High Level Panel on Water (HLPW)

Draft Road Map on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

I. Background

During the past decade, water-related disasters have struck more frequently and more severely, hampering sustainable development and causing political, social, and economic upheaval in many countries. Over 90% of disasters in the world are water-related in terms of number of affected people.

Disaster risk levels are driven by factors such as climate variability, poverty, poor land-use planning and management, as well as ecosystem degradation. The risks are increasing as urbanization progresses rapidly and as more people and assets are becoming concentrated in the areas of high risk. Furthermore, climate change is already exacerbating existing pressures on water resources, with a wide range of consequences for humans and the environment, particularly through disasters.

By modifying the water cycle, including precipitation, soil moisture, runoff, evaporation, atmospheric water vapor and water temperature, changes such as rapid urbanization and climate change are resulting in more extreme conditions that cause disasters, translated into an excess of rainfall in some places, often in short periods of time (leading to floods), and prolonged periods of scarcity in others (causing droughts), as well as adversely affecting water quality, with its subsequent impact on sanitation and public health.

The economic loss risk associated with water-related disasters such as floods and droughts is increasing in all regions. However, the impacts of water-related disasters...
are felt most harshly in developing countries, which are often the most vulnerable. Particularly in Least Developed Countries (LDC’s) and Small Island Developing States (SID’s), as it is the case of Haiti. The poorest populations are frequently more dependent on economic activities that are sensitive to extreme weather events, such as agriculture and forestry-related activities. As a result, these nations’ Gross Domestic Product (GDP) can be adversely affected if they are hit by a prolonged drought or a severe flood. Moreover, recent mega-water disasters have demonstrated that disasters are no longer a local issue, but is a global issue, as the effect of disasters spread beyond borders in a world where the global economy and society are inseparably connected.

A holistic approach is required to integrate water into socio-economic development planning in order to simultaneously achieve economic efficiency, social equity and environmental sustainability – the three pillars of sustainable development and of the Integrated Water Resources Management Process. As established in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, where SDG6 opens a path for development on water related issues, which has been complemented by the adoption of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Disaster risk reduction and water security are thus not water sector only issues, but societal issues. Encouraging other sectors to consider water in their policies and planning is the only way to ensure a comprehensive water-related disaster risk reduction.

Water-related risks arise from too much water, too little water, or polluted water. The occurrence of floods and droughts are expected to increase due to a changing climate. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has predicted that these water-related disasters will increase in both frequency and severity, as the whole global water cycle is affected by climate change. In many places, these changes are already taking place with a regional and global impact, while our world is
ill-prepared to respond to these risks.

**Integrated Water Resources Management** is key in disaster risk reduction and building resilience. Water is the medium through which most climate impacts and disasters such as droughts and floods are felt. Therefore, recognizing this reality and responding accordingly is essential.

Following the Third UN Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015, from a water perspective, it is essential to strengthen the post-2015 *Disaster Risk Reduction Framework*, in order to:

- Reflect that water-related disasters (floods, droughts and windstorms) account for almost 90% of the 1,000 most disastrous events since 1990.
- Move from implicit to explicit references to water including droughts, floods and the higher degree of uncertainty in rainfall, towards better action oriented implementation.
- Acknowledge that integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is an effective way to strengthen resilience for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
- Integrated flood management and integrated drought management are participatory multi-stakeholder approaches to developing solutions and reducing water-related disaster risks.
- Recognize that food and energy security depend on managing water resources in an efficient and sustainable way, through a water-energy-food-climate nexus which will make societies more resilient to climatic extremes, such as droughts and floods.
- Assess the close linkages between sustainable development, poverty eradication and sound water resource management, as well as access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation, to enhance the resilience to climate extremes.
Alert the severe impacts on public health from climate extremes such as floods and droughts and the degradation of water resources through pollution, particularly in urban settlements.

Address the requirements for improved water resources management through hydrological data. Unless we have good quality data that can be shared and exchanged between key stakeholders, we cannot manage water in a sustainable way.

Take into account that more than 60% of all watercourses are cross borders, giving disasters a transboundary dimension, and that therefore, water management and disaster risk reduction need to be addressed from a transboundary perspective.

II. Priority Actions on DRR in HLPW Action Plan

① Initiate an analysis of (i) hydrological risks from climate change, (ii) good practices on managing floods and droughts, and DRR investment

② Encourage the UN to create a platform to share and exchange lessons & good practices and globally expanding the solutions. This platform can build on the existing biennial Special Thematic Sessions on Water and Disasters, Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, and Water Decade for Sustainable Development 2018-2028, and forthcoming global water architecture.

③ Encourage creation of knowledge base and tools for better understanding water-related disasters and facilitate decision making.

④ Encourage the international community to collect consistent and continuous data gathering and developing indicators on water-related disasters.
⑤ Encourage, lobby and support UN Special Sessions on Water and Disasters to promote discussion at top political levels.

III. Supporting actions

Action 1. Good practices and case studies

- Collect cases and good practices on managing floods and droughts, among other main water disasters, including the pollution of water, to be shared and analyzed with HLPW members. HELP Flagship Document on mega-droughts have already been launched by HLPW Special Advisor Dr. Han Seung-soo at COP22, 2016. HLPW/HELP Flagship Documents on Financing and Investing in Water and Disasters will be launched at the 8th World Water Forum in March, 2018. Contributions of the Friends of the Water Panel will be welcomed for future publication.

- Elaborate a Risk Atlas, which measures droughts and floods at the basin level according to the needs of each territory. It is recommended to start with HLPW members cases.

- Collect scientific water related disasters data and good practices, through the strengthening of the UNESCO/PHI, as well as through the work of the GSDR group of 15 scientists that will work on all 17 SDG-s including SDG6, besides related data from the IPCC.

Action 2. Help advancing analysis and research works on financing and investment in water and disasters

- Formulate a group of DRR partners comprising countries, UN agencies, research institutions, civil society networks, and private sector, to initiate analysis and research works to conduct analysis and research works on financing and investment in water and disasters.

- Help the DRR partner group to create principle/guidelines to help augmentation and efficiency of financing and investment in water and disasters
Disseminate the analytic works and promote commitment to the principle/guidelines as above.

**Action 3. Participation in a series of events and meetings dedicated to DDR**

- Develop a series of key messages related to this initiative that Panel leaders may use in their speeches with the aim of raising the theme and to be presented at international forums related to water, climate change, disaster risk reduction and environment.

- At the fifth meeting of Global Platform for Disaster Reduction that will be held in May 22-26, 2017 in Cancun, Mexico, promote:
  - A meeting of the heads of state and government of the member countries of the Panel, to highlight the linkages amongst the sustainable management of water resources and the DRR.
  - The inclusion of language on the activities of the Panel and its relevance to the Global Platform for DRR in its outcome document
  - The organization of a side event to disseminate information on the Panel activities, in particular the Action Plan.
  - The distribution of a joint communiqué of the Panel

- Discussions on the need of the proposed platform will be also promoted at UN Thematic Sessions on Water and Disaster.

- Continue the approaches to the UNFCCC negotiations at the next COPs, and to its Executive Director –actually lead by ex-minister of FA of Mexico–, in order to include water related disasters in its agenda, and adaptation measures.

**Action 4. Creation of regular process to globally raise awareness and exchange views and experiences in international community**

- Help organizing Special Event on Water and Disasters to discuss priority actions of countries and stakeholders on water and disasters during the period of Water Decade (2018-2028)

- Announce Statement on Water and Disasters at World Water Day on March, 2017 to facilitate discussion on the issue in global water architecture.
- Help organizing the 3rd UN Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters to be held in mid-2017
- Promote commitment and agreement to regularize the Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters on biennial basis.

**Action 5. Creation of global alliance on research institutions/universities on water-related disasters**

- Based on existing networks and collaborative frameworks, help creating global research institutions/universities to advance scientific knowledges and technological solutions on water-related disasters focused on specific/practical topics such as mega-disasters related to water.

**Action 6. Involvement of related sectors and actors**

- Launch a call for the sectors and actors involved in SDG 9, SDG 11, SDG 13, and SDG 17 to support SDG 6 and water disasters, as well as related constellations of SDG through the lens of disaster risk reduction.

According to the HLPW Action Plan, the initiative is closely linked to **SDG 9** (9.1: developing reliable, sustainable, resilient and quality infrastructures, including regional and cross-border infrastructures, to support economic development and human well-being, with special emphasis on equitable and affordable access for all):

**SDG 11** (11.5: by 2030, to significantly reduce the number of deaths and people affected by disasters, including those related to water, and substantially reduce the direct economic losses linked to the global gross domestic product caused by disasters; Special emphasis on the protection of the poor and people in vulnerable situations):

**SDG 13** (13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries):

**SDG 17** (17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries).
• Foster the implementation of Early Warning Systems and Remote Information Networks as prevention mechanisms facing hydrological disasters.

**Action 7. Local Action**

- Launch and/or announcement of specific priority programs / actions at the country level by Panel Members.

Each member will identify programs or activities aligned to this initiative that could be supported, replicated as best practices or be eligible for funding with the aim of strengthening their national commitments and efforts.

In the case of Mexico, some good practices are the Program for Rainwater Harvesting in Rural Areas (PROCAPTAR), aimed to strengthen water security and economic resilience of marginalized communities; the National Program Against Droughts (PRONACOSE), and the National Program Against Hydraulic Contingencies (PRONACH) targeted on floods management.

- Call for implementation of projects to strengthen water disaster resilience of marginalized communities on the most impoverished LDC, with a focus on impact for women, girls and people with disabilities, through a joint action of the HLPW, like Haiti.

**IV. Road Map**

**January 10th, 2017**

- Establishment of Working Group on Financing and Investing in water related DRR (Lead: HELP; Lead Author: ADB Institute; Partners: UNESCO, WMO, ICHARM, Korea, Japan, Indonesia, the Netherlands, USACE, Myanmar, and AMCOW) Deliverables: Principles on financing and investing in Water and Disasters to be launched at WWR8 (Annex 1)

**March 22, 2017**
Special Event “Priority Actions for Water and Disasters in the next Decade” in UN-HQs
UN informal working-level dialogue on water in UN-HQs (Annex 2)

May 18-19, 2017
- 2nd Dialogue between HELP and DRR Partners, Chengdu, China
- Establishing international alliance of researches on mega water disasters (Lead: Sichuan University, ICHARM and GRIPS): The mandates of the alliance, inter alia, are:
  Action 1: Advancing technology and scientific knowledge, and promoting their use in countries and local communities
    - Encourage the academic community to maximize the use of existing knowledge and create knowledge base and tools for better understanding the impacts of water-related disasters and facilitate decision making for prevention and mitigation of risks.
  Action 2: Promoting data collection, archiving and analysis and producing indicators
    - Promote collection, archiving, and analysis of consistent and continuous data on water-related disasters, engage countries in international/regional cooperation mechanisms, and lobby IFIs/RDBs and Bilateral Donors for possible funding.
    - Collaborate with academia and international institutions to establish a mechanism to create and implement indicators which are locally adjustable.

May 22-26
- Global Platform on DRR, Cancun, Mexico (Annex 3)

June, 2017
- UN Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters, UN-HQs, New York, USA (Annex 3)

August, 2017
- HELP/HLPW Session on Water and DRR at World Water Week, Stockholm

September, 2017
- 3rd Dialogue between HLPW and DRR Partners, Gyeongju, Korea: Draft Flagship Documents and Principles on financing water-related DRR will be presented
- HLPW Meeting in UN-HQs, New York: Discussion on Final Report including recommendation on DRR

**November 1, 2017**

- 1st Dialogue between HLPW and DRR partners in Jakarta, Indonesia
  - Partners agreed to collaborate and contribute to priority actions on DRR in HLPW Action Plan
  - Partners agreed with demarcation of tasks in implementing priority actions

**November 6-17**

- COP23 in Bonn, Germany

**December 23rd, 2017**

- Initiating production of 3rd Flagship Document on Water and Disasters – compilation of good practices and lessons on investing in water related DRR

  Chief Editor: Jerome Deli Priscoli, TC Chair, GWP
  Supporting Agency: US Corps of Engineers
  Partners, Global Water Partnership (GWP): MLIT, Japan; Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, the Netherlands; Munich Re; UNESCO-ICHARM; Ministry of Public Works (PU), Indonesia; AMCOW, International Flood Initiatives (IFI)
  Deliverables: 3rd Flagship Document on water and Disasters launched in WWF8, Brasilia in March 2018

**March, 2018**

- HELP/HLPW Special Session on Water and Disasters at the 8th World Water Forum
- Flagship Documents and Principles on DRR will be launched
V. Annexes

Annex 1

Financing and investing to address water-related disasters
Draft skeleton

1. Relief vs Preparedness
   - How much does preparedness pay off?
   - DRAD Model
   - Best mix of relief and preparedness - Cases of TEC-FORCE and DRR Experts

2. Governance of financing and investing
   - Legal framework
   - Budgetary scheme
   - Administration and capacity building

3. Project-based financing
   - Direct and indirect benefit
   - Cost-benefit analysis
   - Reflecting analysis on projects

4. Best mix of structural and financial tools
   - Basics of structural and financial tools
   - Positioning financial tools in national preparedness strategy

5. Learning from experiences and lessons
   - Practical Cases
   - Analytical cases

6. Strategic financing and investment
   - Long-term planning
   - Prioritizing areas, measures, and methods
   - Monitoring and reviewing
Water is life. But water is also a threat to life. During the past decade, water-related disasters have not only struck more frequently but have also been more severe, hampering sustainable development by causing political, social, and economic upheaval in many countries. Water-related disasters, such as floods, droughts, storm surges and tsunamis, account for 90% of all disasters in terms of number of people affected.

The issue of water and disasters must be addressed if we hope to make sustainable development a reality. We must share our experiences and lessons learned, strengthen regional coordination and collaboration, and set common goals and targets in order to lay a foundation for weathering the water-related disasters to come, and make progress towards creating a better-prepared and resilient society. All these elements should be translated into clear-cut messages and practical advice for decision makers to create effective policies and mechanisms that address water and disaster issues appropriately at all levels.

The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution last month to proclaim the period from 2018 to 2028 the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”. UNGA also expressed in the resolution that it is deeply concerned about water-related disasters will be further exacerbated by urbanization, population growth, desertification, drought and other extreme weather events and climate change, as well as lack of capacity to ensure integrated water resource management.

UN Secretary-General and President of the World Bank established High-level Panel on Water (HLPW) comprising eleven incumbent Heads of States and Governments and one Special Advisor to help international community to achieve water-related goals and targets of Agenda 2030. HLPW announced Action Plan to help countries and stakeholders jump-start their actions towards achievement of the goals and targets. Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is one of six priority themes in HLPW Action Plan. In the resolution of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, UNGA invites Secretary-General to take appropriate steps to plan and organize the activities taking into account of, inter alia, the outcomes of the High-level Panel on Water.

With these in mind, it is high time to commence discussion on priority actions to
address water and disasters for the next decade. The Special Event “Priority Actions for Water and Disasters in the next Decade” invites all interested members and stakeholders to express their views and share experiences and discuss priority actions countries and international communities should take to address the issue of water and disasters during the next ten years.

Outline of the Event
Date and time: 1:15pm-2:45pm, March 22nd, 2017
Venue: Conference Room 8, United Nations Headquarters
Organizers (tbc): High Level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP), High Level Panel on Water (HLPW), UN Special Envoy on Water and DRR, UN Mission of Mauritius, Mexico, Swiss, Tajikistan, Korea, Japan and others (tbc), UN Special Envoy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Water

Agenda
✓ Welcome Remarks
✓ Remarks by Guest of Honor: H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, President of 71st session of United Nations General Assembly
✓ Message: Dr. Han Seung-soo, UN Special Envoy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Water, and Chair of HELP
✓ Panel Discussion: “Priority Actions for Water and Disasters in the next Decade”

List of Speakers (tbc: role to be decided after consultation)

- H.E. Mr. Shinsuke Suematsu, Senior Vice Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Tourism, Japan
- H.E. Mr. Jagdish Koonjul, Co-Chair of Sherpas, High Level Panel on Water and Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations
- H.E. Mr. Juan Jose Gomez Camacho, Co-Chair of HLPW Sherpas and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mexico
- H.E. Mr. Mahamadamin Mahmadaminov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan
- H.E. Mr. Teru Fukui, Member of House of Representatives, Japan
- Ms. Oyun Sanjaasuren, Chair, Global Water Partnerships
- Mr. James Dalton, Director of Civil Works, U.S. Corps of Engineers
- Dr. Jerome Deli Priscoli, Chair of Technical Committee, Global Water Partnership
- Representative of the Netherlands (tbc)
- Moderator:
- Dr. Kenzo Hiroki, HLPW Sherpa and Coordinator, High Level Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP)
The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (Global Platform), as recognized by the UN General Assembly, is the main forum at the global level for strategic advice, coordination, partnership development and the review of progress in the implementation of international instruments on disaster risk reduction. It was established in 2006 and is now the world's foremost gathering of stakeholders committed to reducing disaster risk and building the resilience of communities and nations.

The Global Platform is characterized by a format that facilitates dialogue and exchanges among all stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental. It features a high-level dialogue which brings together senior government officials, including heads of state and government, ministers, mayors and parliamentarians and leaders from the private sector, science and civil society.

The Global Platform holds biennial sessions. To date, there have been four, in 2007, 2009, 2011 and 2013, all of them held in Geneva. The 2015 edition did not take place, given that that year saw the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which included a significant and highly appreciated multi-stakeholder dimension.

The guidance in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction concerning the function of the Global and Regional Platforms, identified in paragraphs 28 (c) and 49, has a direct bearing on the setting of their agendas. Further guidance in the Sendai Framework can be derived from:

1. The “Global and regional levels” segments of the four priorities for action;
2. Section VI on "International cooperation and global partnership";
3. The seven global targets.

It is also expected that additional issues for discussion will emerge from the monitoring
of implementation, including from countries’ reports on the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Moreover, the Global Platform is expected to provide contributions from a disaster risk reduction perspective to the deliberations of UN governance bodies and mechanisms, such as the General Assembly, the ECOSOC and the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and especially for the follow-up processes to UN conferences and summits, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The 2017 Global Platform

The 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will be held in Cancun, Mexico on 22-26 May. It will be the first time the most important international forum dedicated to the disaster risk reduction agenda has been staged outside Geneva. It will have a leaders Forum on the 24th of May.

The Global Platform will mark the first opportunity for the international community to review global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which was adopted in Japan in 2015; and will take as well account the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement: More than 6,000 participants are expected, including policy makers and disaster risk managers.

Key expected outcomes

Key expected outcomes during the 2017 Global Platform include:

- A stronger and more sustainable movement to reduce disaster risk worldwide that leads to increased responsibility for strengthening resilience to disasters.
- A dynamic and trend-setting forum for decision makers, partners, experts and practitioners to announce initiatives, launch products, share information, promote campaigns, and provide evidence around disaster risk reduction.
- Guidance and new alliances for the development and use of tools and methodologies aimed at understanding and applying the economics and investment of disaster risk reduction.
- A forum to discuss progress under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Events that follow up and advance the agenda of the 2013 Global Platform.
- Priorities and directions reflected in the outcome document: the Chair's Summary.

The Global Platform Chair’s Summary is intended to capture the essence of deliberations of the various sessions and identify specific, concrete and practical measures to drive implementation further over the following two years.

In addition, there may be a short high-level communiqué, reflecting the commitments of leaders across the various groups of stakeholders. The Chair’s Summary and the communiqué are not negotiated documents: the Chair facilitates their preparation. While the Chair’s Summary and the communiqué are finalized at the Global Platform, their “elements” need to be identified through, and developed on the basis of, the preparatory process, and in particular through the definition of expected/desirable outcomes of the various Global Platform meetings and events, as well as inputs from the deliberations of the Regional Platforms.

More details of possible HLPW involvement to be discussed with Mexico.
1. Background
In November 2015, the Second United Nations Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters was held by the initiative of the UN Secretary-General, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Water, and the High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters. About 500 representatives of the member states and diverse stakeholders shared the recognitions and understanding that addressing the issue of “water and disasters” is critical element and the core of achieving sustainable development.

Water related disasters account for 90% of all disasters in terms of number of people affected. Climate change is expected to impact countries, particularly small island countries and other developing countries that are highly vulnerable, and cause devastating impacts through extreme weather events. Recent global agreements including the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and COP21 Paris Agreement, all call for addressing water-related extreme events and climate change adaptation in more concerted and integrated way for progressing towards and realizing sustainable development.

The Third UN Special Thematic Session is proposed to continue the global dialogue and maintain high level of awareness on the issues of water and disasters among UN member states so as to promote further actions required to address the issue. The primary objective of the event is to overarch the issue of Water-related Extreme Event, which are to be placed at the core of Adaptation to Climate Change and are crucial for achievement of sustainable development. The event will provide a concrete step forward towards implementation of globally agreed agendas, and will become a milestone for future events including the UNFCCC COP23 and other relevant major UN conferences.
2. Expected outcome
- Messages and recommendations to be delivered to the relevant major UN conferences including COP23 in 2017 and global review processes for achieving SDGs

3. Organizers
- Organizer: UN Secretary General and President of the UN General Assembly
- Co-organizers: UN Secretary-Generals’ Special Envoy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Water and High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP)

4. Venue
- The UN Headquarters, New York

5. Proposed agenda
(1) Opening Plenary
- Opening Remarks, H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General, United Nations
- Opening Remarks, H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, President of the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly
- Messages and Speeches by Head of States and Dignitaries
- Remarks, Dr. Han Seung-Soo, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disaster Risk Reduction and Water: Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea and Chair of the High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP)

(2) Special Session on Adaptation to Climate Change and Water-related Extreme Events
- High level panel discussion by Ministers and Heads of UN Agencies and International Institutions, to be organized with the theme of “Climate Change and Water-related Extreme Events”
- Panelists consisting of ministers and heads of UN/international organizations, including members of High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP)