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Sustainable development: disaster risk reduction

State of Palestine:* draft resolution

Disaster risk reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [73/231](#) of 20 December 2018 and all previous relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the Sendai Declaration¹ and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,²

Recalling further the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,³ Agenda 21,⁴ the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,⁵ the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development⁶ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),⁷ and reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,⁸ in particular the decisions related to disaster risk reduction,

Reaffirming its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative

* On behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China, taking into account also the provisions of General Assembly resolution [73/5](#) of 16 October 2018.

¹ Resolution [69/283](#), annex I.

² Ibid., annex II.

³ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

⁴ Ibid., annex II.

⁵ Resolution [S-19/2](#), annex.

⁶ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁷ Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

⁸ Resolution [66/288](#), annex.



Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming further the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,⁹ and recognizing the linkages between disaster risk reduction and sustainable urban development,

Recognizing the need for a broader and a more people-centred preventive approach to disaster risk and that disaster risk reduction practices need to be multi-hazard and multisectoral, inclusive and accessible in order to be efficient and effective,

Reiterating the call in the Sendai Framework for the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries,

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of disasters and their devastating impact this year and in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life, displacement and long-term negative economic, social and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, and which hamper the achievement of their sustainable development, in particular that of developing countries,

Recognizing that disaster risk is increasingly complex and systemic and that hazards can trigger each other with cascading impacts across sectors and geographies, and that the interrelation of risks across multiple dimensions and scales and potential unintended negative consequences should inform development policies and investments, emphasizing that these policies should be oriented to achieve sustainability and resilience,

Recognizing also the importance of promoting policies and planning that build resilience and reduce displacement risk in the context of disasters, including through transboundary cooperation,

Recalling the Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework as a contribution to the Sendai Framework to build resilient health systems,

Recognizing climate change as one of the drivers of disaster risk, and that the adverse effects of climate change, as contributors to environmental degradation and extreme weather events, may, in certain instances, among other factors, contribute to

⁹ Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

disaster-induced human mobility, and in this regard acknowledging the internationally agreed outcomes adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,¹⁰

Recognizing also that disasters, many of which are exacerbated by climate change and are increasing in frequency and intensity, significantly impede progress towards sustainable development,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement,¹¹ and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Welcoming also the 2019 Climate Action Summit convened by the Secretary-General in New York on 23 September, to accelerate global action on climate change,

Looking forward to the fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Qatar in 2021, to raise ambition and accelerate action to reduce disaster risk in the least developed countries,

Highlighting the synergies between the implementation of the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, noting with concern the scientific findings contained in the special report entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and noting also the findings contained in the 2019 *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction*,

Reaffirming the importance of strengthening international cooperation, in the face of disasters, weather-related hazards, including those driven by natural climate cycles such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation, and the adverse effects of climate change, to estimate and prevent major damage and ensure an adequate response, early action and attention to the affected populations in a timely manner in order to enhance resilience to their impacts, and recognizing in this regard the importance of developing risk-informed strategies, risk finance tools, including forecast-based financing approaches and disaster risk insurance mechanisms and coordinated multi-hazard early warning systems, including timely risk communication at the local, national and regional levels,

Recognizing that disaster-prone developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, warrant particular attention in view of their higher vulnerability and risk levels, which often greatly exceed their capacity to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters, and recognizing also that similar attention and appropriate assistance should also be extended to other disaster-prone countries with specific characteristics, such as archipelagic countries, as well as countries with extensive coastlines,

Recalling that the Sendai Framework applies to risks of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters caused by natural or human-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see

¹⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

¹¹ Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution [73/231](#);¹²

2. *Urges* the effective implementation of the Sendai Declaration¹ and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;²

3. *Reiterates its call for* the prevention of new and the reduction of existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political, financial and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery and thus strengthen resilience;

4. *Underlines* the need to address the economic, social and environmental impacts of climate change, and emphasizes the need for action at all levels to enhance efforts to build resilience to reduce the impacts and costs of disasters, in this regard takes note with appreciation of the launch of the Coalition for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure during the Climate Action Summit as one of several initiatives aimed at assisting small island developing States and developing countries in coping with infrastructure losses as a result of climate change;

5. *Reiterates* that the use of public debt and renewed external borrowing to absorb the impact of a disaster leads to more burdensome debt servicing and constrains both growth and the capacity to invest in long-term climate action in developing countries, highlights the linkages between vicious debt cycles and environmental devastation in the developing economies affected and the dangers arising from long-term debt traps, and calls for enhanced support for these affected countries;

6. *Calls upon* all relevant actors to work towards the achievement of the global targets adopted in the Sendai Framework;

7. *Recognizes* progress made in achieving target (e) of the Sendai Framework and that the development of risk-informed strategic plans, policies, programmes and investments and national and local disaster risk reduction strategies is essential for sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;¹³

8. *Expresses concern* that the current pace of action is not fast enough to meet the target (e) deadline of the Sendai Framework by the end of 2020, and thus urges States to accelerate progress and allocate the resources necessary to support the development of inclusive and participatory national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, with particular focus on local strategies and programmes, to promote coherence and integration with sustainable development and climate change adaptation strategies, including national adaptation plans, to include the objective of preparing to “build back better” in disaster risk reduction strategies and, where appropriate, to incorporate considerations regarding the risk of disaster displacement, in accordance with national circumstances, making use of practical guidance to

¹² [A/74/248](#).

¹³ See resolution [70/1](#).

support the achievement of target (e), and notes in this regard the relevant voluntary “Words into action” guidelines;

9. *Urges* States to conduct inclusive and multi-hazard disaster risk assessments that consider climate change projections to support evidence-based disaster risk reduction strategies and guide risk-informed development investments by the private and public sectors;

10. *Recognizes* the important contribution of healthy ecosystems to reducing disaster risk and building community resilience, and encourages all States, United Nations bodies and other relevant actors to promote ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction approaches at all levels;

11. *Acknowledges* that water is essential to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, that water-related disasters and multidimensional hazards threaten lives, livelihoods, agriculture and basic service infrastructure and cause substantial socioeconomic damage and losses, and that sustainable, integrated disaster risk-informed water resource management is necessary for successful disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and in this regard invites all countries to integrate land and water management, including for floods and droughts, into their national and subnational planning and management processes;

12. *Recognizes* that biological hazards require strengthened coordination between disaster and health risk management systems in the areas of risk assessment, surveillance and early warning, and that resilient health infrastructures and strengthened health systems capable of implementing the International Health Regulations (2005),¹⁴ as well as increasing the overall capacity of health systems, reduce overall disaster risk and build disaster resilience;

13. *Urges* States, while implementing the Sendai Framework, to prioritize the establishment and strengthening of national disaster loss databases to augment efforts to create or enhance systems for data collection and the development of baselines on current losses, including livelihood and other losses of affected populations, and work towards the collection of disaggregated information and historical disaster losses going back, at least, to 2005, if feasible;

14. *Recognizes* that disaster risk reduction requires a multi-hazard and systemic approach and inclusive risk-informed decision-making based on the open exchange and dissemination of data and analysis with an adequate understanding of how the information is to be interpreted and used, as well as on easily accessible, up-to-date, comprehensible, interoperable, science-based, non-sensitive risk information, for a wide range of users and decision makers, complemented by traditional knowledge, and in this regard encourages States to commence or, as appropriate, further enhance the collection and analysis of data on disaster loss and other relevant disaster risk reduction targets, disaggregated by income, sex, age and disability and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, to strengthen inter-institutional coordination on disaster risk data and integrated analysis, and to mobilize national statistical and planning offices and strengthen their capacity in the systemic collection of disaster risk data to institutionalize its use in decision-making processes and investments across sectors;

15. *Also recognizes* the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council on 2 July 2018 of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters,¹⁵ as a guide for Member States to ensure the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services across all phases of disaster risk

¹⁴ World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1, resolution 58.3, annex.

¹⁵ Economic and Social Council resolution 2018/14, annex.

reduction and management, and which contributes to the implementation of the Sendai Framework;

16. *Reaffirms* that international cooperation for disaster risk reduction includes a variety of sources and is a critical element in supporting the efforts of developing countries to reduce disaster risk, and encourages States to strengthen international and regional information exchange and sharing, including through North-South cooperation complemented by South-South and triangular cooperation, establishing and networking risk management centres, promoting critical science and technology research cooperation on disaster reduction and improving international coordination mechanisms to respond to large-scale disasters;

17. *Recognizes* the importance of monitoring the Sendai Framework, and encourages States to use the online monitor to report on progress against the Sendai Framework global targets and the Sustainable Development Goals related to disaster risk to provide, inter alia, a comprehensive overview of progress to inform the deliberations and outcomes of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, and notes the ongoing work towards coherence between national climate change adaptation and national disaster risk reduction strategies, as well as the Sendai Framework target indicators and national adaptation goals and indicators;

18. *Reaffirms* that the establishment of common indicators and shared data sets to measure the Sendai Framework global targets and the disaster risk reduction targets of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 11 and 13 is an important contribution to ensure coherence, feasibility and consistency in implementation, the collection of data and reporting, and in this regard recognizes the importance of prioritizing capacity-building support to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges;

19. *Encourages* States to give appropriate consideration to disaster risk reduction in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹³ where it is reflected across several Goals and targets, including in their voluntary national reviews, inter alia, through the engagement of national Sendai Framework focal points early in the national review process, as appropriate, and stresses the importance of considering disaster risk reduction in the deliberations and outcomes of the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

20. *Reiterates* its strong encouragement of and the need for effective coordination and coherence, as applicable, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,¹⁶ the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,¹¹ and the Sendai Framework, as well as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,¹⁰ the Convention on Biological Diversity,¹⁷ the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,¹⁸ and the New Urban Agenda,⁹ while respecting the relevant mandates, in order to build synergies and resilience, translate integrated global policy frameworks into integrated multisectoral programmes at the national and local levels and reduce disaster risk across sectors, and addressing the global challenge of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty;

¹⁶ Resolution 69/313, annex.

¹⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

21. *Encourages* countries, the relevant United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes and other relevant institutions and stakeholders to take into consideration the important role of coordinated disaster risk governance across sectors for the achievement of sustainable development and, inter alia, the strengthening of disaster prevention as well as preparedness for effective response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction;

22. *Urges* that due consideration continue to be given to the review of the global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework as part of the integrated and coordinated follow-up processes to United Nations conferences and summits, aligned with the Economic and Social Council, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycles, as appropriate, taking into account the contributions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and regional and subregional platforms for disaster risk reduction and the Sendai Framework monitor;

23. *Recognizes* that effective and meaningful global and regional partnerships and the further strengthening of international cooperation, including the fulfilment of respective commitments of official development assistance by developed countries, are essential for effective disaster risk management;

24. *Encourages* the incorporation of disaster risk reduction measures, as appropriate, into multilateral and bilateral development assistance programmes and infrastructure financing, including through North-South cooperation complemented by South-South as well as triangular cooperation, within and across all sectors related to sustainable development, including poverty reduction, agriculture, natural resource management, the environment, urban development and adaptation to climate change;

25. *Recognizes* that financing for disaster risk reduction requires greater attention, and in this regard encourages increased investments in disaster risk reduction, including resilient infrastructure, and invites the United Nations system and its entities, within the scope of their respective mandates, in partnership with international financial institutions, regional development banks and other relevant institutions and stakeholders, to support developing countries in developing comprehensive disaster risk reduction financing strategies and incentivizing investments in resilience and prevention, and to explore the development of tailored financing mechanisms for disaster risk reduction;

26. *Encourages* States to allocate domestic resources to disaster risk reduction, to include disaster risk reduction in budgeting and financial planning across all relevant sectors, and to ensure that national financing frameworks and infrastructure plans are risk-informed, according to national plans and policies;

27. *Recognizes* that economic losses are rising as a result of the increasing number and value of assets exposed to hazards, and encourages countries to conduct a disaster risk assessment of existing critical infrastructure, to ensure that infrastructure plans and pipeline projects are aligned to national disaster risk reduction strategies and risk assessments, to support the publication of disaster risk assessments, to make disaster risk assessments a prerequisite for infrastructure and housing investments and to strengthen regulatory frameworks for land-use planning and building codes, as appropriate, towards the achievement of target (d) of the Sendai Framework, and in this regard encourages countries to integrate disaster risk reduction considerations into social, economic and environmental investments;

28. *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders to collaborate with the private sector to enhance the resilience of businesses, as well as the societies within which they operate, by integrating disaster risk into their management practices, to facilitate

private investments in disaster risk reduction and to promote risk-informed private investments;

29. *Reaffirms* that investing in national and local skills, systems and knowledge to build resilience and preparedness will save lives, reduce the risk of displacement in the context of disasters, cut costs and preserve development gains, and in this regard encourages exploring innovative ways, such as forecast-based financing approaches and disaster risk insurance mechanisms, to increase the availability of resources for Member States before a disaster is credibly expected to occur;

30. *Also reaffirms* the need for the enhancement of the implementation capacity and capability of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, including the mobilization of support through international cooperation, for the provision of means of implementation to augment domestic efforts in accordance with their national priorities;

31. *Recognizes* the importance of considering the impact of disasters and disaster risk in the process of graduation from the least developed country category, including the impact assessment of the likely consequences of graduation and the vulnerability profiles, and stresses the importance of including disaster risk reduction support in the smooth transition strategies of graduating countries;

32. *Also recognizes* that the extent to which developing countries are able to effectively enhance and implement national disaster risk reduction policies and measures in the context of their respective circumstances and capabilities can be further enhanced through the provision of sustainable international cooperation;

33. *Further recognizes* the importance of giving priority to the development of local and national disaster risk reduction capacity-building, policies, strategies and plans with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, in accordance with national practices and legislation;

34. *Recognizes* that, while each State has the primary responsibility for preventing and reducing disaster risk, it is a shared responsibility between Governments and relevant stakeholders, and recognizes that non-State and other relevant stakeholders, including major groups, parliaments, civil society, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, non-governmental organizations, national platforms for disaster risk reduction, focal points for the Sendai Framework, local government representatives, scientific institutions and the private sector, as well as organizations and relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions and intergovernmental organizations, play an important role as enablers in providing support to States, in accordance with national policies, laws and regulations, in the implementation of the Sendai Framework at the local, national, regional and global levels, and that greater efforts are needed to mobilize multi-stakeholder partnerships for disaster risk reduction, according to national plans and policies;

35. *Encourages* Governments to promote the full, equal and effective participation and leadership of women, as well as of persons with disabilities, in the design, management, resourcing and implementation of gender-responsive and disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes, and recognizes in this regard that women and girls are disproportionately exposed to risk, increased loss of livelihoods and even loss of life during and in the aftermath of disasters, and that disasters and the consequent disruption to physical, social,

economic and environmental networks and support systems disproportionately affect persons with disabilities and their families;

36. *Stresses* the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective and the perspectives of persons with disabilities and of institutionalizing the engagement of and appropriately drawing on the capacities of children, youth, including young professionals, as contributors in disaster risk management so as to strengthen the resilience of communities and reduce social vulnerabilities to disasters, and in this regard recognizes the need for the inclusive participation and contribution of women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as the role of youth, volunteers, migrants, local communities, academia, scientific and research entities and networks, business, professional associations, private sector financing institutions and the media, in all forums and processes related to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with the Sendai Framework;

37. *Emphasizes* that disaster prevention, preparedness, early actions and resilience-building in most cases are significantly more cost-effective than emergency response, as well as the importance of additional efforts to increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning mechanisms of States, in order to ensure that early warning leads to early action, and encourages all relevant stakeholders to support these efforts;

38. *Acknowledges* the continuous work of the entities of the United Nations system, in accordance with their respective mandates, in supporting the efforts of developing countries in the area of disaster risk reduction, including through the inclusion, where appropriate, of disaster risk reduction in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and as part of the common country assessment's multidimensional analysis, requests the relevant United Nations entities and United Nations country teams, and urges other relevant stakeholders, to continue to integrate disaster risk reduction and the implementation of the Sendai Framework into their work and to align their work with the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development, guided by the Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience convened by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, according to the Sendai Framework;

39. *Also acknowledges* the importance of the work of the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions in disaster risk reduction, the substantial increase in demands on the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the need for timely, stable, adequate and predictable resources necessary for supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework, and in this regard encourages Member States to consider providing or augmenting voluntary contributions to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction;

40. *Recognizes* the continued importance of voluntary funding, and urges existing and new donors to provide sufficient funding and, where possible, to augment financial contributions to the United Nations trust fund for disaster reduction to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework, including through unearmarked and, where possible, multi-annual contributions;

41. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Switzerland for hosting the sixth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva from 13 to 17 May 2019, jointly organized with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, reaffirms the importance of the Global Platform and the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction as forums to assess and discuss progress on the implementation of the Sendai Framework and advance coherence between disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change mitigation and

adaptation, including financing, and recognizes their outcomes as contributions to the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

42. *Stresses* the importance of promoting the incorporation of disaster risk knowledge, including disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation, in formal and non-formal education, as well as in civic education at all levels and in professional education and training;

43. *Welcomes* the annual observance of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction on 13 October and World Tsunami Awareness Day on 5 November, and encourages all States, United Nations bodies and other relevant actors to observe the days to further raise public awareness of disaster risk reduction;

44. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

45. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Disaster risk reduction".
