

# The 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

**Cancun, Mexico, May 2015**

Statement by Norway

Norway congratulate and thank UNISDR and our host, Mexico, for organizing this important event.

Disaster Risk Reduction is about protecting life and health, as well as critical societal functions and infrastructure. It is about safety and security, cornerstones of modern societies. Efficient and effective risk reduction and disaster preparedness through increased resilience to the effects of disasters are thus important prerequisites for all sustainable development.

Several of the known effects of climate change are closely linked to the increase of natural disasters. More extreme weather, droughts and flooding have devastating consequences, and less developed countries and vulnerable societies are often the hardest hit. More than ever is it important to build resilience to climate change. Focusing on building resilience to climate change and ensure the full implementation of the Sendai Framework also reinforce our efforts to meet our obligations under the Paris agreement and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

*We would like to highlight some elements that we believe are key to succeed in building resilience and support the Sendai framework:*

Knowledge is a critical asset to reduce disaster risk. The basis for all our work is knowledge about risk and vulnerability. To understand, monitor and map hazards in order to develop efficient responses and actions are fundamental.

We would like to underscore the value and importance of disaster risk information that is openly available and easily understandable by all actors responsible for disaster management. We commend the work and increased cooperation among a wide set of actors ranging from national institutions, civil society and private sector in strengthening and sharing information and making it available to the public.

Planning is everything. Through target E we have all recognized the overall importance of a systematic approach to meet the challenges following from a changing world, and changes in risk. Risk and vulnerability assessments should be a requirement for all development planning. Such assessments can be conducted for different purposes and at different levels, and there is of course a variety of methods for how they can be done. However, based on our own experience in Norway we would stress the importance of all relevant stakeholders being involved in the process. There is a huge benefit if all involved can make use of the discussions during the process and the result of the final assessment, and then use it for their own planning in their own sector.

Norway will continue to be an active partner in international cooperation for disaster risk reduction. We support several programmes and projects, and will continue to do so. Early warning and climate services continues to be one of our priorities. Norway has in particular focused on ensuring scientifically based early warning and climate services to be readily available for decision makers in their efforts to manage current hazards, and in the programmes aimed at adaptation to future climate variability and trends.

We must continue to encourage and facilitate Private Sector cooperation and involvement. Norway is exposed to a variety of hazards. Most disasters are caused by nature; storms, storm surges, floods, landslides, avalanches, forest fires. We are fortunate to have well-functioning insurance arrangements for this type of events in Norway. The Norwegian Natural Perils Pool is set up as a public-private partnership, and every building, which has fire insurance, is also protected against natural hazards through this program. The costs associated with natural and man-made disasters need to be properly assessed and financially managed. Bringing together all relevant institutions and expertise, public and private, is crucial to meet the complex and multifaceted task of new challenges in the disaster risk management area.

Disaster affect different groups in different ways. Women and children are more vulnerable and often harder hit by disaster. We welcome the work by UN Women and others to recognize this, and support the call to include women in all parts of disaster risk reduction and work to increase resilience. We remain committed to include other vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities in all relevant aspects of disaster risk reduction.

Delivering on the commitments made through the Paris Agreement of climate change, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda will help reduce displacement risks and increase resilience. Important synergies can be obtained on a national level when handling climate change adaptation planning and disaster preparedness as interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

Thank you.