

Statement by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction at the Plenary Meeting of the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development

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As the discussions for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development commence, it is important to acknowledge that nothing undermines sustainable development like the impact of disasters. From 2015 to 2022, average annual direct economic losses from disasters exceeded \$115 billion worldwide. Current trends indicate a 40% increase in the number of disasters between 2015 and 2030, even before considering the accelerating impacts of climate change.

At the same time, the economic case for investing in resilience has been proven: Every \$1 spent on disaster risk reduction can save up to \$15 in disaster response and recovery. Risk-informed strategies protect investments in infrastructure, agriculture, trade, and other critical sectors, fostering resilient communities and economies.

Given this context, the outcome of this process should encompass specific and tailored financing strategies that prevent the creation of new risks, reduce existing risks, and build resilience where risks cannot be completely reduced. The full scope of new and emerging risks must be covered, including both natural and man-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological, and biological risks.

There must be a global shift towards a culture of prevention while addressing the current financing challenges for disaster risk reduction, including scale, access, predictability, and sustainability. These challenges must be met through a variety of sources, including public and private funding, as well as international development cooperation.

UNDRR is planning to convene a Global Policy Forum on Financing for Disaster Risk Reduction to discuss the way forward on these issues, engaging all relevant stakeholders, including Member States, International Financial Institutions, and the Private Sector. This Forum is intended to inform the outcomes of the FFD4 Conference next year.

Disaster risk reduction is a keystone of sustainable development. By embedding disaster risk reduction in global financing strategies, investments are safeguarded, communities are protected, and development aspirations can be achieved. Let us commit to a future where proactive measures, robust partnerships, and strategic investments drive global resilience and prosperity.