

SESSION OUTLINE & AGENDA

Parliamentarian Luncheon Dialogue: ACCELERATING RISK REDUCTION, RESILIENCE, AND FINANCING TO STRENGTHEN PREPAREDNESS, PREVENTION AND RECOVERY

**148th IPU General Assembly
26 March 2024, 13:00-14:30
CICG, Geneva, Switzerland**

Dining area, room: Sadako Ogata 2 (limited seating)

*RSVP to Sarah Wade-Apicella (wade-apicella@un.org) and
Malini Mehra (malini.mehra@globelegislators.org)*

Expected participants: Members of Parliament and parliamentary institutions

AGENDA

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| 13:00-13:10: | Check-in and lunch service (buffet) |
| 13:10-13:15: | Opening remarks by Ms. Paola Albritto, Acting Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction of the UN Secretary General |
| 13:15-13:20: | Opening statement from the table hosts |
| 13:20-14:10: | Guided discussion (2 tables; 12 guests per table including Members of Parliament, and representative of GLOBE, IPU, SADC PF and UNDRR) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Financing table- Governance table |
| 14:10-14:15: | Table Rapporteur wrap-up |
| 14:15-14:25: | Closing remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms. Malini Mehra, CEO, GLOBE Legislators- Mr. Sujit Mohanty, UNDRR Chief of Intergovernmental Processes, Interagency Cooperation and Partnerships Branch |

Background and Context

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that governments are critically under-prepared to tackle the systemic nature of risk and are underinvesting in and under-prioritizing prevention and resilience. As the reality of climate impacts hit, and if the current approach continues, we will continue to face increased losses.

In addition, countries affected by a humanitarian crisis will require funding to support transitions to disaster resilience. Analysis of United Nations appeals suggests that at least 55 per cent of crises are somewhat predictable, and more can be done to fund

actions which would help prevent and reduce the impacts of the compounding effect of hazards.¹ There is appetite from individuals working in humanitarian operations who repeatedly call for concerted action on DRR in humanitarian settings to break the cumulative creation of risk and escalation in humanitarian needs.

Furthermore, UN Member States called for better governance, greater investments in resilience, integration of disaster risk reduction (DRR) in the work of financial authorities, and a focus on disaster prevention as an outcome of the High-Level Meeting of the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030² – the global blueprint for reducing risk and losses, adopted in 2015, and integral to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on climate change.³

In light of increasing pressures on humanitarian, development and peace pillar efforts, the outcomes of the midterm review of the Sendai Framework and COP28, this is the pivotal moment to mobilize parliamentarians to exercise their budgetary and legislative role to enable and ensure inclusive prevention efforts. Given the escalating frequency and intensity of climate change-related disasters, enhancing parliamentary engagement is crucial for effective disaster preparedness, recovery and resilience-building efforts.

To support parliamentary engagement, UNDRR and GLOBE convene this luncheon dialogue at the 148th IPU General Assembly bringing together parliamentarians and institutions with a keen interest in supporting the work of parliaments.

Purpose

This interactive dialogue aims to galvanize parliamentary support for a multi-hazard, risk-informed approaches in legislative and budgetary action by increasing understanding and access to evidence and tools to support financing for inclusive risk reduction and resilience building across humanitarian, development and peace pillars.

The dialogue will improve understanding of parliamentarians' needs to package tools and capacity development efforts to support parliamentary efforts to increase investment in risk reduction and resilience building in legislative agendas and policy frameworks.

Intended Outcome

Members of Parliament (MPs) will:

- Understand how the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and its implementation are fundamental to managing risk in coherence with other international agreements and in support of national policy
- Know what DRR tools, guidance, evidence and training exist from UNDRR and partners, and how to access them
- Partner institutions will better understand needs of MPs to support them

¹ Weingärtner and Spencer, 2019, p. 2 as cited in UNDRR, Financing Disaster Risk Reduction in Humanitarian and Crisis Settings, 2023).

² <https://sendaiframework-mtr.undrr.org/>

³ <https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/what-sendai-framework>

Parliamentarians and DRR

The Sendai Framework calls upon parliamentarians to proactively reduce disaster risks and safeguard populations through legislative action. This involves the development or enhancement of DRR legislation and regulations, including the formulation of national and local DRR strategies, allocating financial resources for DRR budgets, and ensuring governmental accountability for DRR actions. Their multifaceted roles encompass legislating, budgeting, overseeing government activities, and representing the interests of their constituencies.

Parliamentarians possess the capacity to shift governmental focus from reactive disaster response to proactive risk prevention, operating both vertically and horizontally across various sectors and levels of governance. By prioritizing DRR, they can protect and enhance social and economic development while fostering resilience. Furthermore, investments informed by risk considerations can shield against, or even prevent, the adverse impacts of disaster-driven global economic shocks. Moreover, DRR initiatives are not only cost-effective but also contribute to ecosystem preservation and restoration.

Failure to prioritize DRR risks perpetuating a cycle of economic losses, exacerbating humanitarian crises, and fueling political instability. Without concerted action, poverty rates will surge, and nations' socio-economic development will suffer, as losses due to disasters continue to escalate. The staggering consequences of extreme events underscore the urgency for parliamentarians to lead the charge in promoting climate resilience and mitigating the adverse impacts of disasters on vulnerable populations.

IPU and DRR

Demonstrating leadership, in 2019⁴, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) passed a resolution⁵ calling on parliamentarians to include disaster risk reduction (DRR) in their strategies for implementing and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement.

Following the resolution, UNDRR and IPU worked to develop the toolkit- [*Disaster Risk Reduction to Achieve Sustainable Development, A Toolkit for Parliamentarians*](#). The toolkit explains the importance of DRR and how to implement it, and provides 10 actions that parliamentarians can employ to effectively influence and implement risk informed policy, legal, financial and oversight frameworks adapted to their country's context.

Draft Dialogue Questions

Following an introduction from the table hosts, and with reference to the Recommended Resources in addendum to this concept

Considering the Sendai Framework and Paris Agreement calls for comprehensive risk management through governance and investment, and their centrality to disaster and

⁴141st IPU Assembly (Belgrade, Serbia, 13–17 October).

⁵ Resolution titled "Addressing Climate Change"

risk prevention and achievement of the SDGs; and considering the oversight role that parliamentarians play, parliamentarians could strengthen multi-hazard risk governance and legislation at all levels and in all sectors:

Risk governance

Also considering the complexity and interconnected nature of risks – such as climate change, ecosystem degradation, urbanization and pandemics, and how conflict can trigger and cascade into a series of crises – such as those related to food and energy, what should better governance of risk look like?

- What is the committee or other institution to address risk governance issues within the parliament?
- What committees are dealing with disaster risks? If there is a committee or institution that is devoted to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
- Considering the availability of UNDRR checklists and guidance, for example on integrating DRR into humanitarian action, on comprehensive risk management linking DRR and climate change adaptation, what tools or guidance, or adaptations of existing guidance, are needed for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff? What would be most useful to support your legislative and regulatory work in these areas?

Financing

Also considering what would be most useful to support your legislative and regulatory work to de-risk investment and increase DRR financing

- What committees are dealing with disaster risks? If there is a committee or institution that is devoted to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), how do they link with financing issues?
- Considering how to integrate disaster risk or DRR into budget preparation processes, what are the necessary reforms in public finance to include disaster risk and DRR in budget processes?
- What role can national and global regulations and standards play in integrating DRR into all private investment decisions? What is your country's approach to risk disclosure/reporting by private companies?
- How can capital markets play a greater role in investment in DRR? Is your country considering specific market standards for this purpose (e.g., green bond standards)? How can parliaments support the establishment of these standards?
- Are you aware of the different tools and guidance developed by UNDRR in that space, for instance on DRR financing strategies and budget tagging? How can the international community further support parliamentarians and parliamentary staff in this area?

Relevant Resources:

Foundational

[What is the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030?](#)

Toolkits and guidance

[IPU-UNDRR Parliamentary Toolkit: Disaster Risk Reduction to Achieve Sustainable Development](#)

[Integrated National Financing Framework \(INFFs\) for disaster risk reduction](#)

[Budget tagging for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation: Guide for design and taxonomy](#)

[Anticipatory action \(AA\): Best practices and guiding principles for financial protocols of AA funds](#)

[Scaling up disaster risk reduction in humanitarian action](#), including the checklist

[Gender Action Plan to support implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 \(Sendai GAP\)](#)

Training

[Online Training: Checklist on Scaling Up Disaster Risk Reduction in Humanitarian Action](#)

[Thought leadership course - Synergizing disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation](#)

Additional training topics at <https://www.undrr.org/our-work/training>

Evidence

[Financing Disaster Risk Reduction in Humanitarian and Crisis Settings](#)

[Analysis of barriers in financing and operationalizing linkages between anticipatory action and social protection systems](#)

[Opportunities to integrate disaster reduction risk and climate resilience into sustainable finance](#)

[Towards a climate-risk data architecture: common and open risk metrics to align finance with climate-resilient development goals](#)

[Tracking the money for climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction](#)

Explore the disaster risk reduction and resilience knowledgebase from the global DRR community at PreventionWeb in over 20 thematic areas <https://www.preventionweb.net/>