to Malaysia and China when a scheduled passenger flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing went missing. The team coordinated and provided psychosocial support to the family members of passengers on the flight while ensuring the use of disability-inclusive and gender- and culture-sensitive approaches that were reflective of the multicultural and diverse backgrounds of international passengers.

Moreover, a European Commission-funded project, “European Network for Psychosocial Crisis Management – Assisting Disabled in Case of Disaster,” has been designed to promote the integration of psychosocial support into disaster management for persons with disabilities.

Recovery

Following severe floods in 2010, the Government of Pakistan put in place a nation-wide social safety net programme that has successfully reached an estimated eight million flood-affected people. The programme proved that beneficiary registration and information management systems that include disability within social protection programmes can facilitate more inclusive vulnerability targeting for large-scale disaster responses including one-time cash transfer payments for housing damage and crop loss. The strategy resulted in increased coverage of households headed by persons with disabilities.

Mainstreaming the social model and mobilizing young people as agents of change

The CRPD states “Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.” This Article reflects a paradigm shift from the “medical model” to the “social model.” The “social model” understands disability to be due to social barriers caused by a lack of reasonable accommodation and by exclusion, and not caused by individual characteristics or

[26] Psychological First Aid e-Orientations. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrWjmBOuKQBdk734agp5XN09ciQ1c-WfQ>

medical conditions. Promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities requires efforts by everyone within society, to remove physical, psychological and social barriers. In particular, persistent attitudinal barriers affect the minds of people on the ground. Article 8 requires the adoption of immediate, effective and appropriate measures “to raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding persons with disabilities, and to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities” as well as “to combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices relating to persons with disabilities, including those based on sex and age, in all areas of life.”

In 2016, UNFPA, with financial support from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, and a host of partners launched WE DECIDE, a programme that aims to strengthen the voices and participation of young people with disabilities on the issues and policies that affect them. Through advocacy, a global study was launched in 2018 to strengthen national laws and policies that foster social inclusion and gender equality for the benefit of young persons with disabilities, especially young women and girls, who face high levels of gender-based violence. The programme aims to eliminate discrimination and promote their rights to be active members of society. Subsequently, UNFPA, along with Women Enabled International (WEI), produced guidelines for women and young persons with disabilities, providing practical suggestions for making gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health services, including cross-cutting mental health and psychosocial support services, more inclusive and accessible and targeting interventions to meet their disability-specific needs.^[27]

In Japan, a group of young people initiated the “EMPOWER Project”, which promotes “coming-out by supporters” with a “magenta star” logo. Rather than taking coming out by persons with disabilities or other marginalized populations for granted, the project promotes expressing one’s intention to “support” others so that those who want support can easily recognize supporters, and strengthen social support networks among community members. Many needs after crises or in daily living can be supported by non-professionals. If the needs are beyond the capability of a supporter, that supporter can link the person in need to someone who might be able to provide better support, including professionals. The EMPOWER Project is innovative in its focus on the needs of individuals rather than on individual attributes, and in viewing differences based on

age, gender, disability or nationality not as stereotypic barriers but as resources. This approach helps to promote the concept of a social model of disability, and to empower both persons with disabilities and those who want to support others through removing barriers and making society more inclusive and resilient. The EMPOWER Project has been collaborating with UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women, UNU, United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), Pierre Hermé Paris, and other related organizations.

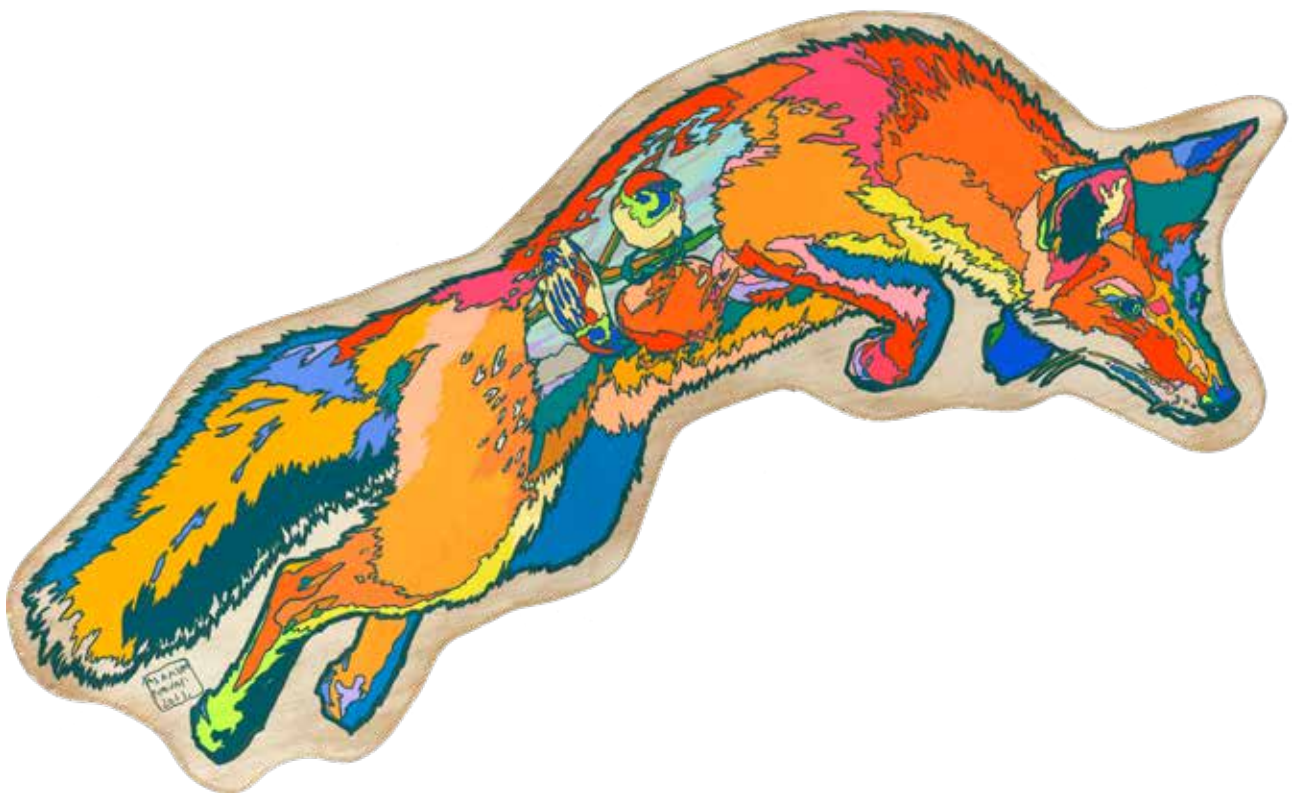
Persons with disabilities as active agents

When the Great East Japan earthquake occurred in 2011, numerous persons with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities in Minamisoma City, Fukushima Prefecture, faced challenges in accessing social, employment and health services after many of the local systems were temporarily shut down due to damage caused by the disaster. Local groups of persons with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities together with members from an organization of persons with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities in Ota Ward in Tokyo, as well as other local stakeholders working in the social protection sector, initiated a transportation service involving coordinating cars and drivers so that persons with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities could continue accessing social, employment and health services that were critical for many of them. This activity was made possible thanks to the rapid provision of financial support from a fund of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. The service started to expand to include other persons with disabilities, and still provides services after 7 years.

During the earthquake, there were many persons with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities including children who were excluded even from “inclusive” evacuation sites. Some were rejected or asked to leave at up to 20 sites. Organizations of persons with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities in the disaster-affected areas and other areas in Japan including Tokyo started collaboration with Government stakeholders, academic institutions and young people to develop inter-disciplinary and multi-faceted countermeasures based on that negative experience.

[27] UNFPA (2018). Women and Young Persons with Disabilities: Guidelines for Providing Rights-Based and Gender-Responsive Services to Address Gender-Based Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights







Part 2

IV. Outcome of the meeting: Overall conclusions and recommendations

The Public Forum reviewed the situation of persons with disabilities in disasters and shared experiences and lessons learned in the past. The importance of knowledge sharing, capacity building and prioritization of emerging issues, such as the utilization of innovative technologies and the inclusion of mental and psychosocial perspectives in all aspects of DRR, were highlighted. The Public Forum also assessed current policies and practices in DiDRR in terms of how to ensure that the rights and aspirations of persons with disabilities are protected and promoted, and on how to more effectively implement DiDRR.

To truly leave no one behind and to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, including persons with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities as well as persons with intellectual disabilities, it is critical to include persons with disabilities at all stages of DRR. Recognizing persons with disabilities as agents of change, and incorporating disability perspectives into disaster prevention, preparedness and response, require securing accessibility to critical information and appropriate education, and actively engaging persons with disabilities at all levels.

The Public Forum therefore made the following recommendations for all stakeholders:

- (1) Protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities;
- (2) Ensure the proactive participation of persons with disabilities as leaders;
- (3) Obtain evidence-based information and data disaggregated by disability, with sufficient attention to diverse and differing needs among persons with disabilities;
- (4) Ensure accessible information, attitudes, infrastructure, venues, transportation and services, without marginalizing groups of people such as persons with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities as well as persons with intellectual disabilities;
- (5) Include disability perspectives in all humanitarian action policies and programmes in and across the relevant sectors;
- (6) Increase the resilience of entire communities, with special attention to socially marginalized populations such as women, young people, and persons with disabilities

including persons with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities;

- (7) Empower and develop the capacity of all stakeholders including national and local governments, humanitarian actors, volunteers, young people, and the general public as well as persons with disabilities, and promote mutual support at all levels;
- (8) Incorporate emerging issues, such as mental and psychosocial well-being, as well as the application of innovative technologies, into DiDRR policies and programmes;
- (9) Promote international cooperation through sharing knowledge and experiences among countries and regions;
- (10) Ensure effective public-private partnerships and interdisciplinary multi-stakeholder networks.

V. Summary of the proceedings

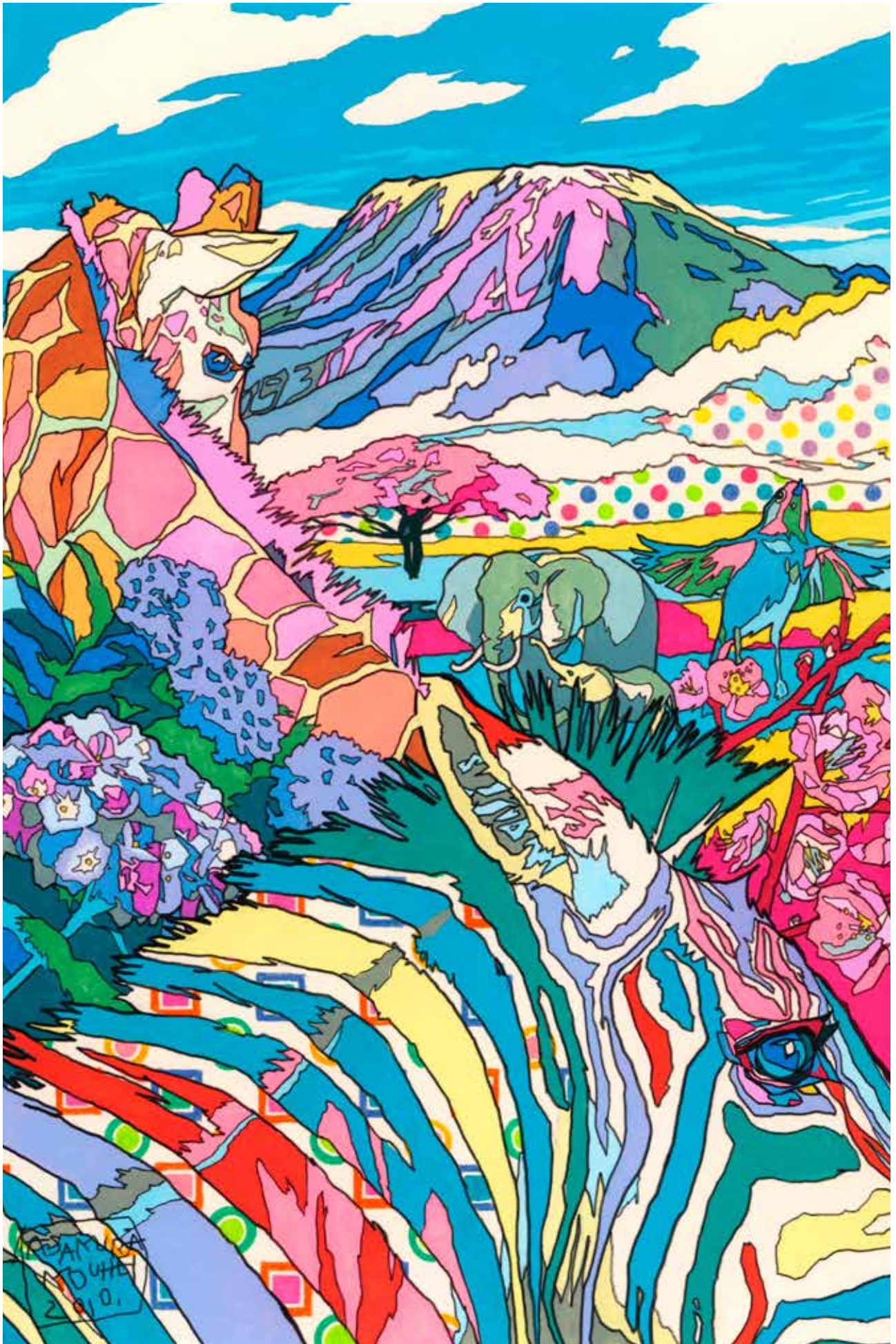
a) Opening: An overview of disability inclusion in disaster risk reduction

In the opening session, the speakers stressed the importance of a DiDRR framework from their respective perspectives. The mortality rate due to the 2011 earthquake in Japan was twice as high for persons with disabilities compared to the general population,^[28] and this fact clearly illustrated the importance and urgency of including persons with disabilities in the DRR framework and policies. The speakers reaffirmed the common objective to advance DiDRR.

In her opening and welcome statement, Ms. Akiko Ito, Chief of the SCRPD, DSPD, United Nations DESA, on behalf of the co-organizers and co-sponsors of the Public Forum, stated that the purpose of the forum was to share experiences and lessons learned in the critical domain of DiDRR and to explore feasible options for the advancement of DRR for all. She raised four questions to facilitate the discussions that followed;

- (1) What are the good practices in DiDRR that have successfully overcome the obstacles/challenges encountered in DiDRR? How and why were they successful?
- (2) What specific DRR policies have worked in including a disability perspective and in engaging persons with disabilities in mainstream DRR efforts?
- (3) From the disability perspective, what are the priorities for

[28] A survey by NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) conducted in 2011 revealed this disproportionate ratio.



DiDRR? Who can do what in making these priorities an integral part of the priorities of mainstream DRR policies, programmes, guidelines and practice?

- (4) How could multi-stakeholder partnerships fast-track the implementation of the disability-inclusive Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 at global, national and local levels? What are good practices? How do we build effective multi-stakeholder networks and partnerships toward a global DiDRR movement to strengthen overall DRR, resilience and reconstruction?

The discussions in the following sessions centred around these questions to allow the audience and presenters to deepen their understanding on these critical issues.

Mr. Jerry Velasquez, Director, Advocacy and Outreach, UNISDR, referred to a survey conducted by UNISDR in 2013,^[29] in which 5,000 persons with disabilities were interviewed. The survey findings suggested that there were three key factors needed to achieve DiDRR, namely, the inclusion of persons with disabilities, awareness-raising on DiDRR among persons with disabilities, and effective communication networks among persons with disabilities and with local/national governments. Mr. Velasquez further pointed out that many local or national governments did not commit fully to the inclusion of persons with disabilities, and the needs of persons with disabilities, in terms of infrastructure development especially, needed to be addressed more thoroughly.

Mr. Ede Ijjasz-Vasquez, Senior Director, Social, Urban, Rural, and Resilience Global Practice, World Bank Group, stated that less developed countries were more likely to be negatively affected by disasters, and that sometimes disasters could severely impede their development efforts. More often, less developed countries did not have adequate capacity and resources to address the unique needs of persons with disabilities, and he highlighted that the World Bank Group would continue to mobilize its resources to coordinate post-crisis response frameworks that were inclusive of persons with disabilities and that would enhance the resilience of countries to crises. The eradication of poverty and sharing prosperity were identified as critical in supporting persons with disabilities. Mr. Ijjasz-Vasquez also referred to the measures and policies employed by the Pakistani and Japanese Governments to advance DiDRR, in order to provide concrete examples illustrating lessons learned from past experiences. He concluded

that the needs of persons with disabilities must be taken into consideration to the fullest extent and that all stakeholders need to be committed to DiDRR.

Mr. Kingo Toyoda, Deputy Director General, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, stressed that persons with disabilities must be included in DRR programmes. He pointed out that Japan was committed to the improvement of human security, which should be an integral part of DiDRR. Mr. Toyoda also emphasized that Japan was willing to share with other countries the knowledge and technologies that it had developed in coping with disasters.

Mr. Futoshi Toba, Mayor of the city of Rikuzentakata, Japan, stated that all the citizens in Rikuzentakata had been severely affected in various ways after the Great East Japan Earthquake of 11 March 2011. He stressed the importance of the unique needs of persons with disabilities, and that the views of persons with disabilities should be incorporated in recovery processes. The mayor also pointed out that older persons sometimes faced similar challenges in disaster situations. He was determined to make Rikuzentakata a city inclusive for all.

Mr. Desmond Swayne, Minister of State, Department for International Development (DFID), United Kingdom, presented the United Kingdom Government's policy that was designed to include persons with disabilities in strategic manners. The Minister further stated that strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities should be formulated and employed by all stakeholders, including national Governments and civil society organizations.

Mr. Katsunori Fujii, President, JDF, highlighted the finding that the mortality rate of persons with disabilities was twice as high as that of the general population in the Great East Japan Earthquake. He also referred to a survey conducted by the JDF, explaining that each prefecture faced different challenges in addressing the needs of persons with disabilities after the earthquake. A short video was shown to the floor during his presentation, and the experiences and narratives of persons with disabilities affected by the earthquake and tsunami were shared. Mr. Fujii also noted that all stakeholders needed to continue providing essential support for persons with disabilities during the recovery phase as well.

Mr. Yasunobu Ishii from the Nippon Foundation spoke of various initiatives undertaken by the Nippon Foundation in DiDRR. The Nippon Foundation, for example, had held sessions with the theme of "accessibility to information" on several occasions with persons with disabilities. He emphasized that persons with disabilities needed to be recognized as active

[29] The key findings of this survey can be accessed at: www.unisdr.org/2014/iddr/documents/2013_DisabilitySurveyReport_030714.pdf

participants in advancing DiDRR, instead of as a “mere group of vulnerable people.”

Senator Kerryann Ifill from Barbados delivered her perspectives both as a senator of Barbados and as a person with disabilities. She welcomed the ratification of the CRPD by the parliament of Barbados. She pointed out that, while many of the challenges in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities have been recognized, momentum needed to be generated to fully address these challenges. Therefore, the senator encouraged persons with disabilities to take leadership roles in policy making in order to contribute to DiDRR. Finally, she stressed that persons with disabilities needed to consider their own human rights not as something endowed by their Governments but as their inherent rights.

Senator Njoroge Ben Githuku from Kenya, as a legislator and as a person with a disability, explained that the living standard of persons with disabilities had been deteriorating over the past two decades due to the fact that a number of countries, including Kenya, had been exposed to a wide range of disasters. In this regard, the senator highlighted the efforts that Kenya had been making to support persons with disabilities. Particularly, in terms of legislation, the Constitution of Kenya has articles concerning affirmative actions for persons with disabilities; for example, 5% of Kenyan senators are required to be persons with disabilities. In addition, he emphasized that persons with disabilities needed to take active roles themselves in formulating strategies to improve their lives. He highlighted the Kenyan Government’s commitment towards the implementation of the HFA and the importance of community involvement and public participation in DRR planning and implementation. More specifically, Senator Githuku maintained that persons with disabilities needed to be included and play a key role in addressing a variety of issues, through more active participation in public affairs. Governments should always take into account the knowledge and expertise of persons with disabilities in mobilizing communities into action to reduce the risks of potential disasters through ensuring stronger collaboration.

b) Session I: Experience and lessons learned related to the advancement of disaster risk reduction

Moderator: Ms. Miki Ebara, NHK World Editor-in-Chief

This session consisted of sharing experiences and lessons learned on the ground in the implementation of advancing

DiDRR, in particular, in relation to the Great East Japan Earthquake and DiDRR. This session aimed to deepen and enhance the participants’ understanding on what actually happened in the catastrophic situation after the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Mr. Naoki Kurano from the JDF and the Japanese Federation of the Deaf highlighted that disasters expose failings within societies, and that persons with disabilities bore both physical and mental burdens in all phases of disasters, ranging from the disaster event to evacuation, the provision of shelter and the reconstruction of daily living. He referred to the mortality rate of persons with disabilities in the Great East Japan Earthquake being double of that of the general population, which could be explained as due to a lack of disability perspectives in DRR measures prior to the earthquake, more specially, that disaster planning had failed to include persons with disabilities and their perspectives, that there had been insufficient support provided to persons with disabilities during the ordinary or non-emergency period. After the earthquake, the JDF established a central headquarters for disaster relief for deaf people to support persons with disabilities in cooperation with other supporters. However, a variety of difficulties remained. For example, the Private Information Protection Law in Japan prevented them from accessing relevant information on the affected population in evacuation shelters, which delayed their initial response to the disaster. He concluded, therefore, that partnerships with local governments should be established to prepare for disasters before they occur. Regarding information and communication, the JDF had requested the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare to dispatch experts on communication (i.e. sign language interpreters and note-takers) as well as social workers trained in the field of mental health and psychosocial support to the affected areas. However, these services were expensive, and it was also difficult for the experts to leave their routine work for an extended period. In particular, a need for psychosocial support to address the fears of residents in areas contaminated by radiation had been urgently required. Based on his experience, he made five recommendations. First, persons with disabilities should be involved in the decision-making processes of disaster prevention plans. Second, networks among local municipalities, welfare organizations, disabilities-related organizations and medical/health care organizations should be established. Third, facilities intended for disaster restoration housing and evacuation shelters should be developed to conform with the principles of universal design. Fourth, systems to enable persons with







disabilities to access information and communicate with others should be established throughout the different stages of disaster response. Fifth, education and raising awareness were essential for persons with disabilities.

Mr. Futoshi Toba, Mayor of the city of Rikuzentakata, Japan, stated that the voices of persons with disabilities were critically important to hear in order to design effective plans. Local governments would be able to provide more effective support when taking the viewpoints of persons with disabilities into consideration. In Rikuzentakata, multiple approaches to disaster prevention, such as the construction of breakwaters and raising the ground level of low-lying land close to the seacoast, have been promoted. The city was determined to engage persons with disabilities in its decision-making processes, as the participation of all was necessary to realize more effective and inclusive DRR. He also shared his experience of working with the JDF. He believed that the needs of persons with disabilities should be a priority in emergency situations. Everyone needed to act based on what was most important in emergency settings.

Former Senator Monthian Buntan from Thailand described his experience in disasters in Thailand as well as how he supported persons with disabilities. He stressed that disaster prevention systems needed to reflect the viewpoints of all communities as whole. When a tsunami hit Phuket in 2004, persons with disabilities were left behind. Therefore, the Government of Thailand, in collaboration with Dr. Hiroshi Kawamura and the Nippon Foundation, organized conferences on disaster preparedness in 2007 and 2009, which addressed issues related to DiDRR. He considered that the term “inclusion” meant participation and accessibility. In this regard, accessibility to knowledge needed to be considered as a prerequisite to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of DRR. During flooding in Bangkok in 2011, the Thailand Association of the Blind made efforts to establish communication systems for persons with disabilities, such as a call centre for emergency calls. Further, a headquarters involving relevant national associations built temporary shelters. A national plan for the prevention and mitigation of disasters adopted by the Cabinet in 2008 had not been as effective as intended on roll-out, due to a lack of coordination among stakeholders, including local communities, Government, and organizations of persons with disabilities. In addition, persons with disabilities had not fully participated in the development of the plan. After the disaster in 2011, persons with disabilities in Thailand decided to organize a national forum and came up with a more comprehensive plan on disability-inclusive disaster

management, which was proposed to the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. Persons with disabilities needed to participate in the decision-making processes for DiDRR as relevant development partners and human rights holders.

Ms. Akiko Fukuda, Secretary-General, World Federation of the Deafblind, pointed out that it was often difficult for the deafblind to be recognized by others as persons with disabilities by appearance. She described her work among community independent assistance councils that operate in each local municipality in Tokyo, and highlighted the importance of community services for persons with disabilities. She stated that the unique experience and knowledge of the deafblind should be included within global efforts concerning DRR and management, and therefore, she regularly participated in discussions at local and global levels to contribute to DRR alongside others, including local government staff and case workers. It was critical to pay more attention to persons with disabilities as active contributors so that the perspectives and expertise of persons with disabilities could be incorporated into the decision-making processes of local government.

Ms. Marcie Roth, FEMA, United States, explained that the mission of the FEMA involved offering opportunities for everyone to prepare for, be protected against, respond to, recover from and mitigate all disasters. It was critical that activities and programmes to enhance preparedness be provided without any form of discrimination. In other words, the functional needs of vulnerable groups needed to be considered, and the consistent and active engagement of all stakeholders was necessary in recovery processes. She identified three pillars of “whole community inclusive practice”, namely, physical accessibility, effective communication accessibility, and programme accessibility. Physical accessibility to information for all, including persons with disabilities and persons with limited language proficiencies or low literacy, had to be secured. In this regard, the format of communication had to be taken into consideration, so that all persons with disabilities could use it effectively. Concerning programme accessibility, this aspect concerned how people and communities affected by disasters could return to their normal life in terms of education and employment. She stated that the FEMA had hired 70 disabilities integration advisors as well as persons with a variety of disabilities to integrate their views into the work of the FEMA. She also stressed the importance of capacity building for local communities before, during and after disasters as it was critical to develop leaders and experts in DiDRR within

local communities. She further emphasized that the needs of persons with disabilities were neither special nor unique; they were useful, important and necessary to ensure resilience for all people.

Dr. Alex Camacho, Technical Secretary of Disability, Government of Ecuador, discussed what Ecuador had been doing to support persons with disabilities in relation to disasters and hazards. In Ecuador, there is a substantial risk of disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, droughts and floods, and issues concerning persons with disabilities have been one of the most important issues on the national agenda. National research conducted in 2009 indicated that more than 50 % of persons with disabilities had limited mobility, approximately 50 % lived in high risk areas, and more than 23 % lived alone. Ecuador started the process to implement DiDRR in 2011 after the Great East Japan Earthquake. In 2013, the country devised a strategy for DiDRR, and a pilot plan based on DiDRR was developed. An emergency operation committee was established in 2011 and had opportunities to engage in discussions with persons with disabilities living near the coast. Dr. Camacho also described the efforts made to obtain precise and reliable data and information about persons with disabilities. For example, researchers interviewed persons with disabilities to understand better their situation and risks. This research had contributed to the improvement of the national emergency policy. A system using overly advanced technology was ineffective if persons with disabilities did not have a device to use it. With that in mind, Ecuador was developing community warning alert systems. Dr. Camacho stated that it was also important to hold workshops to teach sign languages as well as on how to support persons with disabilities and how to evacuate them during disasters. He also addressed the importance of community-based rehabilitation, and stated that there were ongoing projects aimed at lifting persons with disabilities out of poverty and at developing resilience. He provided details of a “Banós agua santa” project as a case study of volcanic disaster risk management. He had conducted analysis on where persons with disabilities and older persons tended to be located and had created a map which indicated where the high, middle, and low risk zones were. Sharing information among neighbouring regions and countries was also stated to be beneficial, and Ecuador had worked with Bolivia, Chili, Columbia, Venezuela and Peru.

c) Session II: The present and future of DiDRR: DiDRR policies, programme and implementation

Moderator: Dr. Takashi Izutsu, Senior Knowledge Management Officer, World Bank Group

This session discussed how to successfully advance DiDRR policies and implementation in global, regional, national and local contexts. The discussion included good practices in relation to the removal of physical, social and cultural barriers to DiDRR as well as “emerging DiDRR issues”, such as mental health and psychosocial well-being, social groups with increased vulnerabilities and promotion of the use of DiDRR technologies. The panellists reached the conclusion that each stakeholder involved needed to take the initiative and voice their perspectives on DiDRR.

Prof. Toshiya Ueki, Vice Chancellor of Tohoku University, shared the experiences of the university with regard to the Great East Japan Earthquake. He stated that the Tohoku region had been vigilant concerning earthquakes for at least 30 years, and a variety of preventive measures had been taken. However, according to Prof. Ueki, even though the university had been taking precautions, many issues arose after the earthquake. He stressed that the university needed to continue to make multiple efforts in appropriate ways to enhance DiDRR policies given the number of issues remaining unaddressed.

Dr. Hiroshi Kawamura, Focal point for the Disability Caucus for DiDRR, highlighted the types of persons who were particularly vulnerable in disasters and how to support those persons through consideration of their needs. In this regard, he emphasised three critical points in relation to DiDRR: (1) accessibility for emergency drills, (2) daily DRR work in the community in non-emergency time, and (3) outreach activities by academia. Concerning accessibility for emergency drills, he stated that making reasonable and informed decisions in disasters was critical, which would be more likely if emergency drills were undertaken in advance. Concerning daily DRR work in the community, he referred to the fact that numerous people had died in the Great East Japan Earthquake even before emergency responses were initiated. Therefore, it was essential to engage citizens in DRR work on a daily basis so that they could survive in critical situations before emergency response efforts reached affected regions. Concerning outreach activities by academia, citizens needed to learn about DiDRR to ensure communities were fully informed. To that end, experts needed to translate technical languages and vocabularies into easy-to-





understand terminology to guarantee that an appropriate level of knowledge was communicated to communities.

Prof. Norito Kawakami, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Tokyo, spoke from the perspective of mental health conditions and psychosocial disability. Numerous individuals had suffered from mental health conditions due to the Great East Japan Earthquake and from the stressful life that followed. He introduced to the floor some initiatives and experiences from the earthquake, including special shelters provided for persons with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities, and capacity building on DRR undertaken for persons with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities. He emphasized that mental well-being should be enhanced through strengthening community resilience. In this context, he considered it critical for persons with disabilities themselves to raise their voices to provide their perspectives.

Senator Kerryann Ifill from Barbados emphasized the importance of implementing programmes suitable for everyone, including persons with disabilities. She addressed the necessity to remove barriers that exclude persons with disabilities from policy-making processes. She also stressed that everyone should take action at community level as well as in relation to policy-making or legislative processes in implementing DiDRR policies and programmes. Finally, the importance of universal design was emphasized as a critical factor in DiDRR since anyone could become vulnerable, not only persons with disabilities but also older persons and those who live in dangerous places.

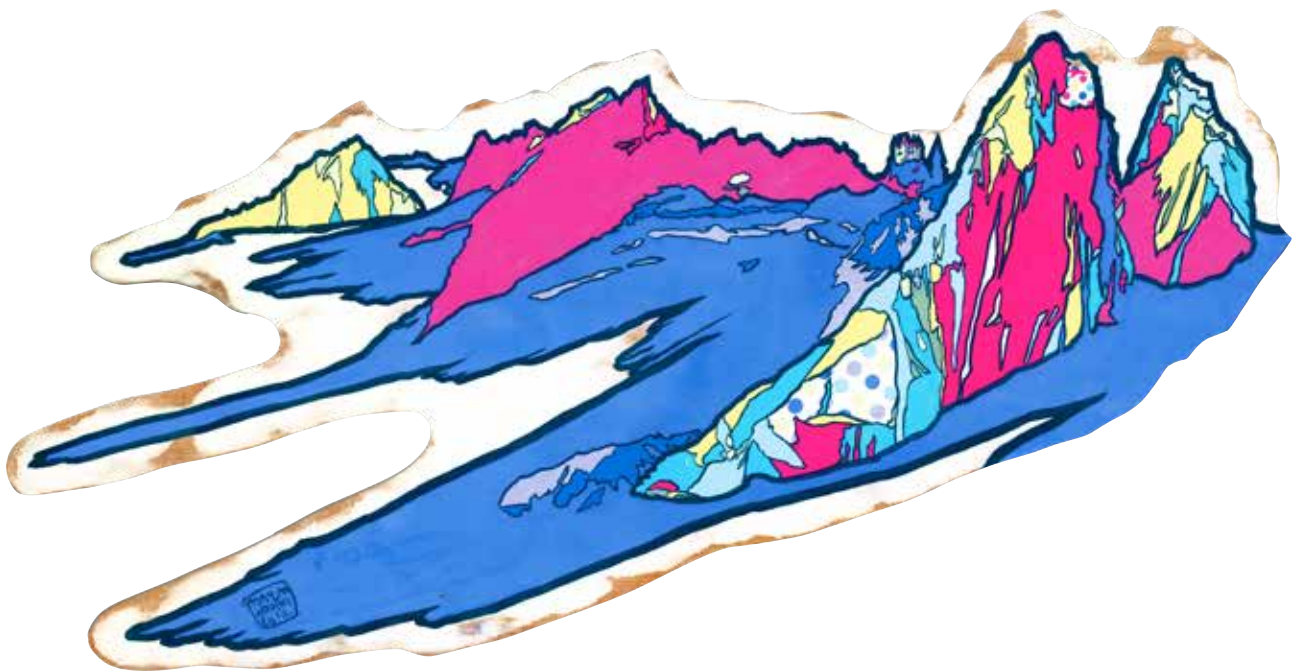
Mr. Adam Kosa from the European Parliament made his presentation using sign language. He first provided an overview of the situation in Europe concerning natural disasters from 1980 to 2008, then reviewed the DRR measures and policies deployed in the EU, including the new EU Civil Protection Mechanism. He addressed the importance of factors such as technological services in disasters and the work of the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). Concerning the former, he described the usage of smart phones to search for people in disaster-affected areas. Such devices were accessible for everyone including persons with disabilities and thus highly useful. Concerning the latter, ECHO was established to cover all the affected population in disasters. It also incorporated the perspectives of persons with disabilities into strategy-making processes for DRR. In conclusion, he emphasized that all of society, not only persons with disabilities, needed to be

responsible for making efforts to realize inclusive DRR and that the active participation of persons with disabilities was critical.

Mr. Takashi Kubota, Deputy Mayor of the city of Rikuzentakata, Japan, shared survey results concerning evacuations following the Great East Japan Earthquake. The key factor influencing whether one would survive was whether evacuation was possible. When differentiating between those who did not evacuate and those who could not evacuate, he noted the necessity to provide support to the latter. He also made known to the audience his city's efforts to establish user-friendly evacuation systems to facilitate evacuation processes in case of future potential disasters. As the Deputy Mayor of the city of Rikuzentakata, he promised to ensure that universal design was applied in developing such systems.

Mr. Matthew Rodieck from Rehabilitation International, together with Mr. Gordon Rattray, a researcher from CBM who represented persons with disabilities, stressed that stakeholders should never be satisfied with the mere usage of the word "accessibility." It was critical to ensure that all the stakeholders concerned worked together to ensure that the process of mainstreaming disability was implemented in development efforts rather than indulging in rhetorical usage of the word "accessibility".

Ms. Valerie Scherrer from CBM discussed the transition from the HFA to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and shared the CBM's position with regard to the Sendai Framework. First, the CRPD needed to be implemented. Second, the HFA was an instrument which was especially helpful in implementing the CRPD. Third, the CBM hoped that the contents of the HFA would not be downscaled. Fourth, every Government had a responsibility to use its powers to benefit all stakeholders. Fifth, the international community should not discontinue monitoring processes to ensure the quality of life of persons with disabilities. She stressed that persons with disabilities had been disproportionately affected by disasters, and pointed out that the promotion of the principles of universal design, the preservation and utilization of disaggregated data and effective transfer of knowledge were essential in the implementation of DRR.





d) Session III: A way forward: Steps toward realization of DiDRR

Moderator: Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura (Focal point for the Disability Caucus for DiDRR)

This segment focused on “next steps” for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. It examined the role of Governments, the United Nations, organizations of persons with disabilities and other disability and civil society organizations, expert/academic communities, private foundations as well as the private sector, and how they could go beyond “boundaries” to achieve the goal of disability-inclusion in DRR, resilience and reconstruction. The discussion also explored and took stock of ways and means to strengthen global/regional/national and local networks and build new partnerships for concrete results in implementing DiDRR. The speakers expressed their opinions, respectively, on what steps were necessary for the effective realization of DiDRR. The topics focused on in this session included monitoring and evaluating measures for the implementation of DiDRR policies at various levels, sharing information technology and collaboration among different organizations. Speakers reaffirmed the importance of the CRPD.

Ms. Marcie Roth, FEMA, United States, expressed her views regarding “social inclusion.” She stated that the term “social inclusion” had become an important part of DRR, with the next step involving its implementation. She emphasized that everyone should act together, learn from each other, and work together through sharing experiences in relation to good practices, technical possibilities and challenges among all individuals regardless of whether they had disabilities or not.

Ms. Aiko Akiyama, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), introduced to the floor the Incheon Strategy, which is ESCAP’s strategy aimed at realizing DiDRR, and which includes 10 goals, 27 targets and 62 indicators. Concerning the indicators, data acquisition was noted as critical. The Incheon Strategy has 6 guidelines to evaluate the DiDRR measures taken by countries, as follows: (1) whether an evacuation programme for persons with disabilities has been formulated, (2) whether a methodology for rescue in emergencies has been established, (3) whether accessible shelters exist, (4) whether data collection is being conducted, (5) whether public services are available, and (6) whether schemes for supporting populations affected by disasters have been established. She also announced that

preliminary results of a survey on the Incheon Strategy were to be released in 2017.

Mr. Ivars Nakurts, Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, discussed DiDRR from the perspectives of the EU and the Government of Latvia. First, he illustrated the fruitful outcomes of efforts made by EU countries in the field of disability, such as empowering DiDRR management strategies, as well as the efforts made by the European Disability Forum. Second, he identified critical issues concerning DiDRR such as outreach activities, policy-making with persons with disabilities, and the expansion of technology. In conclusion, he emphasized the importance of political initiatives to achieve the desired goals and promised that the EU would keep striving for the realization of “social inclusion” for persons with disabilities.

Former Senator Montien Buntan, from Thailand, emphasized the importance of the CRPD, especially Article 11, which addresses risk situations and humanitarian emergencies. He stated that, although most countries have already ratified the CRPD, the human rights model in relation to DRR had not yet been adequately recognized. Therefore, raising awareness of the human rights model was critically important. He also emphasized that basic capacity building, such as accessibility enhancement, was indispensable to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities were effectively acknowledged. He stressed that persons with disabilities could be great partners alongside various stakeholders such as local communities, Governments and various associations in attempts to promote DiDRR collectively.

Senator Njoroge Githuku from Kenya stressed that persons with disabilities should never be excluded from discussions concerning DRR. He maintained that: (1) persons with disabilities needed to be included and play a key role in addressing a variety of issues; (2) every country should have more than one person with disabilities in its parliament, and the United Nations and other global organizations should urge governments to ensure this; (3) Governments should always take into account the views of persons with disabilities and use reliable data; (4) the mobility of persons with disabilities should be taken into consideration, particularly during and after disasters, as mobility issues could lead to serious consequences; and (5) it was critical to collect accurate data to make sure persons with disabilities had sufficient mobility.

Dr. Atsuro Tsutsumi, Coordinator, UNU-IIGH, discussed mental health and psychosocial well-being in DRR, which he considered a critical topic for everyone involved in addressing disasters in relation to quality of life, resilience and motivation for reconstruction after disasters. He discussed how the United Nations had been addressing the issue of mental health and





psychosocial well-being through efforts made by United Nations DESA, UNU-IIGH, WHO, and the IASC, in particular, through the IASC Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings as well as outcomes of the United Nations Experts Group Meeting on Mental Well-being, Disability and Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Tokyo, Japan, in 2014, which recommended the inclusion of mental well-being and the rights of persons with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities into the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and other internationally-agreed goals. Dr. Tsutsumi also emphasized the importance of integrating perspectives concerning psychosocial well-being as a key indicator of overall development, the participation of persons with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities, and the protection and promotion of all human rights of persons with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities, in relation to all aspects of human rights including education, employment, family, freedom enhancement, legal capacity, self-determination, integrity and other areas beyond the right to health.

Mr. Vladimir Cuk, Executive Director, International Disability Alliance (IDA), emphasized the importance of the CRPD and of a multi-stakeholder approach to including persons with disabilities in planning DiDRR policies. He discussed three priorities to help better incorporate the views of persons with disabilities into the implementation of DiDRR. The first priority involved sharing basic information and building partnerships. For example, persons with disabilities needed to know what kinds of tools were available in the event of disasters. Therefore, more conversations and dialogues with persons with disabilities were required to fully understand their needs and to build cooperative partnerships. The second priority involved strong capacity building and technical support. In the field of capacity building, the IDA was hoping to scale up their activities. Although capacity building was not easy given the diversity and intricacy of disabilities, the IDA would endeavour to fully address this critical issue. The third priority involved monitoring and accountability, and developing indicators for DiDRR. These three priorities should be addressed at global, regional and national levels.

e. Closing

The closing session summarized the preceding sessions, and provided recommendations for the next steps to implement DiDRR.

Ms. Akiko Ito made the closing remarks and summarized the preceding sessions and recommendations for the next steps to implement DiDRR in global, national, regional and local contexts. DiDRR was stated to be certainly in line with the principles of the United Nations which stipulated equality for all. Over the course of years, the role of persons with disabilities had changed from passively accepting whatever was made available to them to actively addressing their rights to achieve self-reliant and independent living based on the social model of disabilities. In terms of DRR, however, persons with disabilities tend, unfortunately, to have been excluded from its decision-making processes. It was therefore imperative that the specific needs of persons with disabilities were satisfactorily incorporated into all DRR processes and that a variety of stakeholders remained sensitive to the disability dimension. To establish an effective DiDRR framework, future efforts by the United Nations would include encouraging persons with disabilities to play leading roles in all aspects of DRR processes. By doing so, the resilience of whole communities would eventually increase, contributing to the empowerment of women, young people and other marginalized groups. As such, the Public Forum concluded that the United Nations' commitment to DiDRR would continue to make a significant and positive difference for all persons.

Annex

I. Organization of the meeting

Opening: An overview of DiDRR: Challenges and obstacles (10:00am-10:50am)

The opening segment will discuss the status of DiDRR in the context of on-going work toward a post-2015 development framework. It will include an overview of the DiDRR framework and its progress, challenges and obstacles in relation to DiDRR, resilience and reconstruction at both policy and programme levels.

- Ms. Akiko Ito, Chief, SCRPD/DSPD/United Nations DESA
- Mr. Jerry Velasquez, Director, Advocacy and Outreach, UNISDR
- Mr. Ede Ijjasz-Vasquez, Senior Director, Social, Urban, Rural, and Resilience Global Practice, World Bank Group
- Mr. Kingo Toyoda, Deputy Director General, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
- Mr. Futoshi Toba, Mayor of the city of Rikuzentakata, Japan
- Mr. Desmond Swayne, Minister of State, Department for International Development (DFID), United Kingdom
- Mr. Katsunori Fujii, President, JDF
- Mr. Yasunobu Ishii, Nippon Foundation
- Senator Kerryann Ifill, Barbados
- Senator Paul Njoroge Ben Githuku, Kenya

Session I: Experience and lessons learned related to the advancement of disaster risk reduction, resilience and reconstruction (10:50am-12:30pm)

This session will consist of sharing experiences and lessons learned on the ground to advance DiDRR including those experiences in relation to the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and DiDRR. This session will be led by the JDF, in collaboration with United Nations DESA/DSPD and be followed by an interactive discussion.

Moderator: Ms. Miki Ebara, NHK World Editor-in-Chief

- Mr. Naoki Kurano, JDF/Japanese Federation of the Deaf
- Mr. Futoshi Toba, Mayor, city of Rikuzentakata, Japan
- Senator Monthian Buntan, Thailand
- Ms. Akiko Fukuda, Secretary-General, World Federation

of the DeafBlind (experience on the ground)

- Ms. Marcie Roth, FEMA, USA
- Dr. Alex Camacho, Technical Secretary of Disability, Government of Ecuador

Session II: The present and future of DiDRR: DiDRR policies, programme and implementation (1:30pm-3:00pm)

This segment will discuss how to successfully advance DiDRR policies and their implementation in global, regional, national and local contexts. The discussion will include good practices in relation to the removal of physical, social and cultural barriers to DiDRR as well as “emerging DiDRR issues”, such as mental health and mental well-being, social groups with increased vulnerabilities and promotion of the use of DiDRR technologies.

Moderator: Dr. Takashi Izutsu, Senior Knowledge Management Officer, World Bank Group

- Vice Chancellor Professor Toshiya Ueki, Tohoku University
- Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura, Focal point for the Disability Caucus for DiDRR
- Prof. Norito Kawakami, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Tokyo
- Senator Kerryann Ifill, Barbados
- Mr. Adam Kosa, European Parliament
- Mr. Takashi Kubota, Deputy Mayor, city of Rikuzentakata, Japan
- Mr. Matthew Rodieck, Rehabilitation International
- Mr. Gordon Rattray, CBM
- Ms. Valerie Scherrer, CBM

Session III: A way forward: Steps toward the realization of DiDRR (3:00pm-4:30pm)

This segment will focus on “next steps” in preparation for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. It will examine the role of Governments, the United Nations, organizations of persons with disabilities and other disability and civil society organizations, expert/academic communities, private foundations as well as the private sector and how they can go beyond “boundaries” to achieve the goal of disability-inclusion in DRR, resilience and reconstruction. The discussion will also explore and take stock of ways and means to strengthen global/regional/national and local networks and build new partnerships for concrete results

in implementing DiDRR.

Moderator: Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura (Focal point for the Disability Caucus for DiDRR)

- Ms. Marcie Roth, FEMA, USA
- Mr. Ivars Nakurts, Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- Senator Monthian Buntan, Thailand
- Senator Paul Njoroge Githuku, Kenya
- Dr. Atsuro Tsutsumi, Coordinator, UNU-IIGH
- Ms. Aiko Akiyama, ESCAP
- Mr. Vladimir Cuk, Executive Director, IDA

Closing session: Summary and recommendations (4:30pm-5:00pm)

The session will include a presentation of summaries of the preceding sessions as well as the recommendations for next steps to implement DiDRR in global, national, regional and local contexts.

- United Nations DESA
- Mr. Katsunori Fujii, JDF
- Mr. Yasunobu Ishii, Nippon Foundation

II. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

I. Preamble

1. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held from 14 to 18 March 2015 in Sendai, Miyagi, Japan, which represented a unique opportunity for countries:

(a) To adopt a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;

(b) To complete the assessment and review of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters;^[30]

(c) To consider the experience gained through the regional and national strategies/institutions and plans for disaster risk reduction and their recommendations, as well as relevant regional agreements for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;

(d) To identify modalities of cooperation based on commitments to implement a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;

(e) To determine modalities for the periodic review of the implementation of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

2. During the World Conference, States also reiterated their commitment to address disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience^[31] to disasters with a renewed sense of urgency within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and to integrate, as appropriate, both disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience into policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels and to consider both within relevant frameworks.

Hyogo Framework for Action: lessons learned, gaps identified and future challenges

3. Since the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action in 2005, as documented in national and regional progress

reports on its implementation as well as in other global reports, progress has been achieved in reducing disaster risk at local, national, regional and global levels by countries and other relevant stakeholders, leading to a decrease in mortality in the case of some hazards.^[32] Reducing disaster risk is a cost-effective investment in preventing future losses. Effective disaster risk management contributes to sustainable development. Countries have enhanced their capacities in disaster risk management. International mechanisms for strategic advice, coordination and partnership development for disaster risk reduction, such as the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction, as well as other relevant international and regional forums for cooperation, have been instrumental in the development of policies and strategies and the advancement of knowledge and mutual learning. Overall, the Hyogo Framework for Action has been an important instrument for raising public and institutional awareness, generating political commitment and focusing and catalysing actions by a wide range of stakeholders at all levels.

4. Over the same 10-year time frame, however, disasters have continued to exact a heavy toll and, as a result, the well-being and safety of persons, communities and countries as a whole have been affected. Over 700 thousand people have lost their lives, over 1.4 million have been injured and approximately 23 million have been made homeless as a result of disasters. Overall, more than 1.5 billion people have been affected by disasters in various ways, with women, children and people in vulnerable situations disproportionately affected. The total economic loss was more than \$1.3 trillion. In addition, between 2008 and 2012, 144 million people were displaced by disasters. Disasters, many of which are exacerbated by climate change and which are increasing in frequency and intensity, significantly impede progress towards sustainable development. Evidence indicates that exposure of persons and assets in all countries has increased faster than vulnerability^[33] has decreased, thus generating new risks and a steady rise in disaster-related losses, with a significant economic, social, health, cultural and environmental impact in the short, medium and long term, especially at the local and community levels. Recurring small-scale disasters and slow-onset disasters particularly

[32] Hazard is defined in the Hyogo Framework for Action as: "A potentially damaging physical event, phenomenon or human activity that may cause the loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. Hazards can include latent conditions that may represent future threats and can have different origins: natural (geological, hydrometeorological and biological) or induced by human processes (environmental degradation and technological hazards).

[33] Vulnerability is defined in the Hyogo Framework for Action as: "The conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of a community to the impact of hazards".

[30] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

[31] Resilience is defined as: "The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions" (see www.unisdr.org/we/inform/terminology).

affect communities, households and small and medium-sized enterprises, constituting a high percentage of all losses. All countries - especially developing countries, where the mortality and economic losses from disasters are disproportionately higher - are faced with increasing levels of possible hidden costs and challenges in order to meet financial and other obligations.

5. It is urgent and critical to anticipate, plan for and reduce disaster risk in order to more effectively protect persons, communities and countries, their livelihoods, health, cultural heritage, socioeconomic assets and ecosystems, and thus strengthen their resilience.

6. Enhanced work to reduce exposure and vulnerability, thus preventing the creation of new disaster risks, and accountability for disaster risk creation are needed at all levels. More dedicated action needs to be focused on tackling underlying disaster risk drivers, such as the consequences of poverty and inequality, climate change and variability, unplanned and rapid urbanization, poor land management and compounding factors such as demographic change, weak institutional arrangements, non-risk-informed policies, lack of regulation and incentives for private disaster risk reduction investment, complex supply chains, limited availability of technology, unsustainable uses of natural resources, declining ecosystems, pandemics and epidemics. Moreover, it is necessary to continue strengthening good governance in disaster risk reduction strategies at the national, regional and global levels and improving preparedness and national coordination for disaster response, rehabilitation and reconstruction, and to use post-disaster recovery and reconstruction to “Build Back Better”, supported by strengthened modalities of international cooperation.

7. There has to be a broader and a more people-centred preventive approach to disaster risk. Disaster risk reduction practices need to be multi-hazard and multisectoral, inclusive and accessible in order to be efficient and effective. While recognizing their leading, regulatory and coordination role, Governments should engage with relevant stakeholders, including women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, poor people, migrants, indigenous peoples, volunteers, the community of practitioners and older persons in the design and implementation of policies, plans and standards. There is a need for the public and private sectors and civil society organizations, as well as academia and scientific and research institutions, to work more closely together and to create opportunities for

collaboration, and for businesses to integrate disaster risk into their management practices.

8. International, regional, subregional and transboundary cooperation remains pivotal in supporting the efforts of States, their national and local authorities, as well as communities and businesses, to reduce disaster risk. Existing mechanisms may require strengthening in order to provide effective support and achieve better implementation. Developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, need special attention and support to augment domestic resources and capabilities through bilateral and multilateral channels in order to ensure adequate, sustainable, and timely means of implementation in capacity-building, financial and technical assistance and technology transfer, in accordance with international commitments.

9. Overall, the Hyogo Framework for Action has provided critical guidance in efforts to reduce disaster risk and has contributed to the progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Its implementation has, however, highlighted a number of gaps in addressing the underlying disaster risk factors, in the formulation of goals and priorities for action,^[34] in the need to foster disaster resilience at all levels and in ensuring adequate means of implementation. The gaps indicate a need to develop an action-oriented framework that Governments and relevant stakeholders can implement in a supportive and complementary manner, and which helps to identify disaster risks to be managed and guides investment to improve resilience.

10. Ten years after the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action, disasters continue to undermine efforts to achieve sustainable development.

11. The intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, financing for development, climate change and disaster risk reduction provide the international community with a unique opportunity to enhance coherence across policies, institutions, goals, indicators and measurement systems for implementation, while respecting the respective

[34] The Hyogo Framework priorities for action 2005-2015 are: (1) ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation; (2) identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning; (3) use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels; (4) reduce the underlying risk factors; and (5) strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

mandates. Ensuring credible links, as appropriate, between these processes will contribute to building resilience and achieving the global goal of eradicating poverty.

12. It is recalled that the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in 2012, entitled “The future we want”,^[35] called for disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters to be addressed with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and, as appropriate, to be integrated at all levels. The Conference also reaffirmed all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.^[36]

13. Addressing climate change as one of the drivers of disaster risk, while respecting the mandate of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,^[37] represents an opportunity to reduce disaster risk in a meaningful and coherent manner throughout the interrelated intergovernmental processes.

14. Against this background, and in order to reduce disaster risk, there is a need to address existing challenges and prepare for future ones by focusing on monitoring, assessing and understanding disaster risk and sharing such information and on how it is created; strengthening disaster risk governance and coordination across relevant institutions and sectors and the full and meaningful participation of relevant stakeholders at appropriate levels; investing in the economic, social, health, cultural and educational resilience of persons, communities and countries and the environment, as well as through technology and research; and enhancing multi-hazard early warning systems, preparedness, response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. To complement national action and capacity, there is a need to enhance international cooperation between developed and developing countries and between States and international organizations.

15. The present Framework will apply to the risk of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters caused by natural or manmade hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards

and risks. It aims to guide the multi-hazard management of disaster risk in development at all levels as well as within and across all sectors.

II. Expected outcome and goal

16. While some progress in building resilience and reducing losses and damages has been achieved, a substantial reduction of disaster risk requires perseverance and persistence, with a more explicit focus on people and their health and livelihoods, and regular follow-up. Building on the Hyogo Framework for Action, the present Framework aims to achieve the following outcome over the next 15 years:

The substantial reduction of 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.

The realization of this outcome requires the strong commitment and involvement of political leadership in every country at all levels in the implementation and follow-up of the present Framework and in the creation of the necessary conducive and enabling environment.

17. To attain the expected outcome, the following goal must be pursued:

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 pursuance of this goal requires the enhancement of the implementation capacity and capability of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, including the mobilization of support through international cooperation for the provision of means of implementation in accordance with their national priorities.

18. To support the assessment of global progress in achieving the outcome and goal of the present Framework, seven global targets have been agreed. These targets will be measured at the global level and will be complemented by work to develop appropriate indicators. National targets and indicators will

[35] A/RES/66/288, annex

[36] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[37] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1771, No. 30822. The climate change issues mentioned in the present Framework remain within the mandate of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change under the competences of the parties to the Convention.

contribute to the achievement of the outcome and goal of the present Framework. The seven global targets are:

(a) Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower the average per 100,000 global mortality rate in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015;

(b) Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100,000 in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015;^[38]

(c) Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030;

(d) 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;

(e) Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020;

(f) Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of the present Framework by 2030;

(g) Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030.

III. Guiding principles

19. Drawing from the principles contained in the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action^[39] and the Hyogo Framework for Action, 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:

(a) 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;

(b) 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 systems of governance;

(c) 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;

(d) 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 should be integrated in all policies and practices, and women and youth leadership should be promoted. In this context, special attention should be paid to the improvement of organized voluntary work of citizens;

(e) 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;

(f) 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;

(g) 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 easily accessible, up-to-date, comprehensible, science-based, non-sensitive risk information, complemented by traditional knowledge;

(h) 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;

(i) While the drivers of disaster risk may be local, national,

[38] Categories of affected people will be elaborated in the process for post-Sendai work decided by the Conference.

[39] A/CONF.172/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

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;

(j) Addressing underlying disaster risk factors through disaster risk-informed public and private investments is more cost-effective than primary reliance on post-disaster response and recovery, and contributes to sustainable development;

(k) 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;

(l) 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;

(m) 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.

IV. Priorities for action

20. Taking into account the experience gained through the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and in pursuance of the expected outcome and goal, there is a need for focused action within and across sectors by States at local, national, regional and global levels in the following four priority areas:

Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk.

Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk.

Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience.

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

21. In their approach to disaster risk reduction, States, regional and international organizations and other relevant stakeholders should take into consideration the key activities listed under each of these four priorities and should implement them, as appropriate, taking into consideration respective

capacities and capabilities, in line with national laws and regulations.

22. In the context of increasing global interdependence, concerted international cooperation, an enabling international environment and means of implementation are needed to stimulate and contribute to developing the knowledge, capacities and motivation for disaster risk reduction at all levels, in particular for developing countries.

Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk

23. Policies and practices for disaster risk management should be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment. Such knowledge can be leveraged for the purpose of pre-disaster risk assessment, for prevention and mitigation and for the development and implementation of appropriate preparedness and effective response to disasters.

National and local levels

24. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) To promote the collection, analysis, management and use of relevant data and practical information and ensure its dissemination, taking into account the needs of different categories of users, as appropriate;

(b) To encourage the use of and strengthening of baselines and periodically assess disaster risks, vulnerability, capacity, exposure, hazard characteristics and their possible sequential effects at the relevant social and spatial scale on ecosystems, in line with national circumstances;

(c) To develop, periodically update and disseminate, as appropriate, location-based disaster risk information, including risk maps, to decision makers, the general public and communities at risk of exposure to disaster in an appropriate format by using, as applicable, geospatial information technology;

(d) To systematically evaluate, record, share and publicly account for disaster losses and understand the economic, social, health, education, environmental and cultural heritage impacts, as appropriate, in the context of event-specific hazard-exposure and vulnerability information;

(e) To make non-sensitive hazard-exposure, vulnerability, risk, disaster and loss-disaggregated information freely available

and accessible, as appropriate;

(f) To promote real-time access to reliable data, make use of space and in situ information, including geographic information systems (GIS), and use information and communications technology innovations to enhance measurement tools and the collection, analysis and dissemination of data;

(g) To build the knowledge of government officials at all levels, civil society, communities and volunteers, as well as the private sector, through sharing experiences, lessons learned, good practices and training and education on disaster risk reduction, including the use of existing training and education mechanisms and peer learning;

(h) To promote and improve dialogue and cooperation among scientific and technological communities, other relevant stakeholders and policymakers in order to facilitate a science-policy interface for effective decision-making in disaster risk management;

(i) To ensure the use of traditional, indigenous and local knowledge and practices, as appropriate, to complement scientific knowledge in disaster risk assessment and the development and implementation of policies, strategies, plans and programmes of specific sectors, with a cross-sectoral approach, which should be tailored to localities and to the context;

(j) To strengthen technical and scientific capacity to capitalize on and consolidate existing knowledge and to develop and apply methodologies and models to assess disaster risks, vulnerabilities and exposure to all hazards;

(k) To promote investments in innovation and technology development in long-term, multi-hazard and solution-driven research in disaster risk management to address gaps, obstacles, interdependencies and social, economic, educational and environmental challenges and disaster risks;

(l) To promote the incorporation of disaster risk knowledge, including disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation, in formal and non-formal education, as well as in civic education at all levels, as well as in professional education and training;

(m) To promote national strategies to strengthen public education and awareness in disaster risk reduction, including disaster risk information and knowledge, through campaigns, social media and community mobilization, taking into account specific audiences and their needs;

(n) To apply risk information in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity and exposure of persons, communities, countries and assets, as well as hazard characteristics, to develop

and implement disaster risk reduction policies;

(o) To enhance collaboration among people at the local level to disseminate disaster risk information through the involvement of community-based organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Global and regional levels

25. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) To enhance the development and dissemination of science-based methodologies and tools to record and share disaster losses and relevant disaggregated data and statistics, as well as to strengthen disaster risk modelling, assessment, mapping, monitoring and multi-hazard early warning systems;

(b) To promote the conduct of comprehensive surveys on multi-hazard disaster risks and the development of regional disaster risk assessments and maps, including climate change scenarios;

(c) To promote and enhance, through international cooperation, including technology transfer, access to and the sharing and use of non-sensitive data and information, as appropriate, communications and geospatial and space-based technologies and related services; maintain and strengthen in situ and remotely-sensed earth and climate observations; and strengthen the utilization of media, including social media, traditional media, big data and mobile phone networks, to support national measures for successful disaster risk communication, as appropriate and in accordance with national laws;

(d) To promote common efforts in partnership with the scientific and technological community, academia and the private sector to establish, disseminate and share good practices internationally;

(e) To support the development of local, national, regional and global user-friendly systems and services for the exchange of information on good practices, cost-effective and easy-to-use disaster risk reduction technologies and lessons learned on policies, plans and measures for disaster risk reduction;

(f) To develop effective global and regional campaigns as instruments for public awareness and education, building on the existing ones (for example, the “One million safe schools and hospitals” initiative; the “Making Cities Resilient: My city is getting ready” campaign; the United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction; and the annual United Nations International Day for Disaster Reduction), to promote a culture of disaster prevention, resilience and responsible

citizenship, generate understanding of disaster risk, support mutual learning and share experiences; and encourage public and private stakeholders to actively engage in such initiatives and to develop new ones at the local, national, regional and global levels;

(g) To enhance the scientific and technical work on disaster risk reduction and its mobilization through the coordination of existing networks and scientific research institutions at all levels and in all regions, with the support of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Scientific and Technical Advisory Group, in order to strengthen the evidence-base in support of the implementation of the present Framework; promote scientific research on disaster risk patterns, causes and effects; disseminate risk information with the best use of geospatial information technology; provide guidance on methodologies and standards for risk assessments, disaster risk modelling and the use of data; identify research and technology gaps and set recommendations for research priority areas in disaster risk reduction; promote and support the availability and application of science and technology to decision-making; contribute to the update of the publication entitled “2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction”; use post-disaster reviews as opportunities to enhance learning and public policy; and disseminate studies;

(h) To encourage the availability of copyrighted and patented materials, including through negotiated concessions, as appropriate;

(i) To enhance access to and support for innovation and technology, as well as in long-term, multi-hazard and solution-driven research and development in the field of disaster risk management.

Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk

26. Disaster risk governance at the national, regional and global levels is of great importance for an effective and efficient management of disaster risk. Clear vision, plans, competence, guidance and coordination within and across sectors, as well as participation of relevant stakeholders, are needed. Strengthening disaster risk governance for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation is therefore necessary and fosters collaboration and partnership across mechanisms and institutions for the implementation of instruments relevant to disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

National and local levels

27. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) To mainstream and integrate disaster risk reduction within and across all sectors and review and promote the coherence and further development, as appropriate, of national and local frameworks of laws, regulations and public policies, which, by defining roles and responsibilities, guide the public and private sectors in: (i) addressing disaster risk in publically owned, managed or regulated services and infrastructures; (ii) promoting and providing incentives, as relevant, for actions by persons, households, communities and businesses; (iii) enhancing relevant mechanisms and initiatives for disaster risk transparency, which may include financial incentives, public awareness-raising and training initiatives, reporting requirements and legal and administrative measures; and (iv) putting in place coordination and organizational structures;

(b) To adopt and implement national and local disaster risk reduction strategies and plans, across different timescales, with targets, indicators and time frames, aimed at preventing the creation of risk, the reduction of existing risk and the strengthening of economic, social, health and environmental resilience;

(c) To carry out an assessment of the technical, financial and administrative disaster risk management capacity to deal with the identified risks at the local and national levels;

(d) To encourage the establishment of necessary mechanisms and incentives to ensure high levels of compliance with the existing safety-enhancing provisions of sectoral laws and regulations, including those addressing land use and urban planning, building codes, environmental and resource management and health and safety standards, and update them, where needed, to ensure an adequate focus on disaster risk management;

(e) To develop and strengthen, as appropriate, mechanisms to follow up, periodically assess and publicly report on progress on national and local plans; and promote public scrutiny and encourage institutional debates, including by parliamentarians and other relevant officials, on progress reports of local and national plans for disaster risk reduction;

(f) To assign, as appropriate, clear roles and tasks to community representatives within disaster risk management institutions and processes and decision-making through relevant legal frameworks, and undertake comprehensive public and community consultations during the development of such laws and regulations to support their implementation;

(g) To establish and strengthen government coordination forums composed of relevant stakeholders at the national and local levels, such as national and local platforms for disaster risk reduction, and a designated national focal point for implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. It is necessary for such mechanisms to have a strong foundation in national institutional frameworks with clearly assigned responsibilities and authority to, inter alia, identify sectoral and multisectoral disaster risk, build awareness and knowledge of disaster risk through sharing and dissemination of non-sensitive disaster risk information and data, contribute to and coordinate reports on local and national disaster risk, coordinate public awareness campaigns on disaster risk, facilitate and support local multisectoral cooperation (e.g. among local governments) and contribute to the determination of and reporting on national and local disaster risk management plans and all policies relevant for disaster risk management. These responsibilities should be established through laws, regulations, standards and procedures;

(h) To empower local authorities, as appropriate, through regulatory and financial means to work and coordinate with civil society, communities and indigenous peoples and migrants in disaster risk management at the local level;

(i) To encourage parliamentarians to support the implementation of disaster risk reduction by developing new or amending relevant legislation and setting budget allocations;

(j) To promote the development of quality standards, such as certifications and awards for disaster risk management, with the participation of the private sector, civil society, professional associations, scientific organizations and the United Nations;

(k) To formulate public policies, where applicable, aimed at addressing the issues of prevention or relocation, where possible, of human settlements in disaster risk-prone zones, subject to national law and legal systems.

Global and regional levels

28. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) To guide action at the regional level through agreed regional and subregional strategies and mechanisms for cooperation for disaster risk reduction, as appropriate, in the light of the present Framework, in order to foster more efficient planning, create common information systems and exchange good practices and programmes for cooperation and capacity development, in particular to address common and transboundary disaster risks;

(b) To foster collaboration across global and regional mechanisms and institutions for the implementation and coherence of instruments and tools relevant to disaster risk reduction, such as for climate change, biodiversity, sustainable development, poverty eradication, environment, agriculture, health, food and nutrition and others, as appropriate;

(c) To actively engage in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the regional and subregional platforms for disaster risk reduction and the thematic platforms in order to forge partnerships, periodically assess progress on implementation and share practice and knowledge on disaster risk-informed policies, programmes and investments, including on development and climate issues, as appropriate, as well as to promote the integration of disaster risk management in other relevant sectors. Regional intergovernmental organizations should play an important role in the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction;

(d) To promote transboundary cooperation to enable policy and planning for the implementation of ecosystem-based approaches with regard to shared resources, such as within river basins and along coastlines, to build resilience and reduce disaster risk, including epidemic and displacement risk;

(e) To promote mutual learning and exchange of good practices and information through, inter alia, voluntary and self-initiated peer reviews among interested States;

(f) To promote the strengthening of, as appropriate, international voluntary mechanisms for monitoring and assessment of disaster risks, including relevant data and information, benefiting from the experience of the Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor. Such mechanisms may promote the exchange of non-sensitive information on disaster risks to the relevant national Government bodies and stakeholders in the interest of sustainable social and economic development.

Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience

29. Public and private investment in disaster risk prevention and reduction through structural and non-structural measures are essential to enhance the economic, social, health and cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries and their assets, as well as the environment. These can be drivers of innovation, growth and job creation. Such measures are cost-effective and instrumental to save lives, prevent and reduce losses and ensure effective recovery and rehabilitation.

National and local levels

30. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) To allocate the necessary resources, including finance and logistics, as appropriate, at all levels of administration for the development and the implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies, policies, plans, laws and regulations in all relevant sectors;

(b) To promote mechanisms for disaster risk transfer and insurance, risk-sharing and retention and financial protection, as appropriate, for both public and private investment in order to reduce the financial impact of disasters on Governments and societies, in urban and rural areas;

(c) To strengthen, as appropriate, disaster-resilient public and private investments, particularly through structural, non-structural and functional disaster risk prevention and reduction measures in critical facilities, in particular schools and hospitals and physical infrastructures; building better from the start to withstand hazards through proper design and construction, including the use of the principles of universal design and the standardization of building materials; retrofitting and rebuilding; nurturing a culture of maintenance; and taking into account economic, social, structural, technological and environmental impact assessments;

(d) To protect or support the protection of cultural and collecting institutions and other sites of historical, cultural heritage and religious interest;

(e) To promote the disaster risk resilience of workplaces through structural and non-structural measures;

(f) To promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk assessments into land-use policy development and implementation, including urban planning, land degradation assessments and informal and non-permanent housing, and the use of guidelines and follow-up tools informed by anticipated demographic and environmental changes;

(g) To promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk assessment, mapping and management into rural development planning and management of, inter alia, mountains, rivers, coastal flood plain areas, drylands, wetlands and all other areas prone to droughts and flooding, including through the identification of areas that are safe for human settlement, and at the same time preserving ecosystem functions that help to reduce risks;

(h) To encourage the revision of existing or the development of new building codes and standards and rehabilitation and reconstruction practices at the national or local levels, as appropriate, with the aim of making them more applicable

within the local context, particularly in informal and marginal human settlements, and reinforce the capacity to implement, survey and enforce such codes through an appropriate approach, with a view to fostering disaster-resistant structures;

(i) To enhance the resilience of national health systems, including by integrating disaster risk management into primary, secondary and tertiary health care, especially at the local level; developing the capacity of health workers in understanding disaster risk and applying and implementing disaster risk reduction approaches in health work; promoting and enhancing the training capacities in the field of disaster medicine; and supporting and training community health groups in disaster risk reduction approaches in health programmes, in collaboration with other sectors, as well as in the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) of the World Health Organization;

(j) To strengthen the design and implementation of inclusive policies and social safety-net mechanisms, including through community involvement, integrated with livelihood enhancement programmes, and access to basic health-care services, including maternal, newborn and child health, sexual and reproductive health, food security and nutrition, housing and education, towards the eradication of poverty, to find durable solutions in the post-disaster phase and to empower and assist people disproportionately affected by disasters;

(k) People with life-threatening and chronic disease, due to their particular needs, should be included in the design of policies and plans to manage their risks before, during and after disasters, including having access to life-saving services;

(l) To encourage the adoption of policies and programmes addressing disaster-induced human mobility to strengthen the resilience of affected people and that of host communities, in accordance with national laws and circumstances;

(m) To promote, as appropriate, the integration of disaster risk reduction considerations and measures in financial and fiscal instruments;

(n) To strengthen the sustainable use and management of ecosystems and implement integrated environmental and natural resource management approaches that incorporate disaster risk reduction;

(o) To increase business resilience and protection of livelihoods and productive assets throughout the supply chains, ensure continuity of services and integrate disaster risk management into business models and practices;

(p) To strengthen the protection of livelihoods and productive assets, including livestock, working animals, tools and seeds;

(q) To promote and integrate disaster risk management

approaches throughout the tourism industry, given the often heavy reliance on tourism as a key economic driver.

Global and regional levels

31. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) To promote coherence across systems, sectors and organizations related to sustainable development and to disaster risk reduction in their policies, plans, programmes and processes;

(b) To promote the development and strengthening of disaster risk transfer and sharing mechanisms and instruments in close cooperation with partners in the international community, business, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders;

(c) To promote cooperation between academic, scientific and research entities and networks and the private sector to develop new products and services to help to reduce disaster risk, in particular those that would assist developing countries and their specific challenges;

(d) To encourage the coordination between global and regional financial institutions with a view to assessing and anticipating the potential economic and social impacts of disasters;

(e) To enhance cooperation between health authorities and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen country capacity for disaster risk management for health, the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) and the building of resilient health systems;

(f) To strengthen and promote collaboration and capacity-building for the protection of productive assets, including livestock, working animals, tools and seeds;

(g) To promote and support the development of social safety nets as disaster risk reduction measures linked to and integrated with livelihood enhancement programmes in order to ensure resilience to shocks at the household and community levels;

(h) To strengthen and broaden international efforts aimed at eradicating hunger and poverty through disaster risk reduction;

(i) To promote and support collaboration among relevant public and private stakeholders to enhance the resilience of business to disasters.

Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

32. The steady growth of disaster risk, including the increase

of people and assets exposure, combined with the lessons learned from past disasters, indicates the need to further strengthen disaster preparedness for response, take action in anticipation of events, integrate disaster risk reduction in response preparedness and ensure that capacities are in place for effective response and recovery at all levels. Empowering women and persons with disabilities to publicly lead and promote gender equitable and universally accessible response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction approaches is key. Disasters have demonstrated that the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, which needs to be prepared ahead of a disaster, is a critical opportunity to “Build Back Better”, including through integrating disaster risk reduction into development measures, making nations and communities resilient to disasters.

National and local levels

33. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) To prepare or review and periodically update disaster preparedness and contingency policies, plans and programmes with the involvement of the relevant institutions, considering climate change scenarios and their impact on disaster risk, and facilitating, as appropriate, the participation of all sectors and relevant stakeholders;

(b) To invest in, develop, maintain and strengthen people-centred multihazard, multisectoral forecasting and early warning systems, disaster risk and emergency communications mechanisms, social technologies and hazard-monitoring telecommunications systems; develop such systems through a participatory process; tailor them to the needs of users, including social and cultural requirements, in particular gender; promote the application of simple and low-cost early warning equipment and facilities; and broaden release channels for natural disaster early warning information;

(c) To promote the resilience of new and existing critical infrastructure, including water, transportation and telecommunications infrastructure, educational facilities, hospitals and other health facilities, to ensure that they remain safe, effective and operational during and after disasters in order to provide life-saving and essential services;

(d) To establish community centres for the promotion of public awareness and the stockpiling of necessary materials to implement rescue and relief activities;

(e) To adopt public policies and actions that support the role of public service workers to establish or strengthen coordination and funding mechanisms and procedures for relief assistance and plan

and prepare for post-disaster recovery and reconstruction;

(f) To train the existing workforce and voluntary workers in disaster response and strengthen technical and logistical capacities to ensure better response in emergencies;

(g) To ensure the continuity of operations and planning, including social and economic recovery, and the provision of basic services in the post-disaster phase;

(h) To promote regular disaster preparedness, response and recovery exercises, including evacuation drills, training and the establishment of area-based support systems, with a view to ensuring rapid and effective response to disasters and related displacement, including access to safe shelter, essential food and non-food relief supplies, as appropriate to local needs;

(i) To promote the cooperation of diverse institutions, multiple authorities and related stakeholders at all levels, including affected communities and business, in view of the complex and costly nature of post-disaster reconstruction, under the coordination of national authorities;

(j) To promote the incorporation of disaster risk management into post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes, facilitate the link between relief, rehabilitation and development, use opportunities during the recovery phase to develop capacities that reduce disaster risk in the short, medium and long term, including through the development of measures such as land-use planning, structural standards improvement and the sharing of expertise, knowledge, post-disaster reviews and lessons learned and integrate post-disaster reconstruction into the economic and social sustainable development of affected areas. This should also apply to temporary settlements for persons displaced by disasters;

(k) To develop guidance for preparedness for disaster reconstruction, such as on land-use planning and structural standards improvement, including by learning from the recovery and reconstruction programmes over the decade since the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and exchanging experiences, knowledge and lessons learned;

(l) To consider the relocation of public facilities and infrastructures to areas outside the risk range, wherever possible, in the post-disaster reconstruction process, in consultation with the people concerned, as appropriate;

(m) To strengthen the capacity of local authorities to evacuate persons living in disaster-prone areas;

(n) To establish a mechanism of case registry and a database of mortality caused by disaster in order to improve the prevention of morbidity and mortality;

(o) To enhance recovery schemes to provide psychosocial

support and mental health services for all people in need;

(p) To review and strengthen, as appropriate, national laws and procedures on international cooperation, based on the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance.

Global and regional levels

34. To achieve this, it is important:

(a) To develop and strengthen, as appropriate, coordinated regional approaches and operational mechanisms to prepare for and ensure rapid and effective disaster response in situations that exceed national coping capacities;

(b) To promote the further development and dissemination of instruments, such as standards, codes, operational guides and other guidance instruments, to support coordinated action in disaster preparedness and response and facilitate information sharing on lessons learned and best practices for policy practice and post-disaster reconstruction programmes;

(c) To promote the further development of and investment in effective, nationally compatible, regional multi-hazard early warning mechanisms, where relevant, in line with the Global Framework for Climate Services, and facilitate the sharing and exchange of information across all countries;

(d) To enhance international mechanisms, such as the International Recovery Platform, for the sharing of experience and learning among countries and all relevant stakeholders;

(e) To support, as appropriate, the efforts of relevant United Nations entities to strengthen and implement global mechanisms on hydrometeorological issues in order to raise awareness and improve understanding of water-related disaster risks and their impact on society, and advance strategies for disaster risk reduction upon the request of States;

(f) To support regional cooperation to deal with disaster preparedness, including through common exercises and drills;

(g) To promote regional protocols to facilitate the sharing of response capacities and resources during and after disasters;

(h) To train the existing workforce and volunteers in disaster response.

V. Role of stakeholders

35. While States have the overall responsibility for reducing disaster risk, it is a shared responsibility between Governments and relevant stakeholders. In particular, non-State stakeholders play an important role as enablers in providing support to States,

in accordance with national policies, laws and regulations, in the implementation of the present Framework at local, national, regional and global levels. Their commitment, goodwill, knowledge, experience and resources will be required.

36. When determining specific roles and responsibilities for stakeholders, and at the same time building on existing relevant international instruments, States should encourage the following actions on the part of all public and private stakeholders:

(a) Civil society, volunteers, organized voluntary work organizations and community-based organizations to participate, in collaboration with public institutions, to, inter alia, provide specific knowledge and pragmatic guidance in the context of the development and implementation of normative frameworks, standards and plans for disaster risk reduction; engage in the implementation of local, national, regional and global plans and strategies; contribute to and support public awareness, a culture of prevention and education on disaster risk; and advocate for resilient communities and an inclusive and all-of-society disaster risk management that strengthen synergies across groups, as appropriate. On this point, it should be noted that:

(i) Women and their participation are critical to effectively managing disaster risk and designing, resourcing and implementing gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes; and adequate capacity building measures need to be taken to empower women for preparedness as well as to build their capacity to secure alternate means of livelihood in post-disaster situations;

(ii) Children and youth are agents of change and should be given the space and modalities to contribute to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with legislation, national practice and educational curricula;

(iii) Persons with disabilities and their organizations are critical in the assessment of disaster risk and in designing and implementing plans tailored to specific requirements, taking into consideration, inter alia, the principles of universal design;

(iv) Older persons have years of knowledge, skills and wisdom, which are invaluable assets to reduce disaster risk, and they should be included in the design of policies, plans and mechanisms, including for early warning;

(v) Indigenous peoples, through their experience and traditional knowledge, provide an important contribution to the development and implementation of plans and mechanisms, including for early warning;

(vi) Migrants contribute to the resilience of communities and societies, and their knowledge, skills and capacities can be useful in the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction;

(b) Academia, scientific and research entities and networks to focus on the disaster risk factors and scenarios, including emerging disaster risks, in the medium and long term; increase research for regional, national and local application; support action by local communities and authorities; and support the interface between policy and science for decision-making;

(c) Business, professional associations and private sector financial institutions, including financial regulators and accounting bodies, as well as philanthropic foundations, to integrate disaster risk management, including business continuity, into business models and practices through disaster-risk-informed investments, especially in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises; engage in awareness-raising and training for their employees and customers; engage in and support research and innovation, as well as technological development for disaster risk management; share and disseminate knowledge, practices and non-sensitive data; and actively participate, as appropriate and under the guidance of the public sector, in the development of normative frameworks and technical standards that incorporate disaster risk management;

(d) Media to take an active and inclusive role at the local, national, regional and global levels in contributing to the raising of public awareness and understanding and disseminate accurate and non-sensitive disaster risk, hazard and disaster information, including on small-scale disasters, in a simple, transparent, easy-to-understand and accessible manner, in close cooperation with national authorities; adopt specific disaster risk reduction communications policies; support, as appropriate, early warning systems and life-saving protective measures; and stimulate a culture of prevention and strong community involvement in sustained public education campaigns and public consultations at all levels of society, in accordance with national practices.

37. With reference to General Assembly resolution 68/211 of 20 December 2013, commitments by relevant stakeholders are important in order to identify modalities of cooperation and to implement the present Framework. Those commitments should be specific and time-bound in order to support the development of partnerships at local, national, regional and global levels and the implementation of local and national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans. All stakeholders are encouraged to publicize their commitments and their fulfilment in support of the implementation of the present Framework, or of the national and

local disaster risk management plans, through the website of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

VI. International cooperation and global partnership

General considerations

38. Given their different capacities, as well as the linkage between the level of support provided to them and the extent to which they will be able to implement the present Framework, developing countries require an enhanced provision of means of implementation, including adequate, sustainable and timely resources, through international cooperation and global partnerships for development, and continued international support, so as to strengthen their efforts to reduce disaster risk.

39. International cooperation for disaster risk reduction includes a variety of sources and is a critical element in supporting the efforts of developing countries to reduce disaster risk.

40. In addressing economic disparity and disparity in technological innovation and research capacity among countries, it is crucial to enhance technology transfer, involving a process of enabling and facilitating flows of skill, knowledge, ideas, know-how and technology from developed to developing countries in the implementation of the present Framework.

41. Disaster-prone developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, warrant particular attention in view of their higher vulnerability and risk levels, which often greatly exceed their capacity to respond to and recover from disasters. Such vulnerability requires the urgent strengthening of international cooperation and ensuring genuine and durable partnerships at the regional and international levels in order to support developing countries to implement the present Framework, in accordance with their national priorities and needs. Similar attention and appropriate assistance should also be extended to other disaster-prone countries with specific characteristics, such as archipelagic countries, as well as countries with extensive coastlines.

42. Disasters can disproportionately affect small island developing States, owing to their unique and particular

vulnerabilities. The effects of disasters, some of which have increased in intensity and have been exacerbated by climate change, impede their progress towards sustainable development. Given the special case of small island developing States, there is a critical need to build resilience and to provide particular support through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway^[40] in the area of disaster risk reduction.

43. African countries continue to face challenges related to disasters and increasing risks, including those related to enhancing resilience of infrastructure, health and livelihoods. These challenges require increased international cooperation and the provision of adequate support to African countries to allow for the implementation of the present Framework.

44. North-South cooperation, complemented by South-South and triangular cooperation, has proven to be key to reducing disaster risk and there is a need to further strengthen cooperation in both areas. Partnerships play an additional important role by harnessing the full potential of countries and supporting their national capacities in disaster risk management and in improving the social, health and economic well-being of individuals, communities and countries.

45. Efforts by developing countries offering South-South and triangular cooperation should not reduce North-South cooperation from developed countries as they complement North-South cooperation.

46. Financing from a variety of international sources, public and private transfer of reliable, affordable, appropriate and modern environmentally sound technology, on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, capacity-building assistance for developing countries and enabling institutional and policy environments at all levels are critically important means of reducing disaster risk.

Means of implementation

47. To achieve this, it is necessary:

(a) To reaffirm that developing countries need enhanced provision of coordinated, sustained and adequate international support for disaster risk reduction, in particular for the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked

^[40] Resolution 69/15, annex.

developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, through bilateral and multilateral channels, including through enhanced technical and financial support and technology transfer on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, for the development and strengthening of their capacities;

(b) To enhance access of States, in particular developing countries, to finance, environmentally sound technology, science and inclusive innovation, as well as knowledge and information-sharing through existing mechanisms, namely bilateral, regional and multilateral collaborative arrangements, including the United Nations and other relevant bodies;

(c) To promote the use and expansion of thematic platforms of cooperation, such as global technology pools and global systems to share know-how, innovation and research and ensure access to technology and information on disaster risk reduction;

(d) To incorporate disaster risk reduction measures into multilateral and bilateral development assistance programmes within and across all sectors, as appropriate, related to poverty reduction, sustainable development, natural resource management, the environment, urban development and adaptation to climate change.

Support from international organizations

48. To support the implementation of the present Framework, the following is necessary:

(a) The United Nations and other international and regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions and donor agencies engaged in disaster risk reduction are requested, as appropriate, to enhance the coordination of their strategies in this regard;

(b) The entities of the United Nations system, including the funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, through the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and country programmes, to promote the optimum use of resources and to support developing countries, at their request, in the implementation of the present Framework, in coordination with other relevant frameworks, such as the International Health Regulations (2005), including through the development and the strengthening of capacities and clear and focused programmes that support the priorities of States in a balanced, well-coordinated and sustainable manner, within their respective mandates;

(c) The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction,

in particular, to support the implementation, follow-up and review of the present Framework by: preparing periodic reviews on progress, in particular for the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, and, as appropriate, in a timely manner, along with the follow-up process at the United Nations, supporting the development of coherent global and regional follow-up and indicators, and in coordination, as appropriate, with other relevant mechanisms for sustainable development and climate change, and updating the existing web-based Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor accordingly; participating actively in the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators; generating evidence-based and practical guidance for implementation in close collaboration with States and through the mobilization of experts; reinforcing a culture of prevention among relevant stakeholders through supporting development of standards by experts and technical organizations, advocacy initiatives and dissemination of disaster risk information, policies and practices, as well as by providing education and training on disaster risk reduction through affiliated organizations; supporting countries, including through national platforms or their equivalent, in their development of national plans and monitoring trends and patterns in disaster risk, loss and impacts; convening the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and supporting the organization of regional platforms for disaster risk reduction in cooperation with regional organizations; leading the revision of the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience; facilitating the enhancement of, and continuing to service, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Scientific and Technical Advisory Group in mobilizing science and technical work on disaster risk reduction; leading, in close coordination with States, the update of the publication entitled “2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction”, in line with the terminology agreed upon by States; and maintaining the stakeholders’ commitment registry;

(d) International financial institutions, such as the World Bank and regional development banks, to consider the priorities of the present Framework for providing financial support and loans for integrated disaster risk reduction to developing countries;

(e) Other international organizations and treaty bodies, including the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, international financial institutions at the global and regional levels and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to support developing countries, at their request, in the implementation of the present Framework, in coordination with other relevant frameworks;

(f) The United Nations Global Compact, as the main United Nations initiative for engagement with the private sector and business, to further engage with and promote the critical importance of disaster risk reduction for sustainable development and resilience;

(g) The overall capacity of the United Nations system to assist developing countries in disaster risk reduction should be strengthened by providing adequate resources through various funding mechanisms, including increased, timely, stable and predictable contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction and by enhancing the role of the Trust Fund in relation to the implementation of the present Framework;

(h) The Inter-Parliamentary Union and other relevant regional bodies and mechanisms for parliamentarians, as appropriate, to continue supporting and advocating disaster risk reduction and the strengthening of national legal frameworks;

(i) The United Cities and Local Government organization and other relevant bodies of local governments to continue supporting cooperation and mutual learning among local governments for disaster risk reduction and the implementation of the present Framework.

the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group On Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. The Conference also recommends that the working group consider the recommendations of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Scientific and Technical Advisory Group on the update of the publication entitled “2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction” by December 2016, and that the outcome of its work be submitted to the Assembly for its consideration and adoption.

Follow-up actions

49. The Conference invites the General Assembly, at its seventieth session, to consider the possibility of including the review of the global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 as part of its integrated and coordinated follow-up processes to United Nations conferences and summits, aligned with the Economic and Social Council, the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycles, as appropriate, taking into account the contributions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and regional platforms for disaster risk reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor system.

50. The Conference recommends to the General Assembly the establishment, at its sixty-ninth session, of an open-ended intergovernmental working group, comprising experts nominated by Member States, and supported by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, with involvement of relevant stakeholders, for the development of a set of possible indicators to measure global progress in the implementation of the present Framework in conjunction with



III. Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action

1.1. We, the signatories of this Charter^[41], reaffirm our determination to make humanitarian action inclusive of persons with disabilities and to take all steps to meet their essential needs and promote the protection, safety and respect for the dignity of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters.

1.2. We shall strive to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to humanitarian response, both in terms of protection and assistance, without discrimination, and allowing them to fully enjoy their rights. By this Charter, we reaffirm our collective will to place persons with disabilities at the centre of humanitarian response.

1.3. For the purpose of this Charter, persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, psychosocial, intellectual or sensory impairments, which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in, and access to, humanitarian programmes.

1.4. This Charter refers to all persons with disabilities, applies to all situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and at all phases of a humanitarian response, from preparedness and crisis onset through transition into recovery.

1.5. We recognize that further progress towards principled and effective humanitarian action will only be realized if humanitarian preparedness and response becomes inclusive of persons with disabilities, in line with the humanitarian principles of humanity and impartiality, and the human rights principles of inherent dignity, equality and non-discrimination. We recall the obligations of States under international human rights law, in particular the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, international refugee law and further stress the obligations of States and all parties to armed conflict under international humanitarian law, including their obligations under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the obligations applicable to them under the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977, to respect and protect persons with disabilities and pay attention to their specific needs during armed conflicts.

1.6. With the intention of leaving no one behind, we reiterate our commitment to fully support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a core element in ensuring the inclusion of persons with disabilities. We highlight our will to translate into action the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and stress the necessity to support its implementation as an essential instrument to empower persons with disabilities and promote universally accessible response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

1.7. We recall that persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, and face multiple barriers in accessing protection and humanitarian assistance, including relief and recovery support. They are also particularly exposed to targeted violence, exploitation and abuse, including sexual and gender-based violence.

1.8. We recognize the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that further exacerbate the exclusion of all persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and whether they are living in urban, rural or remote areas, in poverty, in isolation or in institutions, and regardless of their status, including migrants, refugees or other displaced persons, and that crisis often leads to further impairment.

1.9. We stress the importance of improving capacity building of national and local authorities and the broader humanitarian community on issues related to persons with disabilities, including through increased awareness and adequate resourcing. We recognize that existing policies, procedures and practices on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian programs need to be strengthened and systematized. We further stress the importance of collection and analysis of disability data disaggregated by age and sex, as an important element in the design and monitoring of States' obligations, humanitarian programming and policy as a whole.

1.10. We recall that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations have untapped capacity and are not sufficiently consulted nor actively involved in decision-making processes concerning their lives, including in crisis preparedness and response coordination mechanisms.

[41] This document expresses our common political intention and intended course of action, however, it does not establish legally binding obligations to the States and other actors and does not affect the signatories' existing obligations under applicable international and domestic law.

We commit to:

2.1. Non-discrimination

a. Condemn and eliminate all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities in humanitarian programming and policy, including by guaranteeing protection and equal access to assistance for all persons with disabilities.

b. Facilitate the protection and safety of all children and adults with disabilities, recognising that multiple and intersecting factors such as gender, age, ethnicity, minority status, as well as other diversity and context-specific factors necessitate distinct responses and measures.

c. Pay specific attention to the situation of women and girls of all ages with disabilities in the context of situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and further take all necessary action to empower and protect them from physical, sexual and other forms of violence, abuse, exploitation and harassment.

2.2. Participation

a. Promote meaningful involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the needs assessment, design, implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian preparedness and response programs and draw from their leadership, skills, experience and other capabilities to ensure their active participation in decision making and planning processes including in appropriate coordination mechanisms.

b. Work to foster inclusive community-based protection mechanisms so as to better provide tailored and context specific response and strengthen the resilience of persons with disabilities, their communities, their families and caregivers.

2.3. Inclusive policy

a. Engage with all relevant States, and other stakeholders and partners to ensure protection for persons with disabilities as required by international law.

b. Develop, endorse and implement policies and guidelines based on existing frameworks and standards, supporting humanitarian actors to improve inclusion of persons with disabilities in emergency preparedness and responses.

c. Adopt policies and processes to improve quantitative and qualitative data collection on persons with disabilities that delivers comparable and reliable evidence and is ethically collected, respectful of confidentiality and privacy. Ensure that data collected on persons with disabilities is disaggregated by age and sex, and analysed and used on an ongoing basis

to assess and advance accessibility of humanitarian services and assistance, as well as participation in policy and program design, implementation and evaluation.

2.4. Inclusive response and services

a. Ensure that emergency and preparedness planning are designed to take into account the diverse needs of persons with disabilities.

b. Strive to ensure that services and humanitarian assistance are equally available for and accessible to all persons with disabilities, and guarantee the availability, affordability and access to specialized services, including assistive technology in the short, medium and long term.

c. Work towards the elimination of physical, communication, and attitudinal barriers including through systematic provision of information for all in planning, preparedness and response, and strive to ensure the accessibility of services including through universal design in programming, policies and in all post-emergency reconstruction.

2.5. Cooperation and coordination

a. Foster technical cooperation and coordination among national and local authorities and all humanitarian actors, including international and national civil society, UN agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and representative organisations of persons with disabilities, to facilitate cross-learning, and sharing of information, practices, tools and resources inclusive of persons with disabilities.

b. Foster coordination between development and humanitarian actors with a view to strengthening local and national service systems inclusive of persons with disabilities and capitalizing on opportunities to rebuild more inclusive societies and communities.

c. Sensitize all international and national humanitarian staff, local and national authorities on the rights, protection and safety of persons with disabilities and further strengthen their capacity and skills to identify and include persons with disabilities in humanitarian preparedness and response mechanisms.

IV. Human Rights-based Well-being Checklist (HRWC)

The following questions ask how much you have experienced certain things in the last year.
Please read each question and circle the number on the scale that gives the best answer for you.

	Never	Seldom	Quite Often	Very Often	Always
1. I am suffering from inequality & discrimination due to my <u>sex/gender</u> .	4	3	2	1	0
2. I am suffering from inequality & discrimination due to my <u>age</u> .	4	3	2	1	0
3. I am suffering from inequality & discrimination due to my <u>disability</u> .	4	3	2	1	0
4. I am suffering from inequality & discrimination due to my <u>race or ethnicity</u> .	4	3	2	1	0
5. I am respected as a capable person.	0	1	2	3	4
6. I can move around in this city without many barriers.	0	1	2	3	4
7. I can use necessary <u>transportation</u> to participate in social life.	0	1	2	3	4
8. I can access necessary <u>information</u> to participate in social life.	0	1	2	3	4
9. I can access <u>the Internet and other new technologies</u> .	0	1	2	3	4
10. I can ask for <u>support from others</u> when needed.	0	1	2	3	4
11. I can participate in decision-making related to my community and nation if I want.	0	1	2	3	4
12. I feel threats to my life.	4	3	2	1	0
13. I think I can protect my minimum safety when disasters happen in this city.	0	1	2	3	4
14. My legal decision-making will be obstructed by others.	4	3	2	1	0
15. I can protect my money and assets without interference from others.	0	1	2	3	4
16. I can access legal services such as the court when needed.	0	1	2	3	4
17. I can be detained unlawfully.	4	3	2	1	0
18. I can be subject to physical or sexual violence.	4	3	2	1	0
19. I can make decisions on my body and mind without interference from others.	0	1	2	3	4
20. I can decide where to live.	0	1	2	3	4
21. My place of living is OK.	0	1	2	3	4
22. I can make my opinion heard when needed.	0	1	2	3	4
23. I can keep my privacy when I wish to.	0	1	2	3	4
24. I can participate in a fair election.	0	1	2	3	4
25. I can marry and have a child without much interference from others, if I want.	0	1	2	3	4
26. I can communicate with my family when I want to.	0	1	2	3	4
27. I can communicate with my friends when I want to.	0	1	2	3	4
28. I can have/had quality education.	0	1	2	3	4
29. I can receive necessary health services when I have a physical health condition.	0	1	2	3	4
30. I can receive necessary health services when I have a mental health condition.	0	1	2	3	4
31. I think I can receive necessary social services to live in the community when needed.	0	1	2	3	4
32. I can choose my work if I want to.	0	1	2	3	4
33. My work environment is/would be OK (If I work).	0	1	2	3	4
34. My standard of living (food, clothing, and housing) is adequate.	0	1	2	3	4
35. I have access to clean water and toilets.	0	1	2	3	4
36. I can access/enjoy culture and the arts (including music, films, theatres, museums, libraries, etc.).	0	1	2	3	4
37. I can access/enjoy sports.	0	1	2	3	4
38. I can enjoy tourism and leisure when I want to.	0	1	2	3	4
39. I have freedom to keep my culture and religion.	0	1	2	3	4

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V. Disaster Preparedness for Resilience Checklist (DPRC)

Following questions ask about your thoughts on disasters.

Please read each question and circle the number on the scale that best reflects your perspective.

	No	Not yet, but I will	Yes
1. I know how to protect myself when disaster occurs.	0	1	2
2. I know how to protect my loved ones, including my family and pet, if any.	0	1	2
3. I know where to evacuate to and how to reach there.	0	1	2
4. I have a stock food and water for possible emergencies.	0	1	2
5. I have prepared an emergency toilet.	0	1	2
6. I have ways to contact my loved ones in emergency situations.	0	1	2
7. I have identified sources of reliable information during crisis.	0	1	2
8. I am aware of predicted disasters in my area.	0	1	2
9. I have a network of people, such as family, friends, and community member, who can support me.	0	1	2
10. I have ideas on how to ensure privacy for myself and others in crisis settings.	0	1	2
11. I know how to access health services in crisis settings.	0	1	2
12. I am prepared to avoid risky drinking or unprescribed medications.	0	1	2
13. I know rest is important.	0	1	2
14. I have my own methods to feel better when distressed.	0	1	2
15. I can utilize my past experience to overcome difficulties.	0	1	2
16. I am flexible and able to adapt to various situations.	0	1	2
17. If something is beyond my capacity, I can ask for support.	0	1	2
18. I understand I do not need to resolve every problems.	0	1	2
19. I can provide support to others when needed.	0	1	2
20. I know that being pressured to talk right after crisis can be harmful.	0	1	2
21. I know that with time, most people recover well from distress.	0	1	2
22. I have cultural resources (music, religion, traditional events, etc.) that promote my well-being.	0	1	2
23. I am aware of needs of marginalized populations and the importance to include them.	0	1	2

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