C20 Working Group 4 Policy Brief

Sustainable and Resilient Communities and Disaster Risk Reduction

The G20 and the Engagement Groups have a key role to play in promoting communities that are more sustainable, adapted and resilient to climate change, as well as in the co-development of solutions through active participation, including volunteer activities. The recommendations are people-focused, and consider intersectional variables, such as racial and ethnic minorities, Indigenous peoples, People of African Descent, Africans, Asians, People of Asian Descent, migrants, refugees, Romas, Dalits, landless and homeless populations, women and, girls, LGBTQIAPN+ people, people with disabilities, including autistic people, and those with other health conditions, such as people living with HIV and dementia, and other groups in vulnerable situations, traditional & local knowledge, and resilience.

Disasters inflict a heavy burden on communities and nations, challenging development plans and progress, threatening the rights of future generations, and their capacity to live in harmony with their environment.

The management of disasters includes prevention and effective response as they increase in number and intensity. To manage disasters, it is important to understand risks, enhance risk governance and prepaness, and to invest in disaster reduction and resilience, pursuing to "build back better".

In 2023, the cost of disaster losses worldwide was equal to USD $498 billion, with more than 74,000 fatalities (UNDRR, 2024). Most of these losses occurred in the least-developed nations, but also happened in G20 nations, increasing displacement and aggravating social injustice and conflicts. Scientific projections indicate these figures will increase, and more people in vulnerability, mostly indigenous and traditional peoples, will be impacted severely. Therefore, ***G20 must play an important role in supporting and engaging partners, to implement the Sendai Framework (2015-2030), along with other relevant global agreements, including the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.***

Scientific data confirms that **climate-related losses and damages** (L&D) are increasing. Hence, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has built a set of institutions seeking to respond to this phenomenon, including the establishment of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM), the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage (SNLD), and the Loss and Damage Fund. The SNLD is currently preparing to start the first support processes, while the L&D Fund is expected to be fully operational soon. Therefore, ***considering the urgency, and the increasing***

impacts of climate change on lives and livelihoods, especially in developing countries, the G20 must engage in concrete actions to avert, minimize, and address L&D.

The UNFCCC COP28 adopted the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience seeking to guide achievement of the **Global Goal on Adaptation** (GGA), as well as review its progress in reducing the increasingly adverse impacts, risks, and vulnerabilities of climate change, by enhancing adaptation actions and support. The Framework establishes four targets for the iterative adaptation cycle: risk and vulnerability assessment; planning; implementation and monitoring; and evaluation and learning; and has 7 sectoral or thematic targets: water; food and agriculture; health; ecosystems and biodiversity; infrastructure and human settlements; poverty eradication and livelihoods; and cultural heritage.

Whilst climate urgency is increasing, the adaptation financial gap is also widening, to USD $194 billion and $366 billion annually by 2030 (UNEP, 2023). *The G20 should play a substantive role in agreeing an adaptation sub-goal in the NCQG context, according to the on needs of developing countries, and recognizing the costs associated with the implementation of the GGA targets.*

The following policy recommendations are proposed:

1. Disaster Risk Management (DRM)

- o Support and engage in accessible, multi-language, multi-format, accessible and inclusive early warning and anticipatory actions.
- o Support the localization program, to ensure a whole-of-society approach, fostering the contributions of each actor, including local communities.
- o Encourage the constituencies of the G20 to develop proactive and accessible risk-informed and disaster-sensitive programs.
- o Support developing countries in mapping priority hazards and assess inclusive actions to prevent extreme vulnerability.
- o Value the role of the private sector in DRM assessment, and enhance its connection to local authorities, to minimize liability for disasters, and to prioritize nature-based solutions as a way of averting, mitigating and addressing climate change, and its related adverse impacts.
- o When managing disaster risk, promote solutions that consider poverty and socio-economic inequality as fundamental causes of vulnerabilities.
- o Promote research into geological risks and disaggregate socio-economic data to identify priorities, and manage disasters for groups in vulnerable situations experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including racial and ethnic minorities, Indigenous peoples, People of African Descent, Africans, Asians, People of Asian Descent, migrants,

refugees, Romas, Dalits, landless and homeless populations, women and, girls, LGBTQIAPN+ people, people with disabilities, including autistic people, and those with other health conditions, such as people living with HIV and dementia, and other groups in vulnerable situations, and provide technical and financial support for developing nations.

o Support and engage with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and its allies, to prioritize disaster prevention, mitigation, adaptation, and transparency in funding, and their impacts on lives and livelihoods.

o Dedicate public and private investments to DRM, prioritizing nature-based, human rights-based, racialized and gender-sensitive solutions, in collaboration with local communities, women and girls, and those groups mentioned above.

o Engage financial institutions and banks globally to implement the Sendai Framework and promote resilient and sustainable infrastructure.

o Promote risk-sensitive budget reviews for both public and private organizations.

o Establish a global panel, within the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction UNDRR, to:
  • track risk and financial data to support decision-making on investment and public policies;
  • build a feasible pipeline for disaster and climate-resilient infrastructure investment

o Explore financial mechanisms, the introduction of prevention in bonds (e.g., resilient bonds), and philanthropy.

2. Loss and Damage

o Support the Loss and Damage Fund and funding arrangements, including their full operationalization, and the predictability of resources.

o Acknowledge the need for urgent action to ensure the 1.5°C target is within reach, including the phasing out of fossil fuels and addressing the climate crisis within this critical decade, recognizing that losses and damages are increasing as temperatures rise.

o **Recognize and acknowledge the diverse and disproportionate impacts of climate change on** racial and ethnic minorities, Indigenous peoples, People of African Descent, Africans, Asians, People of Asian Descent, migrants, refugees, Romas, Dalits, landless and homeless populations, women and, girls, LGBTQIAPN+ people, people with disabilities, including autistic people, and those with other health conditions, such as people living with HIV and dementia, and other groups in vulnerable situations**,** and its consequences, including forced displacement, conflicts, food insecurity, etc.

o Integrate the nexus Environmental Education, Loss and Damage, and DRM Finance within the resilience program.

- o Mainstream human rights into L&D decisions and institutional arrangements.
- o Invite countries to continue to incorporate L&D in their documents to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in particular the currently recognized BTR and the next round of NDCs.

3. Adaptation

- o Promote fulfillment of the UAE Framework targets by the G20 countries, recognizing the needs of developing nations, and develop a baseline and compilation on the status of those targets.
- o Ensure that the 2-year work program on indicators develops a set of indicators to assess progress on targets, including action and supports.
- o Establish a plan to bring the **Global Goal on Adaptation (**GGA) and its Framework closer to non-formal promoting local governance for resilience and adaptation, the integration of environmental formal and non-formal education with adaptive capacity, local adaptation plans, and a dialogue with financial and implementation institutions.
- o Accelerate the development of impact, vulnerability, and risk assessments, informing the National Adaptation Plans currently under implement and providing monitoring, evaluating, and learning systems by 2030. Developed countries of the G20 should commit to provide adequate resources to support developing countries in the achievement of their targets.
- o Agree to establish a grant-based adaptation finance under the NCQG, in line with the quantum of the adaptation financial gap, which is grant based but also based upon the actual costs of compliance with GGA targets.
- o Encouraging nations to meet targets and to draw up indicators based on a broad consideration of variables that take into account human rights, racial and ethnic minorities, Indigenous peoples, People of African Descent, Africans, Asians, People of Asian Descent, migrants, refugees, Romas, Dalits, landless and homeless populations, women and, girls, LGBTQIAPN+ people, people with disabilities, including autistic people, and those with other health conditions, such as people living with HIV and dementia, and other groups in vulnerable situations, and different approaches to adaptation, such as ecosystem-based adaptations.
- o Continue to compile and highlight the adaptation needs and priorities identified by countries, and close implementation gaps.
- o Build a viable framework for investment in infrastructure, that is resilient to climate change catastrophes, prioritizing the communities in the most vulnerable situations and the right to adequate and affordable housing, and lands-rights of local and most vulnerable communities.

- o Consider the intersection between climate adaptation and health, including mental health, based on the fulfillment of the thematic target under the UAE Framework, and epidemics multiplying around the world.