

## UNDRR's Call to Action at COP26

### Climate Action anchored in Comprehensive Risk Management to Achieve the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

*UNDRR has produced this COP26 messaging advocacy guide to clearly communicate what we consider to be the critical asks of Member States to reduce disaster risk and build resilience. We encourage countries to use it to shape their own DRR-related messaging.*

Climate change amplifies risk. Extreme weather events have doubled over the last 20-year period when compared with the previous twenty years. From cyclones in the Pacific, to heatwaves in South Asia and drought in Africa, we are seeing a significant increase in the intensity and frequency of weather-related disasters with far-reaching consequences, especially on the most vulnerable.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 aims to substantially reduce risk, and the human and economic cost of disasters. However, without a drastic course correction in the world's response to climate change, the goal and targets of the Sendai Framework will not be achieved.

COVID-19 has shown us two things: what happens if we ignore risk and that, if we want, as a global community we can immediately address existential risk to the benefit of all.

Business as usual is not an option. The science is clear on both the issue and the solutions. Climate change is linked to unsustainable, greed-driven human activity. We must address the risk resulting from this. G20 industrial nations, which are responsible for 80% of greenhouse gas emissions, must reverse the relentless upward trend. We need political leadership and financing to keep average temperatures within the 1.5 C safer limit outlined in the Paris Agreement.

Prevention and preparedness are critical. We need to significantly scale-up and finance our adaptation ambition. We need to reduce the risks we face today from climate variability and change, whilst also taking joint action to prevent the creation of new disaster risks. Climate-related risks must be considered in all political, economic and development decision-making to avoid risk-blind planning. Climate vulnerable nations must be better equipped, prepared and more resilient today to address the climate-induced risks of tomorrow.

COP26 provides an unparalleled opportunity for Parties and non-Party stakeholders to chart a new course to manage, reduce and prevent climate-related disaster risks. UNDRR calls on/for:

- G20 nations to collectively increase ambition in addressing climate change and reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030 compared to 2010 levels in line with IPCC findings. These should be reflected in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- All donors and multilateral development banks to invest in, and comprehensively manage and reduce risk, and commit to the goal of allocating over half of their climate finance to adaptation. We need to increase financing for climate change adaptation from tens to hundreds of million dollars.
- Parties to significantly increase support for averting, minimizing, and addressing losses and damages through investment in comprehensive risk management approaches and enhance risk understanding through disaster loss databases and risk assessments.
- The acceleration of predictable, sustainable, and risk-informed investments and financing.

## **1. Dramatically raise ambition for reducing and managing risks due to climate change**

- A 50/50 share between adaptation and mitigation in the 100-billion USD climate finance is urgently required. This support to adaptation is especially needed in developing countries that are experiencing escalating disasters from extreme and slow onset events.
- All National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies should be based on robust data, multi-hazard and comprehensive risk assessments across scales, and should contribute to building long-term resilience and preventing maladaptation.
- Countries should put risk to human and ecological systems at the centre by considering the dynamic interaction between hazards, vulnerability, exposure and underlying risk drivers when assessing risks and identifying solutions. Comprehensive risk assessment is a foundation and an integral component of the risk management process and will help countries leapfrog towards SDGs and the goal of the Sendai Framework.
- Greater efforts are needed to translate the Global Goal on Adaptation into measurable outcomes. COP26 is an opportunity to fast-track the development of the appropriate methodologies and metrics to assess progress towards the Global Goal on Adaptation.
- Scaling-up the application of nature-based solutions, achieving land degradation neutrality, restoring the oceans, halting biodiversity loss and prioritizing sustainable ecosystem management will be central to scaling up adaptation action.

## **2. Significantly increase support for averting, minimizing and addressing losses and damages**

- The Santiago Network mandate must be implemented, and sufficient financing ensured. Capacity-development activities anchored on human rights-based, gender-transformative approaches must be prioritized.
- The DRR community has extensive experience in addressing ex-ante risk and should be mobilised to prioritize the provision of technical assistance to LDCs and SIDS that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
- The full spectrum of risk should be addressed in the context of averting, minimising, and addressing losses and damages. These include risks from extreme and slow-onset events triggered by climate change, as well as other hazards, occurring due to compounded and cascading climatic events.
- Understanding the true extent of losses and damages is hampered by lack of data. Countries need support to quantify losses and damages for better assessment of risks and ensure risk pricing.

## **3. Accelerate predictable and risk-informed investments and financing**

- Pledges for an equitable allocation of climate finance to support mitigation and adaptation actions must be honoured.
- All climate and development investment and financing should be predictable and risk-informed to better respond to longer term planning needs. Funding mechanisms should be flexible to allow risk prevention, and agile to facilitate ex-ante and anticipatory actions before risks turn into disasters.
- Importantly, the massive infrastructure investments required by population growth and urban expansion need to be informed by comprehensive risk assessments to avoid creating new risk or exacerbating existing risks.
- Public finance mechanisms should be reviewed to ensure enhanced investments in disaster and climate risk management across sectors, plans and budgets and in integrated national financing frameworks.
- Partnership with the private sector should be leveraged to co-develop innovative financial instruments, including to manage residual risk e.g., through bonds, insurance products and other contingent financing mechanisms.

Ensuring that the world is on a clear path to net zero emissions and resilient to extreme weather events is the greatest public good that governments can deliver. While time is ever more critical, there is still a window in which we can make the changes necessary to future-proof the existence of humanity on our planet. Sense of urgency and sense of agency need to be aligned to precipitate engaged action by all.