



International Recovery Forum 2022

Redesigning Systems for Resilience through Recovery: Assessing Progress and the Unfinished Agenda at the Midpoint of the Sendai Framework

19 January 2022

Draft Concept Note and Programme

(as of 12 Jan 2022)

I. BACKGROUND

The International Recovery Forum, established in 2005, convenes a broad range of senior policymakers 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 relevant global events, in order to advance the field. 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 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 provides the framework for whole-of-government and all-of-society approaches in reducing disaster risks presented by environmental, technological and biological hazards, natural or man-made. As the framework approaches its midpoint, it is necessary to assess progress in order to inform course corrections, policy adjustments, new modalities and follow-up processes. The United Nations General Assembly thus passed a resolution in December 2020¹, which determined that a midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework should be conducted for the period 2015-2023, with specific reference made to its core provision to “build back better”. The current context of the global pandemic, climate change, and setbacks to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) underscore the necessity and timeliness of assessing progress, challenges, and learning in building back better to date, and to collectively consider adjustments and actions necessary to implement Priority 4² moving forward.

Much work has been dedicated to building back better and achieving better recovery outcomes following the adoption of the Sendai Framework. The International Recovery Platform, for example, has worked alongside other recovery related stakeholders to consolidate knowledge and experience, and support efforts to build back better. While recent disaster recovery experiences demonstrate how far recovery practice and policy have progressed, they also signal continued challenges in achieving the ambitions of

¹ UN General Assembly resolution 75/216: <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3896586?ln=en>

² Sendai Framework Priority for Action 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

building back stronger, faster, and more inclusively in a range of settings. Disaster resilient designs, progress in assessment, planning, financing and recovery preparedness to name a few, offer new pathways to building back better. However, but delivering greater resilience for all in recovery and improved development prospects remain elusive. New and emerging risks further complicate the outlook and necessitate a forward-looking agenda for advancing recovery practice.

Meanwhile, climate change is already affecting every region of the world in numerous ways through intensified climate-related events, including heavy rainfall and associated flooding, intense drought and extreme heat waves (IPCC, 2021). The increasing frequency and intensity of disasters as a result of natural and man-made hazards continue to bring devastating impacts globally with severe implications for sustainable development. Climate change threatens to exacerbate risks in countries and communities with limited capacity to address present and evolving vulnerabilities. Disaster risk reduction measures for all hazards, systems approaches towards risk-informed development, and increased investments in resilience have been underscored in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and compound risks.

As we approach the midpoint of the Sendai Framework, planning for disaster recovery has never been more challenging. This now complex, interconnected world we live in demands transformational changes that can address increasingly systemic and emerging risks and compound and cascading disasters. This calls for revisiting policies and redesigning systems for resilience to achieve better recovery outcomes. A rethinking of governance systems that can better address new realities and challenges would be critical. Post-disaster recovery planning would also require a reframing of issues and strategies with a systems lens to develop durable solutions in the face of uncertainty and complexity.

The International Recovery Forum 2022 will provide reflections on the implementation of Priority 4 and the challenges that remain, while setting a forward-looking agenda for continued progress, including redesigning systems for resilience. It will contribute to the midterm review of the Sendai Framework and aligns with the theme of the 7th Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2022), “From risk to resilience: Towards sustainable development for all in a COVID-19 transformed world”, and the 5th World Reconstruction Conference (WRC5) “Reconstructing for a Resilient Future: Sustainable Recovery from the Pandemic and Other Disasters”. Specifically, it will discuss the state of knowledge on building back better, how this has informed recovery policy and practice, and whether this has changed recovery outcomes. It will feature retrospective and prospective discussions between recovery policymakers and experts on focused themes in recovery for enhanced implementation of building back better so that communities can recover faster, more equitably and with greater resilience from disasters.

III. OBJECTIVES

The forum seeks to provide a venue for assessing progress in the implementation of Sendai Framework’s Priority for Action 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction and identifying opportunities to redesign systems for resilience. The program aims to deliver on the following objectives:

1. Assessing Six Years of Progress and Challenges in “Build Back Better” for Implementing the Sendai Framework

This panel will assess progress, achievements, enablers and barriers in building back better and how these have informed improvements in recovery policies, governance, programmes, and outcomes.

For this panel, reflections on the following would be necessary:

- What do governments and different stakeholders consider having been the most significant advances to date in enhancing preparedness to build back better in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction? What are the primary enablers for progress (e.g., structures, policies or processes)?
- What have been key barriers in building back better?
- How could countries and different stakeholders have been better supported in the implementation of building back better?
- In which areas has progress been easiest, and in what areas has it been most challenging?



- In what ways can current recovery mechanisms be improved to be able to deal with the multi-hazard, systemic nature of risk?
- Has recovery been able to integrate disaster risk reduction towards the achievement of other goals (e.g., poverty reduction, sustainable development, climate change mitigation and adaptation)?
- Has recovery been inclusive, focusing on an all-of-society engagement?
- Has recovery received appropriate financing to build back better and invest in resilience?

The panel discussion will be followed by a video sharing highlights of the last six years of work done by the IRP secretariat and its Steering Committee member agencies since the adoption of the Sendai Framework, where IRP is recognized as an international mechanism for sharing experience and lessons on building back better.

2. Redesigning Systems for Resilience through Recovery: Setting the Agenda for Advancing “Build Back Better” through 2030

This panel will discuss priorities and options to advance the implementation of building back better in the context of multiple hazards and systemic risk. It will leverage advances in risk reduction in recent years and lessons from past disasters. The panel will explore ways in which countries can build back better in recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic crisis to further invest in disaster risk reduction and adaptation to cope with intensifying climate-related events and recurring disaster losses. It will identify good practices that lead to transformative and resilience actions in recovery. The following can serve as guiding questions for this panel:

- What priorities are necessary to make further advancements in building back better by 2030?
- What new initiatives and partnerships will become available to governments and other stakeholders going forward?
- How must pre-and post-recovery planning change to facilitate building back better?
- What adjustments or critical measures must be taken to ensure that building back better is no longer treated as an option but is a practice applied to all recovery initiatives?

IV. PROGRAMME

(time in the programme is mentioned in the Japan Standard Time)

Opening	
14:00-14:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Opening Remarks: Mr. Ronald Jackson, Head of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery for Building Resilience Team of UNDP and Chair of the Steering Committee of the International Recovery Platform ❑ Welcome Remarks: Mr. SAITO Motohiko, Governor of Hyogo Prefecture (video message) ❑ Welcome Remarks: Mr. UCHIDA Yoshinari, Deputy Director General for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan ❑ Special Remarks: 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) <p>(MC: Ms. Yuki Matsuoka, Head, UNDRR Office in Japan)</p>
Keynote Session 1	

14:20-14:40	<p>☐ Keynote speaker 1 (20 minutes): Mr. TAKEYA Kimio, Distinguished Technical Advisor on DRR, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) <i>“Progress and Lessons Learned in Building Back Better since the Adoption of the Sendai Framework” (tentative title)</i></p>
14:40 – 14:50	<p>☐ A presentation for setting the context for the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework: Mr. Marc Gordon, Senior Coordinator of the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)</p>
<p>Panel Session 1: Assessing Six Years of Progress and Challenges in Implementing of Sendai Framework Priority 4</p>	
14:50 – 14:55	<p><Programme Break></p> <p><i>Showing a video on IRP: produced by the IRP Secretariat about activities and achievements by International Recovery Platform since 2015 (a short version)</i></p>
14:55-15:55 (60 minutes)	<p>Moderator: Ms. Cristelle Pratt, the Assistant Secretary-General for the Environment and Climate Action (ECA), the Secretariat of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS)</p> <p><i>Panel Discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker 1: Ms. Elizabeth Riley, Executive Director Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency CDEMA (tbc recorded presentation) <i>“Challenges and Opportunities for advancing a Resilient Recovery Agenda in Caribbean SIDS” (7 minutes presentation)</i> • Speaker 2: (tbc) Representative of the Government of the Philippines (7 minutes presentation) • Speaker 3: Mr. Anil Pokhrel, Chief Executive, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority, Government of Nepal (7 minutes presentation) • Speaker 4: Ms. Litea Biukoto, Team Leader Risk Reduction, the Pacific Community (SPC) (7 minutes presentation) <p><i>Interactive Discussion (25 minutes)</i></p> <p><i>Session wrap-up remarks by the moderator</i></p>
15:55-16:00	<p>Launch of New Recovery Knowledge Products (video):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP Handbook on Recovery Institutions • UNDP Handbook on Owner Driven Housing Reconstruction
16:00-16:05	<p><Programme Break></p>
<p>Keynote Session 2</p>	
16:05-16:25	<p>☐ Keynote speaker 2 (20 minutes): tbc <i>Forward looking perspectives in Build Back Better towards 2030</i></p>



	<p>Ms. Cynthia Spishak, Associate Administrator, Office of Policy and Program Analysis (OPPA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), USA</p>
<p>Panel Session 2: Redesigning Systems for Resilience through Recovery: Setting the Agenda for Advancing Building Back Better through 2030</p>	
<p>16:25-17:20 (55 minutes)</p>	<p><i>Moderator: Ms. Paola Albrito</i>, Chief of Branch, Intergovernmental processes, Interagency co-operation and Partnerships, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)</p> <p><i>Panel Discussion:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Speaker 1: Mr. Ramesh Subramaniam, Director General of the Southeast Asia Department, Asia Development Bank (ADB) (7 minutes presentation) 2. Speaker 2: Ms. Alexandra Nichols, Director, Strategic and International Policy, Policy and Design Branch, National Recovery and Resilience Agency, Government of Australia (7 minutes presentation) 3. Speaker 3: (tbc) Representative of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) (7 minutes presentation) 4. Speaker 4: (tbc) Mr. Kamal Kishore, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Government of India <p><i>Interactive Discussion (20 minutes)</i></p> <p><i>Session wrap-up remarks by the moderator</i></p>
<p>17:20 – 17:30</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Reflections: Ms. Paola Albrito, Chief of Branch, Intergovernmental processes, Interagency co-operation and Partnerships, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction <input type="checkbox"/> Closing remarks: Mr. MURAKAMI, Takeo, Director, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, Co-Chair of the IRP Steering Committee

V. OUTCOMES

1. A report of the substantive discussion as a knowledge product of IRP (outcomes of this forum will serve as input to the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework and will be shared at events such as the 7th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 5th World Reconstruction Conference, Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2022 and other global learning events); and
2. Full video and highlights for sharing via the IRP website³ to ensure the forum can be shared with a global audience.

VI. Participants

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

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