G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group Meeting
Outcome Document and Chair’s Summary
Chennai, Tamil Nadu
24-25 July 2023
G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group Meeting
Chennai, Tamil Nadu
26 July 2023
Outcome Document and Chair’s Summary

The Outcome Document comprises the entire text, which was unanimously agreed to by all G20 delegations, except for paragraph 13 which pertains to the Chair’s Summary.

Preamble
1. The Group of 20 (G20) Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG) assembled on 24 and 25 July 2023 in Chennai, India, with a shared determination to address the challenges posed by disasters and a commitment to a future where disaster risks are reduced and prevented for all.

2. Expressing concern that policy and investment decisions are not yet fully aligned with the goal of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework), to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk, the establishment of the DRRWG serves as a testament to our unwavering commitment to accelerate action and fully implement the Sendai Framework.

3. Welcoming the Political Declaration from the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework (A/RES/77/289), we recognize the urgency to implement its call to action. We resolve to advocate for and drive a fundamental transformation in the global approach to disasters from a reactive to a proactive, people-centred, all-of-society approach to managing and reducing disaster risk.

4. Convinced that reducing disaster risk and building resilience, including social and infrastructure resilience, are key to the achievement of G20 goals and objectives in all domains, and mindful of our leadership role, we underscore our collective determination to further integrate disaster risk reduction (DRR) across sectors, including through economic, financial, social, climate, and environmental policies and strategies, international cooperation, and activities of the private sector. Disaster risk management and recovery should be deployed to bridge the divides between humanitarian, development, and peace activities.

5. G20 members are uniquely positioned to promote DRR to enhance the resilience of our own economies and internationally to support other countries to identify risk-informed sustainable development pathways and to proactively manage and reduce the risks they face now and in the future. We will strengthen partnerships and accelerate initiatives to share our good practices and innovations with other countries.

6. Reaffirming that each State has the primary responsibility to prevent and reduce its own disaster risk and human suffering, we acknowledge that this requires the full engagement of and cooperation between all State institutions to integrate DRR within and across all sectors and levels of governance, as appropriate. Reiterating that DRR is a shared responsibility between governments and relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, we will pursue an all-of-society and whole-of-government approach to DRR.

7. Reiterating also that DRR is integral to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), we are deeply concerned that disaster impacts continue to undermine our progress and we reaffirm our steadfast commitment to successfully achieve the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

8. Recognizing climate change as one of the drivers of disaster risk, we express deep concern that climate-related disasters are increasing in frequency and intensity. Countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, including least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), small island developing States (SIDS), African countries, as well as middle income countries facing specific challenges, are bearing the brunt. Deeply concerned that economic and human losses due to disasters, including climate-related disasters, are on the rise owing to the increasing number of people, countries, business and assets affected. We call for breaking silos and a comprehensive approach to DRR and climate change mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, and other environmental challenges. We therefore reaffirm our commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement.

9. Recognizing that geophysical disasters cause large-scale human mortality and economic losses, and that the risk of such losses is increasing in light of rapid and often unregulated urban development, we will work with high-risk countries and communities on assessing risks and vulnerabilities, particularly in the housing and infrastructure sectors, and implementing appropriate regulatory and governance solutions. We will support long-term efforts on implementing building bylaws, codes, and regulations that effectively address these risks, as appropriate.
10. We will promote integrated approaches to the implementation of the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and other relevant intergovernmental agreements and frameworks.

11. Recognizing that disasters impact people and communities differentially and can exacerbate pre-existing social and economic inequalities, we commit to prioritize actions that target the most vulnerable and at-risk. We will promote socially inclusive, locally-led and owned, gender-responsive, child-centred approaches to DRR, and enable the full, equal, meaningful and inclusive participation and leadership of local communities, and of often under-represented groups such as Indigenous Peoples, migrants, older persons, persons with disabilities, women and youth.

12. Recognizing also that socioeconomic vulnerability has led populations to live in high-risk situations and areas, which contributes to an increase in the risk of disasters, including geophysical disasters, particularly in countries vulnerable to disasters. We firmly believe that social inclusion, with a focus on poverty reduction, access to safe and secure housing, and critical infrastructure, is an important measure for DRR.

13. The war in Ukraine has further adversely impacted the global economy. There was a discussion on the issue.¹ Russia recognizes the status of the Ukrainian Federation against Ukraine and demands its complete and unconditional withdrawal from the territory of Ukraine. Most members strongly condemned the war in Ukraine and stressed it is causing immense human suffering and exacerbating existing fragilities in the global economy – constraining growth, increasing inflation, disrupting supply chains, heightening energy and food insecurity, and elevating financial stability risks. There were other views and different assessments of the situation and sanctions. Recognizing that the G20 is not the forum to resolve security issues, we acknowledge that security issues can have significant consequences for the global economy.²

14. It is essential to uphold international law and the multilateral system that safeguards peace and stability. This includes defending all the Purposes and Principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and adhering to international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians and infrastructure in armed conflicts. The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible. The peaceful resolution of conflicts, efforts to address crises, as well as diplomacy and dialogue, are vital. Today’s era must not be of war.

15. In the following, we signal the areas where we believe this particular Working Group can add value, communicate the outcomes of the DRRWG’s discussions this year, and set out our commitments for the way forward, while taking into account national circumstances, needs, and priorities.

**Universal Coverage of Early Warning Systems**

16. We reaffirm the importance of investing in multi-hazard early warning systems that enable and deliver early and anticipatory action as an essential component of disaster preparedness and for reducing the impact of disasters.

17. While progress has been made, we note with concern the continuing inadequacy of the coverage of multi-hazard early warning systems, availability and access to risk information, and the capacity of national and local authorities, including meteorological and hydrological agencies, and communities to effectively communicate, disseminate and take early and anticipatory action on early warnings, particularly in developing countries most vulnerable to disasters, including LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS.

18. We welcome the United Nations Secretary-General’s Early Warnings for All initiative and, in line with its objective, we affirm our commitment to seek universal coverage of early warning systems, welcoming the efforts of all actors helping to ensure the implementation of the initiative.

19. We acknowledge the need for predictable and flexible financing and availability of technology, including through enhanced international support measures especially for developing countries, including LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, and through public-private partnerships for the development and long-term sustainability and functionality of multi-hazard early warning systems.

20. To enhance universal coverage of multi-hazard early warning systems and strengthen early and anticipatory action, we will pursue the following actions and recommendations:

- Promote investments in digital infrastructure, data, and technology to reduce the digital divide and facilitate access to innovative and cost-effective solutions across the four pillars of early warning systems, taking into account the specific needs and contexts of different regions and the importance of a transboundary approach.

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¹ Russia recognizes the status of this document as Chair’s Summary due to inclusion of Paragraph 13. Russia supports the consensus language. Russia has expressed its distinct view on the situation in Ukraine, geopolitical tensions, sanctions during the meeting.

² China stated that the G20 technical working groups are not the right fora to discuss geopolitical issues.
b. Foster collaboration, where appropriate, between disaster management authorities, climate change adaptation departments, meteorological and hydrological agencies, information communication technology and telecommunications agencies, infrastructure management authorities, planning and sectoral agencies, the private sector, humanitarian and local organizations and communities in the development and implementation of people-centred and all-of-society approaches to multi-hazard early warning systems that reach the “last mile”.

c. Enable the development of a disaggregated system of forecasting and monitoring the weather at the national level so that more precise information on rainfall, temperature, and humidity is made available to people living in rural, hilly, and remote areas, and that such information is integrated and utilised by early warning systems.

d. Promote investment in building capacity of and support for early and anticipatory action, evidence-based forward planning, adaptive pathways, and delivery systems, including risk-informed and shock-responsive social protection, and facilitate pre-arranged finance and resources to ensure that early warnings save lives and the livelihoods of those most at-risk.

e. Strengthen collaboration and coherence between disaster risk reduction, development, humanitarian, and climate actors, to better engage with and support disaster vulnerable countries and communities at a local level to bring early and anticipatory action to scale.

f. Strengthen international, regional, and sub-regional cooperation in the field of early warning, preparedness and early and anticipatory action, including by enabling the participation of civil society and volunteer organizations, and enhancing inclusive platforms for technical assistance and exchange of good practices, thus advancing inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements.

Disaster and Climate Resilient Infrastructure

21. We emphasize that investing in disaster and climate resilient infrastructure, taking into account the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment, can protect lives and livelihoods, reduce damage across interconnected infrastructure systems, and prevent disruption to infrastructure services, thereby ensuring faster disaster recovery, minimizing economic losses, and promoting physical and financial sustainability.

22. We stress that investing in resilient, sustainable, inclusive, and quality infrastructure systems and services, including large economic as well as social infrastructure, is essential to reduce disaster risk and protect development gains.

23. We acknowledge the significant capital investments that countries require to plan and build new disaster and climate resilient infrastructure, and to retrofit and maintain existing infrastructure. We call for policies to encourage ongoing and planned infrastructure rollout, retrofit, maintain, and repair, including through international cooperation especially in support of developing countries, including LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, to be carried out in a disaster resilient manner. We recognize the need to strengthen public-private partnerships and blended finance mechanisms and create enabling environments as a catalyst for private sector financing in resilient, sustainable, inclusive, and quality infrastructure projects. Commitments from G20 members to increase global infrastructure resilience can accelerate these efforts. We emphasize that the benefits of resilience will not be felt by all without focusing on “last mile” connectivity of interconnected infrastructure systems.

24. We acknowledge the need to strengthen governance arrangements for building interconnected infrastructure systems resilient to current and future disaster and climate risks, including extreme events emanating from climate change, through aligning infrastructure project pipelines and financing strategies with national DRR strategies, national climate change adaptation plans, and national biodiversity strategies and plans.

25. We note the importance of developing and strengthening legislative and regulatory frameworks and of strengthening sectoral planning for infrastructure resilience. In this regard, we reiterate the importance of promoting multi-hazard risk assessments as a prerequisite for infrastructure project appraisals and financing and of regularly conducting stress tests of interconnected critical infrastructure systems. To build synergies in this area, we underscore the importance of each nation adopting and enforcing appropriate codes and standards for disaster and climate resilient infrastructure that are based on an understanding of current and future risks and climate projections, taking into account best available science, in line with its national context.

26. We emphasize the importance of collaboration and sharing of knowledge and expertise on infrastructure resilience between governments, international organizations, multilateral development banks, international financial institutions, infrastructure investors, owners, designers, builders, service providers, insurance companies, private sector, and civil society organisations. In this regard, we welcome the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and take note of initiatives such as the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and we acknowledge the creation of a compendium of good practices, with voluntary contributions from G20 Member States and others, in furtherance of such collaboration and knowledge sharing.

27. To enhance the resilience of critical infrastructure systems and essential social services we will pursue the following actions and recommendations:
To address the scale of financing required for risk reduction and resilience against present and future challenges, we will strengthen collaboration within the G20 members to catalyse more inclusive and innovative financial resources. By enhancing partnerships with the private sector and capital markets, we aim to mitigate perceived investment risks across all sectors through policy incentives, legislation, regulation, and standards, as appropriate.

2 Noting that one Member has divergent views on the referencing of Summit for a New Global Financing Pact.
33. We acknowledge that investing in DRR and risk-informed and sustainable industrial development, including resilient infrastructure and infrastructure for resilience, can deliver multiple benefits in terms of the resilience of productive assets, safety of workplaces and income security.

34. To enhance financing for DRR and de-risk investments in all sectors for resilience against disasters, we will pursue the following actions and recommendations:

a. Develop new or strengthen existing comprehensive national financing strategies for DRR that strengthen synergies between disaster risk financing and DRR financing in a risk layered approach.

b. Support developing countries to produce national financing strategies for disaster risk reduction, which may include financial, technical, and capacity building assistance, including through the integrated national financing framework approach.

c. Encourage equitable allocation of resources for all the important disaster risk management functions, i.e. mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction, at the national level and recommend that DRR financial systems have a decentralized imprint so that disaster-affected people can efficiently access assistance.

d. Promote allocation and effectiveness of financial resources dedicated to DRR and generate evidence about the benefits of investments in DRR measures, including through tagging and tracking where appropriate.

e. Develop and promote the use of assessment tools to analyse and quantify the economic impacts of disasters.

f. Explore and generate evidence for inclusive and innovative financing tools for DRR, including but not limited to resilience bonds, green bonds, risk pooling funds, other market-based tools, and pre-arranged financing, as appropriate.

g. Strengthen engagement with the private sector to incentivize and scale up investment in DRR and enhance collaboration with financial institutions, credit rating agencies and capital market actors to better integrate DRR, including multi-hazard and long-term risk analysis, into their decisions.

h. Promote the further integration of DRR into bilateral and multilateral development cooperation in all sectors to improve access to finance for developing countries, including LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS.

i. Increase and strengthen international cooperation and partnerships, including by exploring the potential for innovative, durable, adequate, and sustainable financing mechanisms, assist developing countries in building capacity, and enable sustainable, institutional, and policy environments at all levels for DRR, including through the fulfilment of respective commitments of official development assistance by developed countries in order to ensure effective disaster risk management.

j. Emphasize and strengthen accountability and transparency to build public trust in DRR funding and make it more effective.

Disaster Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

35. While we welcome the progress made in enhancing disaster preparedness and response, we are deeply concerned that practices and policies to strengthen recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction following disasters do not always follow Sendai Framework principles of Build Back Better⁴, thereby missing opportunities to build resilience, reduce risk, and make progress towards sustainable development through disaster recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. We therefore recognize the need to strengthen national and global disaster preparedness, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction systems to capitalize on the transformative potential of disaster resilient recovery and learn and apply lessons from past disasters.

36. We stress that preparing for disaster resilient recovery is key to its success and encourage all countries to develop policies, strategies and legislation that provide the necessary mandates and resources to develop and implement risk-informed recovery plans, ensuring they respond to the diverse needs and vulnerabilities of affected populations. We recognize the need to enhance and scale-up pre-arranged financing for disaster recovery and reconstruction to ensure timely disbursement and support to vulnerable and affected communities.

37. We recognize that the G20 has a pivotal role to play in strengthening international cooperation and enhancing partnerships with international organizations and platforms, regional bodies, stakeholders and the private sector to mobilize resources, share technical expertise and promote mutual learning from recovery and reconstruction experiences.

38. To strengthen disaster recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction towards disaster resilient recovery, we will pursue the following actions and recommendations:

⁴ Noting that one Member has divergent views on the terminology of Build Back Better and maintains the use of “build forward better”.
a. Promote national and global disaster recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction policies and systems that are equipped to address the challenges posed by the increasing frequency and intensity, as well as the number and scale of climate-related disasters, as well as geophysical and other disasters, and implemented such that it also leads to local employment creation, poverty reduction and social and economic development.

b. Develop knowledge and training products, good practices and guidance on disaster recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction that support disaster resilient recovery and pre-disaster planning and financing arrangements for recovery and reconstruction in cooperation with recovery-related international organizations and platforms, such as the International Recovery Platform (IRP).

Nature-based Solutions and Ecosystem-based Approaches for Disaster Risk Reduction

39. We recognize the effective application of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches for DRR for certain hazards and reducing the impacts of climate change, including through the protection, restoration and sustainable use and management of ecosystems and biodiversity conservation.

40. We underscore the importance of identifying and applying effective nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches within integrated DRR planning and policy frameworks to reduce the systemic risks of relevant hazards and to enhance resilience while also delivering multiple environmental, social, and economic benefits, combining these approaches with structural or other measures.

41. We acknowledge that the effective implementation of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches for DRR is predicated upon an integrated approach with climate change adaptation, biodiversity protection, conservation, and sustainable use, as well as partnership and collaboration across different public and private sectors and areas of expertise, including local communities and Indigenous Peoples.

42. To increase the effective application of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches for DRR, we will pursue the following actions and recommendations:

   a. Promote the application of effective nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches in regional, national, and local DRR policies and strategies; disaster preparedness, recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction strategies; climate change adaptation plans and national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well as disaster resilient infrastructure project appraisals.

   b. Continue to analyze the effects of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, and their potential for DRR.

   c. Incorporate ecosystem considerations into risk assessments, locally led climate adaptation actions, land-use planning, and resilient infrastructure development and financing, as appropriate, to enhance the resilience of our built and natural environment and protect ecosystem functions and services.

   d. Prioritize the needs and role of communities and marginalized groups that are dependent on natural resources.

   e. Promote partnership, education and training, and exchange of knowledge, experiences, lessons learned and good practices among G20 members and other countries, partners, and stakeholders, including local communities.

Way Forward

43. We note the role of the Indian Presidency in hosting and chairing these G20 DRRWG meetings towards developing the shared approach outlined in this document. We underscore the pivotal role of DRRWG in driving the G20’s efforts towards meeting the outcome and goal of the Sendai Framework and achieving all SDGs. We acknowledge G20 members and knowledge partners for contributing to the DRRWG, for compilation of good practices and other knowledge products. We acknowledge and thank the contributions of our knowledge partners: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) as a lead partner; Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP); Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS); United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP); World Meteorological Organization (WMO); and Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) on early warnings for all; Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) on resilient infrastructure; Asian Development Bank, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and Centre for Disaster Protection (CDP) on financing frameworks; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Recovery Platform (IRP) and United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) on Disaster Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction; United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS); and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches; as well as other partners, including United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office (UNRCO), India; UNWOMEN; National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM); International Energy Agency (IEA), International Labour Organization (ILO), World Health Organization (WHO), Insu Resilience Global Partnership, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS) and Indian Institute For Human Settlements (IIHS), for their valuable technical contributions.
44. The G20 is an important platform for discussing issues pertaining to DRR and advancing risk-informed development policies, investments, and programmes. We welcome Brazil’s G20 Presidency in 2024 and the Republic of South Africa’s G20 Presidency in 2025 to take forward the collective agenda of the G20 DRRWG.

45. We acknowledge the significance of building upon previous G20 accomplishments and leveraging existing initiatives to ensure the continuity of purpose and effectiveness of G20 actions towards risk-informed and resilient development, with particular emphasis on supporting developing countries, including the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, insecurity affected contexts where disaster coping capacity may be diminished, and other disaster vulnerable settings. We commit to sharing the principles and recommendations herein within our respective government structures and look forward to their being considered in other international fora.

46. We support delivery of the actions and recommendations identified herein. We commit to ensure that our actions contribute to the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the political declaration of the General Assembly’s high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework, while taking into account national circumstances, needs, and priorities.

47. We recognize the importance of strengthening synergies between and working in collaboration with other G20 working groups to integrate DRR within their work, where applicable, including the Development Working Group, Sustainable Finance Working Group, Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group, Infrastructure Working Group, and the Energy Transitions Working Group.

48. We envision a future where collaboration and shared purpose pave the way for a safe, resilient, and sustainable world. We commit to working together, across borders and sectors, to address the challenges of reducing disaster risks and impacts on people, communities, infrastructure, and economies. We strive to provide a better world for current and future generations through a legacy of risk reduction and sustainable resilience.

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LIST OF PRESIDENCY DOCUMENTS

- DRRWG Issues Note
- Input paper on Early Warnings for All in Asia and the Pacific: Opportunities for Action
- Compendium of Good Practices on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Cooperation
- Guidance Note on “Pursuing Coherence and Complementarity - Building Resilience through Financing Early Action”
- White Paper on Pathways for Global Infrastructure Resilience
- Compendium of Good Practices on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure
- Guidance Note on Leveraging Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFF) for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Input Paper on Financing Disaster Risk Reduction, Preparedness, Relief, Early Recovery and Reconstruction
- Input paper on Building Back Better - Practice Review and Knowledge-Building for Frontier Issues
- Compendium of Case Studies on Shock Responsive Social Protection
- Working Paper on Increasing the Application of Ecosystem-Based Approaches to DRR
- G20-DRRWG- Roadmap and Action Plan