Concept Note

Disaster Risk Governance – Target E
25 November 2021, 15:00h-16:15h CET

State of play

Governance of risk plays a central role in the management of disaster risk. In an unprecedented context of sanitary and climate crises, marked by dramatic impacts to our societies and our future climate (i.e 2021 IPCC report), engaging an all-of-government and all-of-society approach in preventing, mitigating, responding and recovering to disasters in a complex risk landscape has never been so critical. The overall imperative, addressed by this working session, will be to strengthen disaster risk governance for long-term resilience goals with a key focus on the systemic and emerging risk.

The complex risk context to which Europe and Central Asia is confronted has seen numerous developments to reinforce risk governance championed across the region. As the EFDRR Roadmap underscores, regional and national (inter-) governmental bodies should have the convening power or legislation to promote multi-stakeholder engagement. At a local level, cities drive urban resilience through unique and at times innovative governance structures, reflected in the work of cities in and beyond the Making Cities Resilient 2030 Initiative.

These experiences underscore opportunities and challenges for collaborative, cross-border, and all-of-society fit-for-purpose systems of governance and decision-making processes required for current and uncertain future risk scenarios. Recognizing this, EFDRR members are committed to explore innovative and risk-informed all-of-society, cross-border and collaborative approaches to resilience building and sustainable development.

However, actors driving the risk reduction and resilience agendas across various levels of governance face recurrent challenges in ensuring robust engagement of non-traditional stakeholders reflective of the comprehensive and cross-cutting nature of DRR. A siloed approach to public, private, academic, and civil society decision-making systems limit collaboration with a fragmented understanding of terminology, concepts, approaches, databases, assessments, standards, and ultimately less effective utilization of resources and communication of the benefits of all-of-society approaches.

At a supranational level, collaborative and advisory initiatives are playing an increasingly important role in driving the risk reduction and resilience agendas in their respective regional space, including through convening and coordinating influence and contributions of knowledge and expertise to governance and decision-making.

Key Objectives	Informed by the lessons learned from the management of the COVID-19 crisis and the increasing effects of the climate emergency, this session aims to investigate three key priority objectives: • Driving the debate on a disaster risk governance approach adapted to the growing complexity of risk governance challenges in managing complex disaster risk while building the trust needed for an all-of-society approach. • Exploring interlinkages across key strands of the prevention agenda (COVID-19 recovery, climate change adaptation, air pollution, etc.) to ensure better coordination of efforts on both horizontal and vertical levels, including through cross-border collaboration, to improve synergies between sectors and address complementarities and risk of overlap. • Emphasizing the role of national and local disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies, as well as coordination mechanisms for disaster risk reduction, as tools for implementing all-of-society approaches towards inclusive risk governance, specifically for underrepresented groups such as persons with disabilities.
Questions to be addressed	• How can a comprehensive all-of-society stakeholder engagement for disaster resilience and risk reduction be strengthened and what should be the main priorities for the next decade? • As we look to a more interconnected and complex disaster risk landscape, how should DRR evolve to address the necessary linkages of a cross-cutting agenda (climate adaptation, health, cyber security, etc.) and address the consequences of a response-driven political space at the expense of long-term prevention needs? • What have the COVID-19 crisis and the climate emergency taught the DRR community in terms of better measuring prevention, promoting evidence-based and risk-informed decision-making and increasing national/local budgets for DRR? • What lessons can we draw from the COVID-19 and climate emergencies in strengthening community engagement in the governance of risk and in planning for future preparedness efforts?

Expected outcomes	• Participants engage in the needs and dynamics of adapting risk governance to the evolving risk landscape and addressing objectives for the next decade.
	
	• Participants learn about the good practice experiences of disaster risk governance processes and systems at local, national and supranational levels across the region and the lessons from the current crises in the regional context.
	
	• The session re-affirms the EFDRR Roadmap priorities contributing to more robust risk governance, including:
	    - Institutionalizing multi-stakeholder approach for governance at local, national and supranational levels.
	    - Strengthening collaborative and transboundary systems for capacity building and action at all levels.
	    - Systematizing science and evidence-based decision-making processes.

Background documents	• UNDP-UNDRR, Assessment Study of the Role of NDMAs in COVID-19 Crisis Response and Impact of COVID-19 on NDMAs Operations, 2021, link • Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Greater Manchester Resilience Strategy 2020-2030, 2021, link • UNDP, Discussion Paper, The Social Construction of Systemic Risk: Towards an Actionable Framework for Risk Governance, 2021, link • UNDRR, Words into Action Guidelines: Developing national disaster risk reduction strategies, 2020, link • UNDRR, National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction – UNDRR Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia Overview, 2020, link • UNDRR, Words into action Guidelines: Implementation guide for local disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies, 2019, link • UNDRR, Global Assessment Report, Systemic Risks, the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda, 2019, link • Making Cities Resilient 2030 Initiative, link

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