



General Assembly

Eleventh Session

Distr.: Upper Elementary
XX March 2018

Original: English

Second Committee – Economic and Financial

This committee wants to improve the world economy to help the poor. They discuss how national, regional and international economies affect the world. They also focus on countries that have special needs. Some examples are the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) or the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs).

This group believes people in poverty do not have to be poor forever. For this reason, they focus on how developing nations can improve their economies. They also find ways to directly help people in poverty. They might talk about how to help countries get access to money. Or, they might find ways that technology can help countries develop faster.

This committee works closely with the UN Economic and Social Council. Some of the resolutions they have passed deal with sustainable development, harmony with nature, and migration.

Agenda Item 19.C – Sustainable Development: Disaster Risk Reduction

Background

Natural hazards are normal. These can include tsunamis, floods, earthquakes, storms, heat waves, extreme cold, landslides, wildfires, and volcanoes. Disasters are what sometimes happens after a hazard. Disasters often happen because of not planning for hazards or not responding properly after a natural hazard. It is when the lives of people are at risk and the affected community is unable to cope with the situation. Sometimes there is nothing anybody can do to stop a situation from turning into a disaster. However, disaster risk reduction aims to reduce those chances.

The largest disaster after a natural hazard in the 20th century were the 1931 China floods. Some estimates suggest that close to 4 million people died. Heavy snowfall and higher than expected rainfall in 1931 caused the flooding of the Yangtze and Huai rivers. The water level was 16 meters above normal. Millions of people were negatively affected. The flood was made worse because of deforestation, building too many dams, and humans reclaiming wetlands. Prevention would have saved millions of lives and might have prevented a disaster.

In the past, people felt that disasters were inevitable. They were just something that happened and communities just had to deal with it. Often, they were called “Acts of God”. However, beginning in the 1960s, people began to look at disasters differently. Often, it was poor people who suffered the most during a disaster. This showed there was an economic connection to disasters. The statistic is shocking. From 1996-2015, 90% of all disaster deaths were in low- and middle- income countries. If countries helped bring people out of poverty they could reduce the amount of people affected.

The 1970s saw great steps in how countries responded to disasters. The UN created the Disaster Relief Office. This office was responsible for coordinating help for countries after a disaster. It encouraged countries to develop early warning systems and took donations so that they would be able to respond in an emergency. In 1992, it joined the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

There were many disasters in the 1980s which encouraged the international community to do something to raise awareness about the problem. The 1990s were made the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. A lot of research on disasters was done in this decade and a World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction was held in 1994.

In 1999, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction was created to bring together all the parts of the UN and various countries that were working to reduce disaster risk. In 2005, countries met in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan and created an International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. This was a ten-year commitment called the Hyogo Framework for Action.

- The UN continued to bring attention to disaster risk with the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015.
- States worked to create the Sendai Declaration and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015. This Framework aims to learn more about disaster risk, to improve the management of disaster risk, to invest in risk reduction and to improve the response to disasters.
- Weather can be very unpredictable. One example is the El Niño climate cycle. This is when warm water in the western Pacific Ocean shifts east. This shifts the position of tropical storms to the west coast of the Americas. Weather all over the planet is affected. It causes temperatures in Australia to be higher than normal. There is often more rain in Peru, Chile and Ecuador. In the southern part of the US rainfall is above average. Also, fishers in South America catch less fish.
- Scientists do not know exactly why El Niños happen. They usually occur every 3-5 years. In 1982-1983 it caused \$10 billion worth of damage worldwide.
- There are things states can do to prepare for a disaster. For example, they can encourage buying insurance and make it easy to do so, or upgrade homes and businesses to better withstand natural hazards, or even encourage people to purchase sandbags in case of flood.
- Governments can make sure that they are ready for an emergency and have plans in case of a sudden natural hazard.
- The Sustainable Development Goals 2030 deal with disaster risk reduction. Goal 11 for inclusive cities asks countries to improve how well cities survive disasters. They want to see a big improvement by 2020.
- Goal 3 asks countries to help with risk reduction when it comes to health risks. Health risks are higher during a disaster. People might have limited access to clean water, safe food, and water for cleaning. In this type of situation, diseases can be spread quickly.
- Women and girls are can be more affected by a disaster than men or boys.

- Women and girls are 14 times more likely to die in a disaster than men. After a cyclone in Bangladesh in 1991, 90% of the dead were women.
- Women are at a disadvantage when it comes to disasters. In Sri Lanka, climbing trees and swimming is mainly taught to boys. This puts them at an advantage to survive during a tsunami.
- November 5 is World Tsunami Awareness Day. Although they are rare they are extremely deadly. In the last 100 years, 58 tsunamis have killed more than a 250 000 people. The deadliest was in the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004. It killed 227 000 people and affected more than 14 countries.

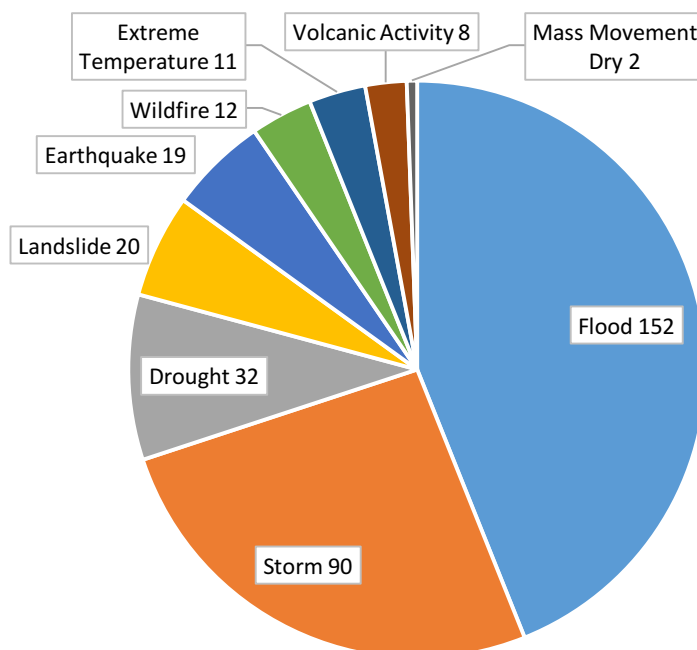
Sustainable Development Goals

- ✓ Began in 2016 to replace the Millennium Development Goals. These goals are much broader and focus on bringing people out of poverty.
- ✓ Poverty is one of the factors of disaster risk. Goal 3 and Goal 11 both deal with reducing disaster risk.
- ✓ Countries will work together to reach the goals by 2030.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

- ✓ This program began in 2015 after the end of the Hyogo Framework.
- ✓ It asks countries to research disaster risks, invest in disaster risk reduction, be prepared for disasters and “Build Back Better” after a disaster.
- ✓ There are 7 global targets it wants to achieve. One of them is to reduce global disaster mortality by 100 000 between 2020-2030.

2015 Disasters by Natural Hazard



There were 346 reported disasters in 2015.

71.8% of all deaths were in Asia.

An earthquake in April 2015 killed 8 831 people in Nepal.

Guiding Questions

1. Is your country at risk of natural hazards? Are your neighbours? How would a disaster negatively affect your country? If your neighbours had a disaster how might some of the effects of the disaster affect you?
2. How do natural hazards and disasters affect food security in your region?
3. How does climate change play a role in disaster risk reduction?
4. What can countries do in order to help minimize the risk of a disaster? What is your country doing? What does your country need to do?
5. The continent that is most affected by disasters is Asia. What are some of the reasons this area is more at risk?
6. Research a disaster. What could have been done in order to reduce the intensity of that disaster? How could we apply those lessons to present-day problems?
7. How can women and girls be better protected during a disaster? How can countries be convinced to make these changes?
8. Does the problem exist in your community?
9. How does being a delegate from a different country help you understand this problem in your community?
10. How do the choices you make in your life help resolve this problem?

Resources

Title	Hyperlink	How is it helpful?
<i>United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction</i>	https://www.unisdr.org/who-we-are/what-is-drr	Official UN site for Disaster Risk Reduction
<i>Natural Disasters, Conflict, and Human Rights</i>	https://www.brookings.edu/on-the-record/natural-disasters-conflict-and-human-rights-tracing-the-connections/	In depth article about the far-reaching consequences of disasters
<i>The Devastating Impact of Natural Disasters</i>	https://www.childfund.org/Content/NewsDetail/2147489272/	An overview of natural disasters and the problems they create.
<i>The Countries Where a Natural Disaster is Most Likely to Strike</i>	http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/maps-and-graphics/Mapped-Where-a-natural-disaster-is-most-likely-to-strike/	Statistical information about which countries are most at risk.
<i>Epidemiology of Disasters</i>	http://www.pitt.edu/~epi2170/lecture15/index.htm	A university professor's PowerPoint presentation about disasters. Easy to follow and read.
<i>International Red Cross</i>	http://www.ifrc.org/en/publications-and-reports/world-disasters-report/world-disasters-report/	This site has yearly disaster reports.
<i>Stop Disasters!</i>	http://www.stopdisastersgame.org/en/isdr.html	Learn about disasters while playing a browser game.
<i>2015 Disasters in Numbers</i>	http://www.unisdr.org/files/47804_2015disastertrendsinfographic.pdf	A two-page pamphlet with interesting disaster statistics.
<i>Prevention Web</i>	http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/statistics/	An online resource that has disaster profiles for all countries.



General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 February 2017

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 19 (c)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 21 December 2016

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/71/463/Add.3)]

71/226. Disaster risk reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [70/204](#) of 22 December 2015 and all previous relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the Sendai Declaration¹ and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,²

Recalling further the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,³ Agenda 21,⁴ the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,⁵ the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development⁶ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),⁷ and reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,⁸ in particular the decisions related to disaster risk reduction,

Reaffirming its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions —

¹ Resolution [69/283](#), annex I.

² *Ibid.*, annex II.

³ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

⁴ *Ibid.*, annex II.

⁵ Resolution [S-19/2](#), annex.

⁶ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁷ *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

⁸ Resolution [66/288](#), annex.



economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recognizing the need for a broader and a more people-centred preventive approach to disaster risk and that disaster risk reduction practices need to be multi-hazard and multisectoral, inclusive and accessible in order to be efficient and effective,

Reiterating the call in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries,

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of disasters and their devastating impact in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative economic, social and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, and which hamper the achievement of their sustainable development, in particular that of developing countries,

Noting the convening of the International Conference on the Implementation of the Health Aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, held in Bangkok on 10 and 11 March 2016, which adopted the Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework as a contribution to the Sendai Framework to build resilient health systems,

Recognizing climate change as one of the drivers of disaster risk, and that the adverse effects of climate change, as contributors to environmental degradation and extreme weather events, may, in certain instances, among other factors, contribute to disaster-induced human mobility, and in this regard acknowledging the internationally agreed outcomes adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,⁹

Welcoming the Paris Agreement¹⁰ and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Reaffirming the importance of strengthening international cooperation in the face of disasters, weather-related hazards, including the El Niño phenomenon, and the adverse effects of climate change to prevent major damage and ensure an adequate response and attention to the affected populations in a timely manner in

⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

¹⁰ See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

order to ensure resilience to their impacts, and recognizing in this regard the importance of developing coordinated multi-hazard early warning systems,

Recognizing that disaster-prone developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, warrant particular attention in view of their higher vulnerability and risk levels, which often greatly exceed their capacity to respond to and recover from disasters, and recognizing also that similar attention and appropriate assistance should also be extended to other disaster-prone countries with specific characteristics, such as archipelagic countries, as well as countries with extensive coastlines,

Welcoming the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016, and recognizing the importance of achieving the global targets of the Sendai Framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda,¹¹

Noting its resolution [70/203](#) of 22 December 2015, entitled “World Tsunami Awareness Day”,

Stressing the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution [70/204](#);¹²
2. *Urges* the effective implementation of the Sendai Declaration¹ and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;²
3. *Reiterates its call* for the prevention of new and the reduction of existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery and thus strengthen resilience;
4. *Stresses* the importance of the continued substantive consideration of the issue of disaster risk reduction, and encourages countries, the relevant United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes and other relevant institutions and stakeholders to take into consideration the important role of coordinated disaster risk reduction activities for, inter alia, the achievement of sustainable development;
5. *Encourages* focused action within and across sectors by countries at the local, national, regional and global levels in the four priority areas of the Sendai Framework, namely, understanding disaster risk, strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and in order to “build back better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction;
6. *Welcomes* the updated United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to

¹¹ Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

¹² [A/71/230](#).

Sustainable Development, in line with the Sendai Framework, and encourages the relevant United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes and other relevant institutions and stakeholders to take it into consideration in the coordination and elucidation of their respective activities, in the context of sustainable development and according to the Sendai Framework;

7. *Calls upon* all relevant actors to work towards the achievement of the global targets agreed in the Sendai Framework;

8. *Recognizes* in this regard, given the shorter time frame for achieving target (e) of the Sendai Framework by 2020, the scale of action needed for the development of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, such as through the establishment and strengthening of national disaster loss databases, national and local risk profiles and available capacities, as well as the conduct of risk assessments, and reaffirms the need for the enhancement of the implementation capacity and capability of developing countries, including the mobilization of support through international cooperation, for the provision of means of implementation to augment domestic efforts in accordance with their national priorities;

9. *Urges* States, while implementing the Sendai Framework, to continue working on data collection and the development of baselines on current losses, including working towards the collection of disaggregated information and historical disaster losses going back, at least, to 2005, if feasible;

10. *Encourages* Member States to give appropriate consideration to disaster risk reduction in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹³ where it is reflected across several Goals and targets;

11. *Reiterates its strong encouragement* of and the need for effective coordination and coherence, as applicable, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,¹⁴ the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change¹⁰ and the Sendai Framework, while respecting the relevant mandates, in order to build synergies and resilience, and addressing the global challenge of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty;

12. *Urges* that due consideration continue to be given to the review of the global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework as part of the integrated and coordinated follow-up processes to United Nations conferences and summits, aligned with the Economic and Social Council, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycles, as appropriate, taking into account the contributions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and regional and subregional platforms for disaster risk reduction and the Sendai Framework monitor;

13. *Looks forward* to the outcome of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction, recognizes the active engagement of Member States as well as the support from the United Nations system and other stakeholders in its work, and stresses the need for the outcome to be developed in coherence with the work of the Inter-Agency and

¹³ Resolution 70/1.

¹⁴ Resolution 69/313, annex.

Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators to ensure feasibility and consistency in implementation, collection of data and reporting;

14. *Recognizes* that, while each State has the primary responsibility for preventing and reducing disaster risk, it is a shared responsibility between Governments and relevant stakeholders, and also recognizes that non-State and other relevant stakeholders, including major groups, parliaments, civil society, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, non-governmental organizations, national platforms for disaster risk reduction, focal points for the Sendai Framework, local government representatives, scientific institutions and the private sector, as well as organizations and relevant agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions and intergovernmental organizations, play an important role as enablers in providing support to States, in accordance with national policies, laws and regulations, in the implementation of the Sendai Framework at the local, national, regional and global levels;

15. *Encourages* Governments to promote women's full, equal and effective participation and leadership in the design, management, resourcing and implementation of gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes;

16. *Stresses* the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective and the perspectives of persons with disabilities in disaster risk management so as to strengthen the resilience of communities and reduce social vulnerabilities to disasters, and in this regard recognizes the need for the inclusive participation and contribution of women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as the role of youth, volunteers, migrants, local communities, academia, scientific and research entities and networks, business, professional associations, private sector financing institutions and the media, in all forums and processes related to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with the Sendai Framework;

17. *Recognizes* that biological hazards require strengthened coordination between disaster and health risk management systems in the areas of risk assessment, surveillance and early warning, and that resilient health infrastructure and increasing the overall capacity of health systems reduces overall disaster risk and builds disaster resilience;

18. *Welcomes* the convening of the upcoming fifth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Cancun, Mexico, from 22 to 26 May 2017;

19. *Also welcomes* the regional and subregional platforms for disaster risk reduction held in 2016, and looks forward to those to be held in 2017, which will inform the discussions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction;

20. *Reaffirms* that international cooperation for disaster risk reduction includes a variety of sources and is a critical element in supporting the efforts of developing countries to reduce disaster risk;

21. *Acknowledges* the importance of the work of the agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions in disaster risk reduction, the substantial increase in demands on the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the need for timely, stable and predictable resources necessary for supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework;

22. *Recognizes* the continued importance of voluntary funding, and urges existing and new donors to provide sufficient funding to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework, including through unearmarked and, where possible, multi-annual contributions;

23. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Disaster risk reduction”, unless otherwise agreed.

*66th plenary meeting
21 December 2016*
