

UNFCCC June Momentum on Climate Change
Information event on the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage
9 June 2020 | 1630 – 1745 | Virtual | Open | Moderated panel discussions

Thanks Musonda always captivating to be part of your panel. And thanks UNFCCC for inviting UNDRR

The nature of our modern world means shocks, stresses and crisis brought by changes in the interaction between climate change, ecosystem fragility, unplanned urbanization, political or financial instability, **reverberate** globally.

Disasters, including from climate extremes and slow onset events, are an increasing concern. The people hit hardest are those who have done the least to cause these significant changes – the vulnerable poor.

The Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement have brought the DRR and CC community together to help countries face these increasing and never-ending challenges.

On the one side the DRR Framework with its 4 Priority Areas and 7 Targets focusing on systemic risk, including intergenerational and trans-boundary aspects of the impacts of climate change –, and covering the full spectrum of risk.

And on the other side the Paris Agreement with its Article 8 focusing on the same key areas the Sendai Framework is spearheading with all countries.

- a) Early Warning Systems
- b) Emergency Preparedness
- c) Slow onset disasters
- d) Risk transfer and residual risk
- e) National Risk Assessments
- f) Building resilience at the local level

UNDRR is the lead of the UN system for reducing risk, convening and coordinating risk reduction activities towards a more resilient future, and thus protecting gains made towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

At the heart of UNDRR's approach is **reducing risks, building resilience and making risk-informed investments – same key elements that will also enable us to avert, minimize and address losses and damages due to climate change.**

So, for UNDRR it is a must that we support the work on Loss and Damage.

UNDRR has been engaging and contributing to the WIM since its creation and many of the activities we develop are relevant to the work of the Executive Committee of WIM: GAR, GPDRR, National Risk Assessments, DLD, National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies and alignment with other frameworks, and our support to initiatives such as REAP and CREWS.

Let me focus now on just two of these activities which are central to the work of Loss and Damage.

One is disaster loss databases

Climate change is a major driver and amplifier of losses and damages and we cannot manage these disaster risks if we cannot measure and account for our losses. UNDRR has played a key role in building the capacity of countries to establish and maintain disaster loss accounting systems, which form a strong basis for a country's assessment

of risk and also serve as essential information for the development of disaster risk reduction strategies and investment decisions at the local and national levels. Today more than 100 countries have some form of a Disaster loss database, which UNDRR has been supporting in collaboration with partner organizations. We are now in the process of developing a new generation disaster loss accounting system which will also potentially support the work of Loss and Damage.

And the second are is our focus on including the consideration for climate risk in all risk-informed development actions.

The development of disaster risk reduction strategies and plans at the local, national and regional levels, and the assessments that underpin them, must integrate near-term climate change scenarios and identify specific actions that will address, minimize and avert losses and damages due to extremes. UNDRR supports governments and partners in mainstreaming climate risks and integrating DRR within and across all sectors.

As part of our contribution to the work of the CRM-TEG UNDRR is working with GIZ in developing a guidance document on comprehensive risk assessments and on how to use this information for planning. While there is no shortage on methodological frameworks for risk assessments in the context of climate change, there are key gaps related to:

- the assessment and navigation of tools;
- compound and cascading risks - understanding how to combine climate risk information with the assessment of other hazards affecting communities;
- understanding of non-economic risk, including loss of human life as well as impacts on cultural heritage and ecosystem services;
- understanding of indirect development impacts of disaster and climate risks for the most hazard-prone and climate-vulnerable communities;
- use of risk assessment in development planning processes at different levels and for different sectors, including understanding of thresholds for risk tolerances and attached limits to adaptation or risk management activities.

We look forward to our continued engagement with the work of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage in these two specific areas as well as other relevant areas such as the Santiago Network which like many we applauded its establishment at COP-25.

Thank-you for your attention and look forward to our continuous engagement.