

2017 European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction Open Forum

Istanbul Outcomes

26 – 28 March 2017

We, the participants of the 2017 European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) Open Forum, present at the Istanbul Session hosted and chaired by Turkey and co-chaired by Italy;

The 2017 EFDRR Open Forum chaired by the Government of Turkey reinforced political commitment, generated solutions and expanded partnership towards a successful implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The 2017 EFDRR Open Forum provided the opportunity of shaping up views on disaster risk reduction in Europe as preparation and contribution to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (22-26 May 2017, Cancun, Mexico)

1. Request authorities to include representatives of communities considered under UN Major Groups and Other Stakeholders, especially persons with disabilities, refugees, migrants, asylum seekers and other vulnerable groups, in national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction through a participatory and human rights-based approach. These groups should be recognized as vital participants of disaster risk reduction work.
2. Recognize resilient local communities as the foundation of a resilient society and the importance of promoting inclusive coordinated and subsidiary multi-level governance across vertical and horizontal boundaries to empower and build the capacities of local authorities, civil society actors and at-risk households through partnerships and access to resources and tools, delegated authorities and supportive enabling environments.
3. Reflect on the continuous toll of disasters in Europe and recall the painful consequences of the 2016 earthquakes in Central Italy that claimed 299 lives. Commit to ensure that national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction trigger the determination of specific roles, responsibilities and accountability to ensure that strategies are aligned with incentives, training and exercises to reduce disaster risk.
4. Agree to promote solid risk management and disaster risk reduction through financial regulation, fiscal policies, public procurement, investments in disaster resilience including critical infrastructure and basic services and climate risk disclosure. Call upon Governments to leverage the work underway in Europe to integrate sustainable finance with disaster risk reduction and climate change in an inclusive manner.
5. Continue Europe's engagement in addressing the Sendai Framework, including through the implementation of the EFDRR Road Map in coherence with the European Commission Sendai Action Plan and the Council of Europe Medium Term Plan with the understanding that societal and cultural diversity is a value and a resource for strengthening resilience to disasters and ensuring democratic governance.
6. Request authorities and stakeholders to include the protection and enhancement of cultural heritage in disaster risk management policies and actions.

7. Implement the outcome of the work of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group (OIEWG) on Terminology and Indicators. Welcome the work undertaken by UNISDR to develop Sendai monitoring and reporting mechanisms. This will strongly contribute to shaping disaster risk reduction strategies and programmes.
8. Call for applied coherence and mutually reinforcing measures in their programmatic implementation between the Sendai Framework and other relevant international agreements, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on climate change and the New Urban Agenda.
9. Pursue the development of inclusive, people-centered, multi-hazard early warning systems as a key challenge for resilience, linking to locally supported education and communication systems.
10. Note that environment-related risks, notably extreme weather events and failure of climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as water crises, have emerged. Stress the importance of an ecosystem-based approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
11. Note the need to pay attention to cascading effects and hybrid threats and their impacts on increasingly complex societies.
12. Ensure science, evidence and knowledge to underpin decision-making and strategies for disaster risk reduction at local, national and European regional levels. Initiate an EFDRR Science and Technology Alliance/Network to enable use of science in the implementation of the Sendai Framework.
13. Ensure that standards for disaster risk reduction, such as the International Health Regulations and the Safe Hospital Initiative, are implemented at European country level.
14. Reaffirm that women and girls are disproportionately impacted by disaster and that women play a key role in advancing disaster risk reduction as active agents of change. This calls for the systematic collection of sex, age and disability disaggregated open data; performance of gender and diversity analysis; development of gender-responsive communication strategies; and inclusion in national monitoring frameworks of gender sensitive targets.
15. Welcome Mexico's invitation to the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, focusing on the 2020 targets of the Sendai Framework linked to the Sustainable Development Goals, reducing economic losses, and further reducing vulnerabilities.
16. Acknowledge the excellent work of the Directorate General for Education, Culture and Research at Ministry of Youth and Sport and also the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Directorate of Earthquake and Ground Research, the laureates of the Damir Ćemerin Award for Local Change.
17. Express gratitude and appreciation to Turkey for its warm hospitality in hosting the 2017 European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction Open Forum.