

High-level Euro-Asia Regional Review of the Vienna Programme of Action

High-Level Dialogue: Status of implementation of the VPoA and fostering achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in LLDCs - 22 August 2023, 9:30-12:00

UNDRR Intervention:

Good morning Excellencies, delegates and colleagues.

Allow me to add some thoughts from the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

For the next Programme of Action to be truly transformative, it will be critical to mainstream disaster risk reduction within it.

Disasters such as floods, droughts and heatwaves are imposing profound economic, environmental and social costs on LLDCs around the world, and particularly in Europe and Asia. In addition, many other types of hazards, including seismic activity and biological hazards such as COVID-19, can severely undermine development gains.

Data on progress towards the globally-agreed Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction evidences the extra burden that disasters impose on LLDCs. For example,

- In the past ten years, disaster mortality in LLDCs was 2.12 per 100,000 people, almost double the global average, 1.15.
- Similarly, between 2015-2022, LLDCs lost of over 1.16 per cent of GDP to disasters per year, compared to a global average of 0.37 per cent.

The next programme of action could therefore benefit from calls to risk-inform development policies and strategies, including by anchoring disaster risk governance through national legal and regulatory frameworks that reflect shared responsibility to reduce disaster risk. Furthermore, as disasters know no borders, the next programme of action could also benefit from calls to develop new and strengthen existing regional and sub-regional mechanisms to support coordination.

Disaster risk reduction must be integrated into sectoral strategies, including on energy, trade and infrastructure. In particular, it should be taken into account by economic policies.

Another central aspect to be considered in the development of the next programme of action is investing in resilience. Apart from increasing financing dedicated to resilience building, we must also de-risk investment, ensuring that investments support the reduction of risk instead of exacerbating it.

The Political Declaration of the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework underscored the need to strengthen the means of implementation, a central aspect for LLDCs. This

can be achieved through financing, technology transfers and capacity development, as well as support to strengthen disaster risk governance, including across borders.

This brings me to my final point. LLDCs can be uniquely negatively impacted by disasters in their neighbouring transit countries. Committing to strengthening transboundary collaboration for resilience building is thus critical.

UNDRR remains at Member States' disposal to support the integration of these elements in the next programme of action for the LLDCs. I thank you.