



SAMOA and Sendai; Twin Pillars for a Resilient Future in all Small Island Developing States

17 May 2023, 1:15pm-2:30pm

Conference Room 6, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Co-organisers: Alliance of Small Island States, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs, Office of the High Representative of Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, UNWomen

Background

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are among the most vulnerable to natural hazards and climate-related disasters. From 2000-2019, SIDS accounted for 26% of global disaster-related deaths, despite representing only 0.5% of the global population. Due to their unique geographic, socio-economic, and environmental characteristics, these hazards can often have devastating impacts on the economies, societies, and ecosystems of SIDS and can cause long-term damage to their infrastructure, livelihoods, and natural resources. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) has been an important instrument for reducing the risks and impact of disasters for SIDS. The Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework provides an opportunity to assess progress, identify gaps and emerging challenges, and chart a way forward for SIDS, including through the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

While the SAMOA Pathway calls for an integrated approach to sustainable development and resilience-building in SIDS, the successor framework of the SAMOA Pathway will need to address the unique challenges of SIDS in the current context of disaster risk reduction: SIDS often have small coastal populations and limited land area, which makes them uniquely vulnerable to the impacts of climate-related disasters. In addition, many SIDS lack the financial and technical resources to invest in disaster risk reduction, early warning systems, and emergency preparedness and response, as outlined in the recent report “SIDS: Gaps, Challenges and Constraints in Means of Implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction”. At the same time, the IPCC AR6 Report affirms that the intensity and frequency of climate related disasters are projected to increase, with disproportionate impacts on vulnerable communities such as SIDS.

Many Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have made notable progress in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030). As of 2021, 20 SIDS had developed national disaster risk reduction strategies aligned with the Sendai



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Framework. SIDS have also made databases to track the impacts of natural hazards and climate change. For example, the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) has developed a loss and damage database that tracks the impacts of tropical cyclones, earthquakes, and excess rainfall in the Caribbean region. The Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI) has also developed a loss and damage database to track the impacts of disasters in the Pacific region.

Despite these efforts, SIDS continue to face significant challenges in implementing the Sendai Framework and building resilience to climate-related disasters. The report on [‘Gaps, challenges and constraints in means of implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction’](#) highlighted the need for capacity building, investment in data and risk analytics, as well as the human and capital resources to truly adopt a risk-informed approach to development in SIDS. At its core, disaster risk reduction requires a whole-of society approach, and one that recognizes the specific challenges and vulnerabilities during and after disasters, including increased risks of violence, loss of livelihoods, and limited access to essential services. By ensuring that disaster risk reduction strategies and policies are more gender-responsive and inclusive, SIDS can promote more equitable development that benefits all members of society. This is particularly important for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Sendai Framework, which all prioritize inclusive and sustainable development in SIDS.

Objective

- Identify opportunities to mainstream outcomes from the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction through the successor framework of the SAMOA Pathway
- Provide a platform for dialogue on the challenges and opportunities for an integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and sustainable development in SIDS
- Identify potential immediate and long-term deliverables for SIDS that are necessary to accelerate implementation of the Sendai Framework

Format

The Risk Reduction Hub event will consist of a high-level panel discussion, followed by an interactive Q&A session. The panelists will be experts and practitioners from SIDS, UN agencies, civil society, and other stakeholders who will share their perspectives, experiences, and recommendations on the opportunity for disaster risk reduction to accelerate sustainable development in SIDS, including through the implementation of the successor framework of the SAMOA Pathway.



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Guiding Questions

1. What are the key achievements, challenges, and gaps in the implementation of the Sendai Framework in SIDS, and what can be done to address these? How can SIDS harness the outcome of the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework to accelerate implementation of the Sendai Framework?
2. In what ways can the successor framework of the SAMOA Pathway address the specific needs and challenges of SIDS in disaster risk reduction? How can the successor framework integrate climate change adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage, gender mainstreaming, and short and long term development priorities to ensure the coherence and alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals?
3. How has international cooperation and partnerships support disaster risk reduction efforts in SIDS, particularly in the areas of risk assessment, early warning systems, disaster preparedness, and post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation? What are the best practices and innovations in these areas, and how can they be scaled up and replicated?
4. How can SIDS mainstream disaster risk reduction into their development policies, plans, and budgets, and ensure the participation and ownership of local communities, indigenous peoples, and other vulnerable groups? What are the challenges and opportunities for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in different sectors, such as tourism, transport, agriculture, and infrastructure?
5. How can women’s agency and leadership be leveraged to boost disaster and climate resilience in SIDS and close critical gender gaps in disaster and climate resilience?
6. How the necessary financial resources be mobilized for SIDS, including through innovative financing mechanisms, to implement effective disaster risk reduction strategies and build resilience? What are the gaps and barriers to accessing finance, and how can they be overcome? How can access to international climate finance, such as the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund be improved for SIDS?

Programme

1:15pm – 1:30pm	<p>Opening Segment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction • Ms. Molly Nielson, Assistant CEO, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Samoa (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States) – TBC
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Director, Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
1:30pm – 2:00pm	<p>Disaster Risk Reduction in Small Island Developing States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Hon. Mr. Sakiasi Ditoka, Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Fiji H.E. Ms. Mariya Ahmed Didi, Minister of Defence, Maldives (TBC) H.E. Hon. Mr. Ruateki Tekaiara, Minister for Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development, Kiribati H.E. Ms. Kerryne Z. James, Minister for Climate Resilience, the Environment and Renewable Energy, Grenada
2:00pm – 2:20pm	<p>Discussants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Beth Delaney, Humanitarian Coordinator, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia Mr. Ronald Jackson, Head of Disaster Risk Reduction, Recovery for building Resilience, UNDP Ms. Delphine Serumaga, UN Women, Fiji Multi-Country Office Mr. Karlos Moresi, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
2:20pm – 2:30pm	Interactive Segment

Contact

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