



Science and Policy Forum for the Implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

Date: 13-14 May 2019

Venue: Palais des Nations, Geneva

Co-organized by

UNISDR Science Technology Advisory Groups (STAG)

International Science Council (ISC)

Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR)

Background

The new paradigm of risk-sensitive and risk-informed development triggered by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 requires sound foundations in knowledge and understanding of risk and resilience to contribute to the attainment of the Paris Climate Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals. The Sendai Framework, in adopting ‘Understanding Disaster Risk’ as its first priority for action, emphasizes the importance of science and technology in its implementation. It calls for enhanced scientific and technical work on disaster risk reduction in the context of sustainable development and climate change and highlights the need to prioritize the development and dissemination of science-based risk knowledge, technology and innovation.

But it is not just about understanding risk – it is also about building a more integrated science basis which brings together science disciplines from all aspects of the 2030 Agenda, and most importantly ensuring science is used by policy-makers in support of risk-informed decisions and investment.

The Global Platform with its focus on the resilience dividend is a key opportunity to highlight the role of science, showcase its opportunities and commitment and encourage dialogue with Governments, private sector representatives and other practitioners.

Science and policy discussions at the Global Platform will be linked and mutually benefitting from the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) and STI Forum, both under the leadership of ECOSOC and taking place from 13-17 May 2019 in Geneva and New York respectively.

The results of the discussions will also feed into the High-Level Political Forum, High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development and UN Climate Summit under the auspices of the UN General Assembly in September, and other critical global and regional events with the aim to link the global 2030 agreements and their respective scientific basis closer together.

Objectives

Key objectives of the Global Science Policy Forum for DRR 2019 are:

- To share and review progress in global, regional, national and local implementation of science-based policy making, risk sensitive development as a basis for enhanced engagement between science and policy for risk-informed decision making across the 2030 Agenda;
- To identify the key knowledge gaps and opportunities to strengthen the contributions of a comprehensive, interdisciplinary science base to delivering the Sendai Framework including through the operationalization of the Global Science and Technology Road Map;
- To commit collectively to enhanced collaboration for an integrated science approach to DRR, CCA and sustainable development;
- To fill the current gap in knowledge and application of new technologies for disaster risk reduction and enhanced resilience.

About the Organizers:

The UNISDR Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) has been called upon by the Sendai Framework as an essential global partnership group providing technical advice and support in the formulation and implementation of disaster risk reduction activities worldwide. The global STAG¹ has been expanded through the creation of regional STAGs in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Arab States and Europe, and is supported by the global UNISDR Science and Technology Partners².

The International Council for Science (ICS³) has been a strong advocate of science-based development decisions and through its role as the organizing partner of the Science and Technology Major Group is the lead science organization within the global UN processes. ISC has clearly recognized the importance of a risk informed approach to sustainable development and climate change, not least through its sponsorship role for the IRDR (Integrated Research on Disaster Risk) and support for the establishment of a Risk Knowledge Action Network (KAN).

¹ <https://www.unisdr.org/2016/docs/stag/Revised%20G-STAG%20TOR%20final.pdf>

²

<https://www.unisdr.org/2016/docs/stag/Revised%20ToR%20ST%20Partnership%20Feb%202018.pdf>

³ <https://council.science/>

Since 2010, the Integrated Research for Disaster Risk (IRDR⁴), a programme of the ISC, has been contributing to an integrated approach to research, policy and action in building and maintaining networks and partnerships with scientists and other stakeholders across the world with focus on focus on supporting a risk-informed implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Expected Participants

The priority audiences for the conference are:

1. Policy-makers dealing with the implementation of the Sendai Framework nationally;
2. Scientists and technology experts actively working in building the knowledge and its use in decision-making and action around the Sendai objectives;
3. Other stakeholders from civil society, business, media working on supporting evidence-based DRR.

Agenda

Day 1: 13th May 2019

11:30 Session 1: Opening of Science and Policy Forum

Chair: Co-Organizers

12.15: Presentation of the contextualized Global Science and Technology Road Map, for adoption by the participants. Followed by a short panel discussion

Chair: UNISDR STAG

Expected Outcome: Adoption and Commitment to the contextualized S&T Roadmap

13:00 Lunch break

14:00 Session 2: Science and Policy dialogue: The case for better data

Chair: STAG Data Working Groups

Expected Outcomes:

- Better understanding of the role of data as a voice and data for action
- Agreement on roles and responsibilities to enhance data collection, analysis and management

15:30 Coffee Break

16:00 Session 3: Science and Policy dialogue: Sendai Hazards and the need for enhancing interdisciplinary collaboration

Chair: Chairs of Sendai Hazard Working Group

⁴ <http://www.irdrinternational.org/>

Expected Outcomes:

- Review of the draft 'Sendai hazard definition list', building on the 2014 IRDR Peril Classification and Hazard Glossary.⁵
- Agreement on roles and responsibilities of different science partners in encouraging more collaboration for better integrated science and research

17:30 Launching of new journal: Progress in Disaster Science

18:30 Cocktail reception hosted by Elsevier

Day 2: 14th May 2019

9:00 Session 4: Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction

Chair: TBC

Expected Outcomes:

- Common understanding of current status and related opportunities and risks of technology for DRR and agreement on way forward for enhancing the development of new technologies.
- Decision on creation of a small working group on this topic.

10:30 Break

11:00 Session 5: Science and Technology for Resilience: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Societies

Chair: STAG and ISC/IRDR

Expected Outcome:

Clear suggestions on way forward to enhance collaboration between scientists and policy makers at the national and local levels.

12:30 Adjourn

Date and time TBC (13, 14 or 15 May): Lunch side event at the Commission for Science and Technology for Development (CSTD): 'Role of Science, Technology and Innovation in Building Resilient Societies: focus on Citizen Science'

The Side event will introduce the Sendai Framework and its connections to the SDGs and other agreements and the work science partners, Ministries of Science, scientific advisors and others must do to enhance understanding of risks for resilient and sustainable communities.

FOR QUESTIONS PLEASE KINDLY CONTACT: connect@irdrinternational.org

⁵ <http://www.irdrinternational.org/2014/03/28/irdr-peril-classification-and-hazard-glossary/>