

Type of Event	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plenary Session <input type="checkbox"/> Spotlight Event	
Title of the Event	Realizing women's leadership for resilience in the Asia-Pacific region	
Relevant Conference Pillar(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pillar 1: Resilient Investment and Recovery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pillar 2: Resilient Systems, Services, and Infrastructure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pillar 3: Resilient Communities	
Schedule	Date: 22-09-22 Time: 13.30-14.30	
Event Focal Points	Humanitarian Advisory Group	UN Women
Partner organizations	Branch and Youth Volunteer Development Officer, Red Cross, Kiribati ActionAid, Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office, Fiji Disaster Management Analyst at CARI! (Cerdas Antisipasi Risiko Bencana Indonesia)	
Public narrative	<p>Women’s leadership and role in decision-making has been recognized as a critical factor for achieving global Agenda 2030 for sustainable development (including Sustainable Development Goals), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and regional climate change and disaster risk reduction frameworks, such as the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific.</p> <p>The status of women’s leadership in disaster risk reduction is not as advanced as the aspirations of these global and regional frameworks. In response to gender gaps in women’s leadership and meaningful participation in DRR and resilience, this session will present good practices to support and elevate women's leadership in DRR including exploring the role of various disaster and climate resilience stakeholders, including government, private sector, INGOs and UN agencies, and civil society. It will provide an overview of UN Women's framework and tools developed to measure women's leadership and meaningful participation in disaster and climate resilience, and piloted in Vanuatu. Importantly, it will highlight key recommendations and good practices for moving “beyond vulnerability” to gender equality and women’s empowerment in disaster risk reduction.</p>	
Background and Rationale	<p>The current state of women's leadership globally and in the Asia-Pacific region highlight critical gaps. Women's voices remain missing from the highest levels of leadership. Women make up a mere quarter of national legislators worldwide, a third of local government members, and just one-fifth of cabinet ministers. Only 22 countries are headed by a woman</p>	

Head of State or Government.¹ In Asia, the ratio of Sendai Framework Focal Points is 22 men to three women (China, Nepal, and Myanmar). In the Pacific, the ratio is 15 men to one woman (New Zealand). Similarly, the Governing Board of the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Center) comprises nine men and one woman (Vietnam). The ratio of Heads of National Disaster Management Agencies in Asia is 22 men and one woman, while in the Pacific, the ratio is 12 men and two women.² The status of women's leadership in disaster risk management at the subnational level is not available for Asia and the Pacific. However, reports from several countries reflect that disaster risk management is still a male-dominated area, especially in sub-national levels and structures. Importantly, women make up less than one-quarter of national-level committees established to respond to COVID-19.³

Women's leadership in DRR structures:

Ideally, the government should make 50-50 percent equal quotas for the representation of women and men mandatory. Women's leadership should be promoted at all levels, from the highest in parliament and senior national and subnational positions to the grassroots community and household units. In the context of DRR, these structures include the following:

DRR Platforms	Disaster Management Committees/teams	Other senior and leadership positions
Global Platform for DRR	National Disaster Management Committee/Team	Women parliamentarians
Asia-Pacific Regional Platform for DRR	Provincial Disaster Management Committee/Team	National Focal Point for DRR
National Platforms for DRR	District Disaster or Development Management Committee/Team	Gender Focal points within line ministries and agencies
Local Platforms for DRR	Village/Community Disaster or Development Management Committee/Team	The leadership of Women's Rights Organizations and women's groups
	Women's leadership and decision making for DRR and resilience within households	Within the UN and other International and National NGOs working on DRR

¹ UNSG (2021) Stressing COVID-19 Crisis 'Has a Woman's Face,' Secretary-General Urges Action to End Deep Political, Socioeconomic Gender Imbalances, as Women's Commission Begins Session: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/sgsm20625.doc.htm>

² UNDRR (2020) Concept note for WIN DRR in the Asia Pacific, Women's International Network on Disaster Risk Reduction in the Asia Pacific, Promoting Women's Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction

³ UN Women/UNDP COVID-19 Tracker: <https://wrd.unwomen.org/practice/listing-toolbox/covid-19-global-gender-response-tracker>.

Women's leadership and roles in decision making for disaster risk reduction:

Women are powerful agents of change for DRR and risk-informed development. Gender inequalities often increase the vulnerability of women and girls due to their limited access to information and resources. To uphold women's rights and fully leverage the potential of women's leadership in disaster risk reduction, the perspectives of women and girls in all of their diversity must be integrated into the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes at all stages of prevention, mitigation, and preparedness, response, and recovery.⁴

Women's equal and meaningful participation and leadership are essential for reducing risks and achieving a broad range of sustainable development goals. The active engagement of empowered female leaders is critical for gender-responsive DRR. When women are at the centre of decision-making and implementation, the approach is more likely to be gender-neutral, effective, and transformative for resilience to disaster risks. Still, women continue to be vastly under-represented in decision-making in politics, businesses, and communities.

The COVID-19 response has spotlighted the incredible power of women's leadership very recently.⁵ Women leaders are among those who have kept transmission rates low and put countries on track for recovery. Women's organizations have filled crucial gaps in services and information, especially at the community level. Greater gender balance has led to better responses. Conversely, countries with less effective responses have tended to be those where "strongman" approaches prevail and women's rights are under assault.⁶

Women's leadership in global and regional DRR frameworks

Women's leadership and decision-making roles are critical to achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030.⁷ SDG target 5.5 calls for all Member States to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life.⁸ The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction promotes women and youth leadership in disaster risk reduction and resilience.⁹ UNFCCC, including its Lima work program and Glasgow Women's Leadership statement, recognizes that women's full, equal, effective, and meaningful participation and leadership at all levels of decision-making are critical for making climate change, and disaster risk reduction and recovery policies, plans and practice more effective. Similarly, the CEDAW (Articles 7 and 8)¹⁰ and notably its General Recommendation 37 on

⁴ See the "leadership topic" the Women's Resilience to Disasters Knowledge Hub <https://wrd.unwomen.org/practice/womens-leadership>

⁵ UN Women (2022) Government responses to COVID-19: lessons on gender equality for a world in turmoil <https://wrd.unwomen.org/explore/library/government-responses-covid-19-lessons-gender-equality-world-turmoil>

⁶ UNSG (2021) Stressing COVID-19 Crisis 'Has a Woman's Face,' Secretary-General Urges Action to End Deep Political, Socioeconomic Gender Imbalances, as Women's Commission Begins Session: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/sghsm20625.doc.htm>

⁷ UNGA (2019) "Gender Equality and Women's Leadership for a Sustainable World," A Panel Discussion with the President's Group of Gender Equality Leaders 15 July 2019, ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations Headquarters: <https://www.un.org/pga/73/wp-content/uploads/sites/53/2019/08/Summary-15-July-Event-and-List-Leaders-who-joined-Call-for-Action.pdf>

⁸ UNSTATS (2022) SDG Indicators, Metadata repository: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/?Text=&Goal=5&Target=5.5>

⁹ United Nations (2015) The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030: <https://wrd.unwomen.org/explore/library/sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030>

¹⁰ United Nations General Assembly (1979) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW): <https://wrd.unwomen.org/explore/library/convention-elimination-all-forms-discrimination-against-women-cedaw>

the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change¹¹ provides confirmation that women should have equality in political and public life at the local, national, and international levels. This guarantee of political equality encompasses women's leadership, representation, and participation, which are essential in developing and implementing effective disaster risk reduction and climate change programs and policies that consider the different needs of the population, particularly women. Article 14 reiterates that rural women have the right to participate in development planning and agricultural reform activities.

At the regional level, the Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration emphasizes the need to implement specific national policy actions to increase women's participation in all levels of leadership and decision-making. These must be undertaken by legislative, governance reforms, and advocacy for women's leadership at all levels.¹² This includes high-level disaster risk reduction structures, committees/boards, teams, and platforms from regional, national, subnational, and local levels. Further, the Framework for Disaster Resilience in the Pacific¹³ and its implementing Pacific Resilience Standards (which include an "Inclusion Standard") promote a multi-stakeholder approach for national and regional resilience to disasters; starts with empowering all persons within communities to respond to disasters and climate change, rather than only those traditionally or culturally charged with leadership responsibilities.

Importantly, the World Humanitarian Summit, Regional Consultation for the Pacific 2015, identified that affected people should be placed at the centre of humanitarian action. Strengthened capacity for key players at the local level was identified as crucial given they are usually the first to respond to a disaster and the last to remain as part of recovery efforts. For this reason, all responders need to work with affected communities, involving them in leadership and decision-making, particularly women, youth, the elderly, and people living with disabilities. Despite increased attention and investment across the Pacific for women's leadership in decision making, Pacific women are still notably absent from visible leadership roles within mechanisms focused on responding to climate change and resulting disasters.¹⁴

The Asia-Pacific Action Plan 2021-2024 for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030:¹⁵ and specifically, Priority 2 - Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk of the Asia-Pacific Action Plan 2021-2024, states that "*diversity in decision-making and leadership and the meaningful participation of women, children, youth, persons living with disabilities, indigenous peoples, older persons, migrants, and ethnic minorities represent a huge opportunity to strengthen the*

¹¹ CEDAW (2018) CEDAW General recommendation No. 37 (2018) on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change: <https://wr.d.unwomen.org/explore/library/convention-elimination-all-forms-discrimination-against-women-cedaw>

¹² Pacific Women (2020) Leadership & Decision Making: <https://pacificwomen.org/our-work/focus-areas/leadership-decision-making/>

¹³ SPC, SPREP, PIFS, UNDP, UNISDR, and USP (2016) Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management: [FRDP] 2017 – 2030: <https://www.resilientpacific.org/en/news/framework-resilient-development-pacific>

¹⁴ Shifting the Power Coalition (2019) Pacific Case study: <https://glocalisation.ifrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/PacificCaseStudy2019.pdf>

¹⁵ APP-DRR (2021) Asia-Pacific Action Plan 2021-2024 for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030: <https://wr.d.unwomen.org/explore/library/asia-pacific-action-plan-2021-2024-implementation-sendai-framework-disaster-risk>

	<p><i>effectiveness of managing risk at – and between – each level.”</i> The Plan has two actions dedicated to women’s leadership based on intersectionality within women and girls:</p> <p>a) 2.2 National Action (g): Increase diversity and inclusivity and the representation of women, youth, persons living with disabilities, and indigenous peoples in leadership and decision-making, including through incentives, affirmative recruitment policies, and an enabling working environment.</p> <p>b) 4.3 Local Action (c): Promote meaningful participation and leadership of marginalized groups in preparedness planning and resourcing for community-level early actions and responses and ensure that individuals who experience intersecting inequalities can access and benefit from anticipatory action.</p> <p>To elaborate on the intersectionality within women and girls within the context of Asia-Pacific implies the meaningful participation and leadership of <i>inter alia</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic groups – informal workers, landless, subsistence farmers, and fishers; • Mobile groups – migrants, IDPs, and refugees; • Age-related high-risk groups – infants, children, and elderly; • Persons with disabilities; and • Traditionally/socio-economically excluded groups – oppressed castes, tribes, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identities, and people living with HIV etc.
<p>Session objectives</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Showcase best practices and case studies on combatting barriers and creating an enabling environment for women's leadership in policymaking, planning, programming, budgeting, and institutionalizing women's leadership at all levels and across DRR and risk-informed/resilient development (e.g. prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and recovery). This may include examples from complex emergencies where disasters, climate change, and conflicts intersect. 2. Showcase examples of women’s leadership and entrepreneurship in spearheading disaster and climate-resilient livelihood activities and food security initiatives e.g., climate-smart agriculture and clean energy. 3. Generate ideas and discussion on how the aspirations for women’s leadership in the global and regional frameworks, international treaties, and the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan for DRR (2021-2024) can be translated into accelerated progress and measurable actions at the regional, national, and local levels.
<p>Expected Outcomes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greater visibility for women leaders and good practices for women's leadership at the Asia-Pacific regional, national and local levels. 2. A Brief Note including recommendations and good practices for women’s leadership at regional, national, and subnational levels. The note will list recommendations from this event and actions for promoting women's leadership in the context of regional and global normative frameworks.
<p>Structure</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Women’s leadership video</u> (4 mins) 2. Introduction (2 mins) 3. Panel speakers (24 mins) 4. Audience Q & A (12 mins) 5. Tools and research including new <u>leadership tool</u> (6 mins)

	<p>6. Final remarks (5 mins) – <i>optional if time</i></p> <p>7. Closing (7 mins)</p>			
Proposed Moderator of the Session	<p>Beth Eggleston, Co-founder and Director Humanitarian Advisory Group (Moderator)</p> <p>Rahel Steinbach, the Women’s Resilience to Disasters Global Coordinator and DRR lead from UN Women (introduction to the new leadership framework and tools)</p> <p>James Gilling, the Human Coordinator from the Australian Government (closing remarks)</p>			
1. List of Panellists	#	Name	Organization	Country
	1.	Vasiti Soko , Director	Fiji National Disaster Management Office (partner of WRD)	Fiji
	2.	Esther Tamoia Nabuti , Branch and Youth Volunteer Development Officer	Red Cross	Kiribati
	3.	Flora Vano , Country Programme Manager	Action Aid	Vanuatu
	4.	Fega Pangestika , Disaster Management Analyst	CARI! Cerdas Antisipasi Risiko Bencana Indonesia	Indonesia (ASEAN rep)
Reference Documents	<p><i>A list of the key reference documents that were consulted as background on the topic.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> UN Women – WRD Knowledge Hub (2022): <u>Women’s Leadership, voice, agency, participation & advocacy</u> (topic publications, tools, and case studies) UN Women, UNFPA, & UNDRR (2021) <u>Beyond Vulnerability to Gender Equality, Women’s Empowerment and Leadership in DRR: Critical Actions for the UN System</u> UN Women & HAG (2022) <u>Assessing Women’s Leadership in Disaster and Climate Resilience: Assessment Framework and tools</u> Pacific Women & Action Aid (2020) <u>Mobilising Women’s Leadership Solutions for Protection and Recovery in times of COVID-19 and TC Harold</u> UKAID (2018) <u>Women’s Leadership in Disaster Preparedness</u> UN Women (2022) <u>Government responses to COVID-19: lessons on gender equality for a world in turmoil</u> UNSG (2021) <u>Stressing COVID-19 Crisis 'Has a Woman's Face,' Secretary-General Urges Action to End Deep Political, Socioeconomic Gender Imbalances, as Women's Commission Begins Session</u> UN Women/UNDP <u>COVID-19 Tracker</u> UNGA (2019) <u>Gender Equality and Women's Leadership for a Sustainable World, A Panel Discussion with the President's Group of Gender Equality Leaders 15 July 2019, ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations Headquarters</u> UNSTATS (2022) <u>SDG Indicators, Metadata repository</u> United Nations (2015) <u>The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030</u> United Nations General Assembly (1979) <u>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</u> (CEDAW) 			

13. CEDAW (2018) CEDAW General recommendation No. 37 on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change
14. APP-DRR (2021) Asia-Pacific Action Plan 2021-2024 for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
15. UNDRR (2020) Concept note for WIN DRR in the Asia Pacific, Women's International Network on Disaster Risk Reduction in the Asia Pacific, Promoting Women's Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction
16. UNFCCC (2020) Lima Work Program - Report of the Conference of the Parties on its twenty-fifth session, held in Madrid from 2 to 15 December 2019
17. Scottish Government and UN Women (2021) Gender equality and climate change: Glasgow Women's Leadership statement
18. Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (2017-2030)
19. PIFS (2021) Pacific Resilience Standards: A Practitioners Guide



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