

## ***GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISKS REDUCTION***

### ***OECD statement to the Global Platform***

We very much welcome the initiative of the Global Platform and commend both the United Nations and the Government of Mexico for organising and hosting this 2017 Global Platform, the first landmark event after the 2015 Sendai meeting, which gives us an opportunity to take stock of progress made so far.

We recognise that too many countries are still suffering major economic and social losses from disasters, and economic losses are only increasing. While countries have made strides in strengthening their institutions and regulations to manage and reduce disaster risks, progress remains patchy. To assist these efforts and support governments take a strategic approach, the OECD has developed an integrated set of advice for Governments to help them mainstream and implement effective risk management policies. The 2014 OECD Recommendation on the Governance of Critical Risks, which contributed to developing the Sendai Framework in 2015, emphasises the importance of effective governance and the value of Peer Reviews. The OECD Recommendation on Disaster Risk Financing Strategies, which was adopted in February this year, provides specific guidance to support countries in managing the financial impacts of disasters, including through the use of insurance and risk transfer mechanisms. In addition, the 2016 Recommendation on Water, recognises the importance of managing water risks and disasters.

While the Sendai Framework for Action is key in setting out a broad range of measures that governments may take, the main challenge now is to take action and implement measures. For this reason, we are also monitoring progress in terms of how countries manage and govern their risks, assessing how the OECD recommendations are being implemented and sharing the lessons and good practices from country experience. While significant advances have taken place, progress remains patchy even in the most advanced countries.

The OECD is committed to producing, sharing and diffusing evidence on what works and what does not to support the development of effective disaster risk management policies and financing strategies. OECD's commitment is to help create conditions for better and more sustainable inclusive economic growth, one which will help to enhance economic, social and financial resilience to disasters. We have also taken action to collect indicators and investigate what is the evidence base, and contributed to the Open Ended Indicators Working Groups established in the follow up to Sendai.

The OECD stands ready to contribute to identifying good practices in risk assessment, prevention and preparedness and risk financing, as well as collecting data to support the measurement of disaster losses and public expenditures related to disaster risk management. We are currently engaged with a number of countries to assess the implications of disasters for public finances, laying the ground for comparative analysis of critical infrastructure policy frameworks, and assessing risk financing strategies for particular risks, which is part of the OECD's commitment to contribute to these efforts.

Effective risk governance is particularly critical in the most fragile and conflict prone areas where resilience of societies needs to be nurtured. The need to resolve governance gaps, the need to restore trust and to foster openness and accountability are also key for building

resilience into the future. Working along those principles will also help to ensure coherence with the post-2015 Sustainable Development Framework.

We are also working with countries to help strengthen risk policies through comparative analysis, peer reviews and cross country benchmarks. The OECD is committed to helping countries and communities create better policies for better lives to build more resilient societies and economies.