



International Recovery Forum 2021: Building Back Better from Compound Disasters: Practical Cases and Lessons for Recovery from Natural Hazards and COVID-19 22 January 2021

Draft Concept Note and Programme
(as of 15 January 2021)

I. BACKGROUND

The International Recovery Forum, established in 2005, convenes a broad range of senior policy makers and practitioners to exchange experiences and facilitate discussion on challenges to resilient recovery, and opportunities for building back better. It is a forum designed to generate ideas and collaboration through dialogue and debate, sharing of experiences and the latest evidence in disaster recovery. The Forum is coordinated annually in Kobe, Japan, by the International Recovery Platform (IRP) Secretariat, in close consultation with the IRP Steering Committee.

The annual forum is organized around themes to address key prevailing priorities and gaps in knowledge and practice for recovery and building back better. The Forum's themes link with the outcomes and lessons emerging from previous IRP Forums, and other global events concerned with recovery, in order to advance and challenge the discourse. The International Recovery Forum is among the key activities managed by IRP in support of its mandate, to share experiences and learning among countries and all relevant stakeholders, explicitly designated in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

II. THEME

The COVID-19 global health crisis has undoubtedly impacted many aspects of society and the economy. It has affected all facets of life. The unprecedented socioeconomic impacts that it has caused have undermined development progress and threatened the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It has exposed many of the vulnerabilities of societies and economies, and has laid bare the consequences of inequalities in its disparate, often disproportionate impacts.

Simultaneously, countries around the world are being forced to confront the challenges of managing compound risks from natural hazards and the COVID-19 pandemic, brought about by the increasing intensity and frequency of climate hazards due to climate change and geophysical risks. Since the onset of the pandemic, countries have had to deal with both COVID-19 and natural hazards such as cyclones in India and the Pacific, floods in Japan and Vietnam, heatwaves in the United States and Europe, among many others. Climate-related hazards threaten to exploit many of the same vulnerabilities, amplifying disaster risk and its potential impacts as the public health emergency continues.

Although the response to the protracted health crisis and its consequences is ongoing, it is imperative that countries and communities begin to not only prepare to recover and build back better from the pandemic, but also to address compound risks. Initiating the process of assessment and recovery planning for COVID-19 and compound disasters¹ must be undertaken to develop programs for an integrated, cross-sectoral recovery that unites all stakeholders' efforts. The process will also facilitate the identification of priorities, setting of strategies and policies, development of institutional structures, and identification of sources of financing. Considering

¹ A compound disaster is defined as two or more events occurring simultaneously or successively with underlying conditions that amplify the impact of the said events. (IPCC 2012 - Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation)

lessons learned from past disasters, mitigation of further adverse consequences and future recovery can benefit by focusing on early no-regrets options that will generate positive outcomes for the longer-term.

The International Recovery Forum 2021 will be held online² and will feature discussions between recovery policy makers and experts on lessons for governance, planning, financing, inclusion and other key areas which can be applied to recovery. Building on the COVID-19 Recovery Policy Brief, published by IRP in June 2020, panelists will consider the unique challenges and opportunities for recovery, including the unprecedented challenge of managing the dual risks of natural hazards and the pandemic, and recovery under the continued threat of climate-induced hazards.

III. OBJECTIVES

The Forum seeks to provide a venue for sharing good practices and lessons learned for recovery from the pandemic and its consequences. The program aims to deliver on the following objectives:

1. Examine priorities and opportunities to build back better, greener, and more resilient from COVID-19 and compound disasters

The first panel will discuss strategies, systems and solutions for building back better, greener, and more resilient from the pandemic and natural hazards. Discussions will include consideration for institutional, financial, and implementation support for launching a green and resilient recovery while balancing immediate recovery needs and goals with priorities for longer-term resilience. Speakers will reflect on lessons from recent as well as previous recovery experiences that can inform priorities and opportunities to build back better.

2. Assess social and economic impacts and identify early lessons learned for sustainable recovery from pandemics and compound disasters

The second panel will delve into cases and lessons learned for recovery from disasters in countries most affected by the pandemic. The panel will address lessons learned from assessing social and economic impacts, as well as planning and financing a sustainable recovery. It will address key issues for vulnerable and excluded groups, such as social protection and basic services, and consider implications and measures for managing compound risks from the pandemic and natural hazards. It will also share practical cases and lessons learned from past recovery experiences, as well as some of the early lessons that can be gleaned from recovery efforts in addressing natural hazards under the COVID-19 pandemic.

IV. PROGRAMME

Opening	
14:00-14:25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Opening Remarks: Mr. Jared Mercadante, Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank, and Chair of the Steering Committee of the International Recovery Platform <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Remarks: Mr. OKONOGI Hachirou, Minister of State for Disaster Management. Government of Japan (video message) <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Remarks: Mr. IDO Toshizo (tbc), Governor of Hyogo Prefecture
Keynote Session	
14:25-15:20	Mr. KAWATA Yoshiaki , Executive Director of the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI)

² Hybrid organization with live streaming and a gathering of a limited number of people in Kobe. Speakers attending from outside of Japan will participate remotely online.



	<p>☐ Mr. Stéphane Hallegatte, Lead Economist, with the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) at the World Bank</p> <p><i>Interactive Discussion (15 minutes)</i></p>
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**Panel Session 1:
Building Back Better, Greener, and More Resilient in the Context of a Pandemic**

15:20-16:20	<p><i>Moderator: Ms. Rita Missa, Recovery Advisor, Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery for Building Resilience Team, United Nations Development Programme (tbc)</i></p> <p><i>Panel Discussion:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building back more inclusive and equitable societies: Ms. María Alejandra MUÑOZ, Vice President, Government of the Republic of Ecuador 2. Addressing impacts on vulnerable and excluded groups: Ms. Bambi Kraus, National Tribal Affairs Advisor, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Government of the USA 3. Financing and Planning to Build Back Better: Mr. Vijay PADMANABHAN, Director, Urban Infrastructure, Southeast Asia Department, Asian Development Bank 4. Building back greener: Mr. Joy Elamon, Director General, Kerala Institute of Local Administration <p><i>Interactive Discussion</i> <i>Session closing remarks</i></p>
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16:20-16:25	Break
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**Panel Session 2:
Practical Cases and Lessons for Sustainable Recovery from the Impacts of Compound Disasters**

16:25-17:20	<p><i>Moderator: Ms. Paola Albrito, Chief of Branch, Intergovernmental processes, Interagency co-operation and Partnerships, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction</i></p> <p><i>Panel Discussion:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Early lessons in recovery from compound disasters: Mr. Malcolm Dalesa, PDNA and Recovery Strategy Coordinator, Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination, Office of the Prime Minister, Government of Vanuatu 2. Assessing needs and planning for recovery: Mr. Ronald Jackson, Head, Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery for Building Resilience Team, United Nations Development Programme 3. Financing resilient recovery: Mr. Mark Joven, Undersecretary, Department of Finance, Government of the Philippines 4. Engendering societal recovery: Ms. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary General, Asia-Pacific, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) <p><i>Interactive Discussion</i> <i>Session closing remarks</i></p>
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Closing

17:20-17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="437 159 1390 293"> <input type="checkbox"/> Reflections: Ms. Mami MIZUTORI, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction, Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) <li data-bbox="437 331 1390 427"> <input type="checkbox"/> Closing remarks: Mr. MURAKAWA Soshi, Director, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, on behalf of Co-Chair of the IRP Steering Committee
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V. OUTCOMES

1. A report of the substantive discussion as a knowledge product of IRP (outcomes of this Forum will be shared at events such as the APMCDRR 2021 and other global learning events)
2. Full video and highlights for sharing via the IRP website³, to ensure the Forum can be shared with a global audience.

VI. Participants

Participants are expected to include policymakers, representatives of the private sector, practitioners, experts, academia, media and the general public.

³ Videos will only be posted online with explicit consent of the speakers.