

Side Event of the G20DWG
Prospects on Achieving Disaster Risk Reduction Agenda
Chair's Summary Outline

1. Background

1.1 Disasters are a barrier for poverty eradication and sustainable development, and a threat for human security. In recent years, natural hazards such as floods, landslides and droughts have become severer all over the world due to climate change. Disasters affect people differently due to varied types and levels of vulnerability and exposure. Especially, women, children, elderly and persons with disabilities have been disproportionately affected by disasters.

1.2 The disaster risk reduction agenda such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Paris agreement, which were adopted in 2015, have created significant opportunity to build coherence across mutually reinforcing policy areas in the international community.

1.3 At the G20 Buenos Aires Summit in 2018, the G20 members recognized the importance of comprehensive adaptation strategies, including investment in infrastructure that is resilient to extreme weather events and disasters.

1.4 One of the main targets of the Sendai Framework, target E, is to substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020. To achieve this, it is important for all countries to accelerate every effort for target E in a coherent and integrated manner with the national adaptation plans and the comprehensive adaptation strategies and promote investment for disaster risk reduction based on these strategies beyond 2020.

1.5 From those perspectives, the G20 members and international organizations discussed how to enhance current disaster risk reduction efforts in order to achieve these disaster risk reduction agendas at Side Event of the 2nd G20 Development Working Group under the Japanese Presidency.

2. Experiences and lessons learned in implementing disaster risk reduction

2.1 Disasters, many of which are exacerbated by climate change and which are increasing in frequency and intensity, significantly impede progress towards sustainable development. Based on the concept of human security, the guiding principle of the SDGs, "no one will be left behind", should be reflected on all disaster risk reduction policies, strategies, plans and actions.

2.2 Effective disaster risk reduction requires an "inclusive, all-of-society approach", to which the views of people in vulnerability and as agent for change such as women, children, elderly and persons with disabilities are reflected. The Sendai Framework emphasizes that disaster risk reduction requires an all-of-society engagement and partnership as well as empowerment and inclusive, accessible and non-discriminatory participation regardless of gender, age, disability and culture, giving due consideration to people disproportionately affected by disasters, especially the poorest. It also attaches importance to the promotion of women and youth leadership.

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2.3 Disaster-prone developing countries, in particular African countries, need a special attention in view of their higher vulnerability and risk levels, which often greatly exceed their capacity to respond to and recover from disasters. Such vulnerability requires the urgent strengthening of international cooperation and ensuring durable partnerships at the international, regional and national levels in order to support developing countries to implement the Sendai Framework, in accordance with their national priorities and needs. For example, Japan has engaged in international cooperation on disaster risk reduction along with “Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction” that committed to provide 4 billion US dollars in total and train 40 thousand government officials and local leaders from 2015 to 2018, and achieved the commitment by the end of 2018.

2.4 Addressing underlying disaster risk factors through disaster risk-informed public and private investments is more cost-effective than primary reliance on post-disaster response and recovery, and contributes to sustainable development. Disasters have demonstrated that the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, which needs to be prepared ahead of a disaster, is a critical opportunity to “Build Back Better”, including through integrating “mainstreaming disaster risk reduction” into development measures, making nations and communities resilient to disasters.

2.5 The national and local disaster risk reduction strategies should be made at the first stage of disaster risk reduction considering the result of assessment of existing and potential hazards and disaster risks. However, national and local disaster risk reduction strategies haven't been developed enough in many disaster-prone countries, even though the deadline of the target E by 2020 is approaching.

3. How the G20 can promote effective disaster risk reduction and cooperation

3.1 This Side Event became an opportunity to enhance further policy and implementation coherence between the Sendai Framework, the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, and explore actions that the G20 members and relevant international organizations can take to achieve this purpose.

3.2 The G20 members and relevant international organizations can also play a key role to build further international momentum and to develop innovative forms of cooperation for achieving the target E of Sendai Framework and beyond.

3.3 The G20 members and international organizations can promote the multiple efforts for disaster risk reduction including inclusiveness, to enhance the formulation of national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction, and to stimulate the pre-disaster investment and Build Back Better.

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4. Way forward

4.1 It is expected that the outcome of this event would contribute to upcoming discussions at international fora such as the G20 Osaka Summit and TICAD7 (August 2019) as well as the Global Platform for disaster risk reduction 2019 (May 2019).

4.2 It is also expected that the G20 members and international organizations will play a key role in scaling up the efforts of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and pre-disaster investment, in cooperation for achieving the disaster risk reduction agenda such as Sendai Framework, the SDGs, and Paris agreement. For example, Japan will embark on considering a new initiative following the "Sendai Cooperation Initiative" as the G20 presidency.

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