

OCHA Statement for the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

(Delivery on 26 May 2017 by Jesper Lund)

On behalf of the **UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs**, I am pleased to join you all at this Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Since the adoption of the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction** in 2015, the world has continuously seen the suffering caused by disasters and conflicts. The crises last longer and ‘protracted’, forcing us to shift our approach to response and preparedness. The Sendai Framework embodied this shift from managing disasters to managing disaster risk, covering disaster risk governance, embedding risk in national policy framework, legislative processes and preparedness.

The Sendai Framework deals with man-made hazards, such as technological hazards, but it does not cover conflict risks. The **Agenda for Humanity**, which guided the agenda for the **World Humanitarian Summit** in Istanbul last year, makes a significant contribution to fill this gap. It highlights the need to move from delivering aid to ending humanitarian need. In line with the UN Secretary-General’s priority on conflict prevention, we continue to explore the nexus between climate risks, disasters caused by natural hazards, conflict and fragility.

Both recognize the importance of engaging with a broad range of stakeholders, including women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, and migrants.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite the gains made as a result of the efforts to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action, the number of people targeted by international humanitarian assistance has almost doubled over the last decade, to a staggering 70 million every year. Funding requirements have tripled – and for 2015 to US\$ 16 billion. We need to be better

prepared to anticipate and manage risk, instead of having to address the consequences of NOT doing so.

The coherence among the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, **Addis Ababa Action Agenda**, and the **Paris Agreement**, needs to be greater. The Sendai Framework set “enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response” under Priority 4, together with “Build-Back-Better in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction”. OCHA continues to provide technical assistance for emergency preparedness to support governments’ self-reliant response capacity, paving the way for enhancing their ability to recover and to build resilience.

The UN Secretary-General called for us to focus on the **New Way of Working**, to bridge the divide between humanitarian and development actors and collaborate to deliver better results for people caught up in these crises. The **famine** crisis in the horn of Africa is a situation that shows the linkage between drought, on-going fragility and conflict, and governance issues. Therefore, we promote a common risk analysis and work together to prevent and prepare for potential disaster, climate and conflict risks, and those situations that combine all these elements. OCHA is a partner in the **Global Preparedness Platform** and the **CADRI Partnership**, both promoting joint risk analysis and joined-up programming in partnership.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We recognize that insecurity and protracted crises in the world continue to hinder progress towards achieving some targets on DRR initiatives. Put simply, conflict destroys lives and derails development.

We call on all Member States and inter-governmental regional bodies to support countries suffering from high insecurity, to focus on the political decisions and operational means to bring to an end the situations that drive people out of their homes and destroy livelihoods.

OCHA is looking beyond traditional partners in providing humanitarian assistance. The complexity of today's emergencies requires us to re-examine our operations, and the way we collectively respond. We will continue to support governments in their regional consultations, such as **AMCDRR** (Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR) or **MIAH** (Regional Meeting on International Humanitarian Assistance Mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean). We offer our response coordination mechanisms, including **UNDAC** (UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination), **INSARAG** (International Network for Search and Rescue Advisory Group) and promoting IASC Emergency Preparedness Response (**ERP**) approach with humanitarian partners.

Finally, our four priority areas are the following:

- Commitment to support Preparedness for Effective Response in Priority 4
- Addressing disaster risk in fragile and conflict affected states
- Enhancing national government capacity to respond
- Taking forward the Agenda for Humanity as a contribution to implementing the Sendai Framework and reducing the humanitarian cost of disasters

Increasing prevention and preparedness to anticipate and secure resources for recovery, needs to be the focus of governments at all levels, humanitarian organizations, donors, as well as civil society and the private sector.

I thank you very much for this opportunity to share our work and commitments.

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