



# PARLIAMENTARY PROTOCOL FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

ALIGNED WITH THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR  
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030

**Canada**  
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## KEY TERMS<sup>1</sup>

**Adaptive capacity:** The combination of all the strengths, attributes and resources available within an organization, community or society that can be used to manage and reduce disaster risks and strengthen resilience.<sup>2</sup>

**Climate change:** A change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.<sup>3</sup>

**Disaster:** A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability and capacity, leading to human, material, economic and environmental losses and impacts.

**Disaster management:** The organization, planning and application of measures preparing for, responding to and recovering from disasters.

**Disaster risk:** The potential loss of life, injury or destroyed or damaged assets which could occur to a system, society or a community in a specific period of time, determined probabilistically as a function of hazard, exposure, vulnerability and capacity of the affected community.

**Disaster risk governance:** The system of institutions, mechanisms, policy and legal frameworks and other arrangements to guide, coordinate and oversee disaster risk reduction and related areas of policy.

**Disaster risk management:** The application of disaster risk reduction policies and strategies to prevent new disaster risk, reduce existing disaster risk and manage residual risk, contributing to the strengthening of resilience and reduction of disaster losses.

**Exposure:** The situation of people, infrastructure, housing, production capacities of goods and services and other tangible human assets located in hazard-prone areas.

**Extensive disaster risk:** The risk of low-severity, high-frequency hazardous events and disasters, mainly but not exclusively associated with highly localized hazards.

**Hazard:** A process, phenomenon or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. Hazards may be natural, anthropogenic or socionatural in origin. Natural hazards are predominantly associated with natural processes and phenomena. Anthropogenic hazards, or human-induced hazards, are induced entirely or predominantly by human activities and choices. Several hazards are socionatural, in that they are associated with a combination of natural and anthropogenic factors, including environmental degradation and climate change.

**Intensive disaster risk:** The risk of high-severity, mid- to low-frequency disasters, mainly associated with major hazards.

**Resilience:** The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management.

**Vulnerability:** The conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes which increase the susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets or systems to the impacts of hazards.

<sup>1</sup> Report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology Relating to Disaster Risk Reduction. United Nations, 2016. [https://www.preventionweb.net/files/50683\\_viewreportenglish.pdf](https://www.preventionweb.net/files/50683_viewreportenglish.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> 2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction. UNISDR, 2009. p.10. [https://www.unisdr.org/files/7817\\_UNISDRTerminologyEnglish.pdf](https://www.unisdr.org/files/7817_UNISDRTerminologyEnglish.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

## Foreword

In 2015, representatives of 187 United Nations Member States met at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, and adopted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. The Member States reiterated their commitment to this issue, as well as to building resilience, stating the need to “address disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters with a renewed sense of urgency within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and to integrate, as appropriate, both disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience into policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels and to consider both within relevant frameworks.”

This sense of urgency is also reflected in the decision made by the countries participating in the Sustainable Development Summit (SDS) to include within Goal 1 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): “End poverty in all its forms everywhere,” and “build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.”

Disasters have the capacity to drive populations into situations of poverty and are one of the main obstacles to laws, programs and policies designed to overcome poverty and reduce inequality, as established in the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR) for the Americas.<sup>4</sup> In one year, potential economic losses resulting from disaster risks could amount to, in some cases, double the amount allocated for social expenditures in countries of the Americas and the Caribbean.

Losses due to disasters therefore pose barriers to sustainable development. Disaster relief, the provision of humanitarian aid to those affected, the replacement of basic services, the recovery of livelihoods and the reconstruction of damaged infrastructure demand the use of considerable public and private resources that could otherwise have been used to promote development.

A significant component of reducing these impacts resides in how countries integrate disaster risk reduction into national and local frameworks, laws, regulations and policies to help public and private sectors advance in risk governance. In other words, it is important for countries to strengthen their institutions, mechanisms, legal and regulatory frameworks and other provisions that guide, coordinate and give oversight on disaster risk reduction and public policies related to this topic. **The Sendai Framework explicitly sets out a role for parliamentarians in developing new legislation or amending relevant existing legislation, monitoring and providing oversight on government action on these issues and allocating budgetary resources to building disaster resilient societies.**

ParlAmericas and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction - UNISDR - Regional Office for the Americas are pleased to present this parliamentary protocol that aligns with the principles of the Sendai Framework. We are certain that this protocol will be useful in efforts to achieve the Sendai Framework objective of “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” in the Americas and the Caribbean.



**The Honourable Robert Nault**  
President of ParlAmericas  
Member of Parliament, Canada



**Raul Salazar**  
Head of Regional Office  
UNISDR - The Americas

<sup>4</sup> Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction. UNISDR, 2015.  
<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/2015/en/home/index.html>

# Introduction

**Disaster risk management** consists of the consideration and adoption of necessary planning processes to strengthen capacities that allow a country to prepare for and respond to future disasters in a timely, efficient and equitable manner, thereby reducing their environmental, social and economic impact.

The human, material and ecosystemic service losses associated with disasters affect the economic activities and livelihoods of thousands of people each year, negatively impacting progress made towards economic and social development goals at the national, regional or local levels. In the Americas and the Caribbean, the accumulated losses caused by disasters between 1990 and 2013 included 43 thousand fatalities, 126 million affected individuals, more than 1 million destroyed homes and 6.5 million damaged homes.<sup>5</sup> In the last 30 years, almost 100,000 disaster events have been recorded in the region, of which almost 50% were small-scale (extensive) disasters. These extensive disasters were often not reflected in economic estimates, and mainly affected communities and small cities.<sup>6</sup> Women and girls' vulnerability to disasters is heightened due to greater exposure and sensitivity to risk,<sup>7</sup> inequalities in access to resources and their opportunities and positions in society.<sup>8</sup> Similarly, populations living in situations of poverty, traditionally marginalized groups, and Indigenous peoples tend to be disproportionately impacted and to experience greater risk.

Our region is exposed to **natural hazards**, including atmospheric, hydrological, geological (especially seismic and volcanic) phenomena and wildfires that, due to their location, severity and frequency, have the potential to adversely affect the health and safety of human beings, their structures and activities.<sup>9</sup> When these natural hazards occur, they have the potential to cause a disaster, and their consequences

ultimately depend on a combination of factors like exposure and the number of people affected, the existence and condition of goods and infrastructure, social vulnerability and the limited response capacity of communities.<sup>10</sup> For this reason, it is important to conduct a risk assessment that can improve understanding and preparedness.

The **climate change** phenomenon is an underlying factor that increases disaster risk. Extreme weather events are occurring with greater frequency and intensity, and are related to phenomena such as increased precipitation, considerable temperature variations, hydro-meteorological events (hurricanes, thunderstorms, floods, etc.), droughts and forest fires. **States must be prepared to respond to these events appropriately and effectively and plan measures for disaster prevention and mitigation through the creation and socialization of risk reduction policies.** As part of these efforts, it is essential to continuously incorporate new scientific knowledge on risk and climate change, **and to ensure coherence and coordination between disaster risk reduction systems and climate change adaptation policies.** Climate change affects the occurrence of disasters, and these disasters, in turn, have an impact on the adaptive capacity and resilience of a nation and its citizens.

In this context, **disaster risk reduction refers to measures that seek to reduce the damage caused by natural hazards** through prevention efforts and strategies that reduce vulnerability and increase the adaptive capacity of communities.

Important initiatives are being undertaken at the international level to strengthen resilience and reduce disaster risk, with the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#) being the most important. This Framework was

<sup>5</sup> Impacto de los desastres en América Latina y El Caribe 1990 – 2013: Tendencias y estadísticas para 22 países. UNISDR, AECID y Corporación OSSO, 2016. p. 33. [https://www.unisdr.org/files/48578\\_impactodesastresamericalatinacaribe.pdf](https://www.unisdr.org/files/48578_impactodesastresamericalatinacaribe.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Risk also links the probability of occurrence of an adverse event with the magnitude of its consequences.

<sup>8</sup> The Gendered Nature of Natural Disasters: The Impact of Catastrophic Events on the Gender Gap in Life Expectancy, 1981–2002. Neumayer, Eric y Plümper, Thomas, 2007, en Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 97 (3), p. 551-566.

<sup>9</sup> Desastres, Planificación y Desarrollo: Manejo de Amenazas Naturales para Reducir los Daños. Organización de Estados Americanos, 1991.

<https://www.oas.org/dsd/publications/Unit/oea57s/begin.htm#Contents>

<sup>10</sup> Disasters caused by natural hazards are brought on by factors and forces external to people, and their definition excludes those disasters derived from human activity, such as contamination or events generated by armed conflict or human error. In this context, many of the suggestions in this protocol can be applied within the framework of disaster risk management plans and the responses to those disasters caused by human activity.

adopted at the third United Nations World Conference held in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015 to provide continuity to the Hyogo Framework for Action. **The Sendai Framework seeks 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.

Furthermore, meeting the objectives of the Sendai Framework is critical for the achievement of the goals of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), particularly those referring to the reduction of global mortality and morbidity and the number of people affected as a result of disasters, the costs of economic losses generated by the impact of hazards and disasters and damage to critical infrastructure. Disaster risk reduction and management is imperative to sustainable, inclusive and equitable development, and to strengthening the resilience of communities and governments through inclusive and equitable strategies that are designed and implemented with the meaningful participation of women, vulnerable populations and Indigenous peoples.

The Sendai Framework sets **four priorities for action**: (1) understanding disaster risk (**knowledge**); (2) strengthening disaster risk governance (**governance**); (3) investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience (**financing**); and (4) enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “build back better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction (**preparation**). The **Sendai Framework explicitly calls on legislators to support and promote the application of disaster risk reduction measures**.

**The legislative branch** has responsibility for developing pertinent new legislation or updating existing normative frameworks, adjusting these based on international mechanisms and instruments, reforming institutional structures to allow for an adequate response to the aforementioned phenomena and **strengthening national risk reduction systems**. In addition, parliamentarians must **approve national budgets** that respond to the needs of their communities and allow them to better confront these risks, as well as establish, through regulatory frameworks, a need for public and private investments to consider and/or be informed by disaster risk. Budget allocations should further allow for the implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies developed in compliance with the new Sendai Framework, as well as foster better understanding

#### Gender considerations for more inclusive and equitable disaster risk reduction

- Recognize and value women’s knowledge, experience and roles as agents of change – not as victims – in disaster risk reduction planning.
- Educate men and women on the importance of inclusive disaster risk reduction planning.
- Develop guidelines, toolkits and good practices for subnational governments and organizations on the integration of a gender perspective in their disaster risk planning, policies and programs.
- Raise awareness among the population on the fact that disaster impacts are not gender neutral and disproportionately affect women, highlighting the importance of working together to reduce disaster risk.

Adapted from the publication, *Making Disaster Risk Reduction Gender-Sensitive: Policy and Practical Guidelines*, UNISDR, PNUD y UICN (2009).

of risk within vulnerable social and economic sectors. Moreover, in its governmental oversight role, the parliament has the obligation to **monitor compliance with national commitments** on disasters and climate change adaptation. Finally, parliamentarians can ensure inclusive citizen participation in decision-making, promote the participatory development of prevention measures and monitor whether states resources allocated to risk reduction programs are being used optimally, in collaboration with civil society organizations and the private sector.

In this context, this **Parliamentary Protocol for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation** seeks to guide parliamentary work to meet national disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation needs. It also seeks to **support the legislative branch’s contributions to the implementation of the Sendai Framework and provide tools for parliaments to use in helping to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change**.

**The content of this document is aligned with the four priorities of the Sendai Framework and is presented as a parliamentary protocol that contains a set of actions** (tables 1, 2, and 3) that parliamentarians can take to incorporate disaster risk reduction into legislative measures, contribute to strengthening disaster risk management and reduction capacities in their countries and promote capacity

building in response and adaptation to disasters and the impacts of extreme events associated with climate change. Chapter 2 outlines the four priorities of the Sendai Framework and provides parliamentarians with key information and additional references related to the actions included within the protocol that should be considered during their implementation.

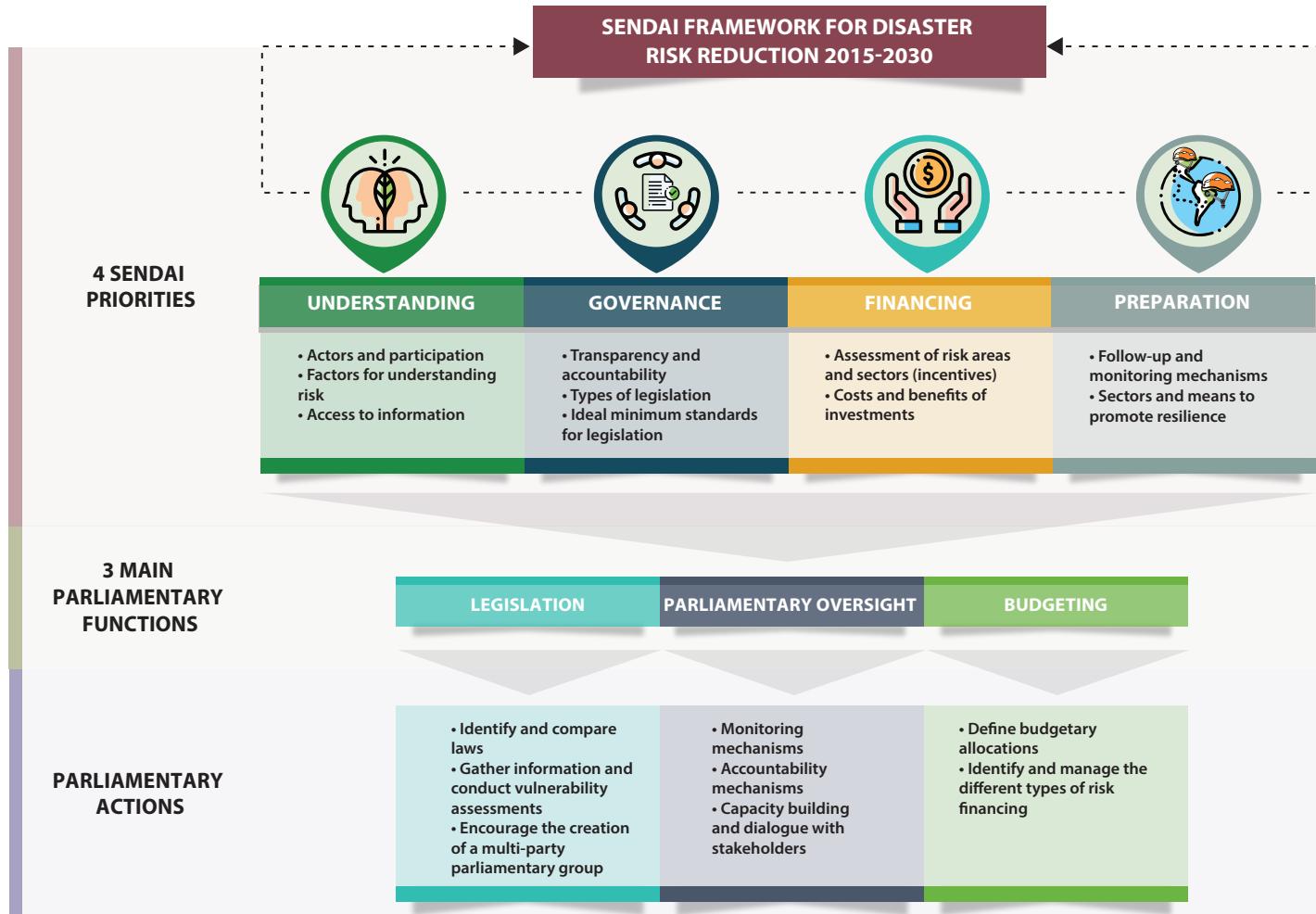


Figure 1. Integrating the Sendai Framework priorities into parliamentary work

# Chapter 1. Parliamentary protocol for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

This parliamentary protocol takes the recommendations of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and translates them into relevant actions for parliamentarians. The objective of this document is to facilitate and promote disaster risk management by supporting parliament's contributions to reducing existing disaster risk and preventing the emergence of new risks. This should include actions related to both disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation, as these are intricately linked.

This document approaches disaster risk management from a parliamentary perspective that is based on the four priorities of the Sendai Framework. The first priority is **understanding disaster risk**, assessing risks and considering possible impacts, as well as climate projections (bearing in mind that previously established patterns of risk may be altered by climate change and therefore must be updated). Understanding risk allows for more informed decision-making and preparation for these situations.

The second priority addresses **strengthening disaster risk governance**, aiming to mainstream risk management and encourage more effective and efficient actions that are supported, resourced, and informed by multiple actors. This protocol seeks to ensure that legislative actions are inclusive, based on human rights principles and designed with an intersectional gender perspective and that their creation and implementation feature the active participation of women, vulnerable populations, Indigenous peoples and historically marginalized groups. This will help to ensure that legislative responses meet the diverse needs of the population and have their support.

The third priority seeks to secure **investment in disaster risk reduction for resilience**. It is important to have budget available to invest in robust disaster risk reduction management, which includes both structural and non-structural measures. Both public and private investments can drive innovation, growth, job creation and increases in the social, health-related and cultural resilience of individuals and communities.

The fourth and final priority is **enhancing disaster preparedness for effective responses in order to “build back better.”** It is necessary to strengthen preparedness and take advance measures to ensure effective response at all levels. Recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction should be prepared for in advance of an event in order to promote resilience at the national and community levels and to allow for a swift return to their planned development paths.

This protocol has been structured with consideration to the functions and work carried out in parliaments; namely, **legislation, political oversight, and the discussion and approval of the national budget**. The representation function has been mainstreamed across those previously mentioned.

Suggested actions to be taken by parliamentarians have been organized below according to parliamentary roles, in a way that allows for consideration of their relevance in accordance with national realities, advances and contexts. Each action is linked to one or more priorities of the Sendai Framework. The following **icons** will facilitate their identification and correlation ([figure 2](#)).



Figure 2: Icons linked to the priority actions of the Sendai Framework

## Legislation related to disaster risk management and climate change adaptation

Within this function, the processes prior to the drafting of a bill are considered, as well as its discussion in parliamentary committees. **5 aspects** of the role (or categories of parliamentary actions) relevant to ensuring robust regulations on key components of disaster risk reduction have been identified and are suggested for consideration ([table 1](#)).

These 5 aspects related to legislation on disaster risk management and climate change adaptation are based on the priorities of the Sendai Framework. They consider the importance of governance and identify and include key stakeholders in the process of gathering information, consultation and the debate and discussion of legislation ([table 4](#)). Furthermore, each includes details on how parliamentarians can better communicate with relevant stakeholders on disaster risk management plans or legislation, and how they can contribute to improving understanding of disaster risk ([table 5](#)).

**Table 1. Possible parliamentary actions during the different stages of drafting and debating legislation related to disaster risk management and climate change adaptation**

Sendai Priority	1. Identification of laws that integrate or require disaster risk reduction components
	<p><b>Actions:</b></p> <p> Promote the creation and institutionalization of a <b>multi-party parliamentary group</b> - with equitable gender representation - that mainstreams disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and includes the perspectives of representatives from all constituencies in order to ensure representative climate change and disaster risk reduction efforts.</p> <p> Assess <b>the state of national and local legislation</b> on disaster risk reduction and the links and consistency between existing legislation on this issue and on climate change, taking into account how these consider and respond to differentiated vulnerability as a result or function of gender, age, ability, indigeneity, immigration status and climate projections.</p> <p> Work through existing parliamentary <b>collaboration networks</b>, like the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change, at the regional level to promote the exchange of knowledge, good practices, resources and capacities, considering the shared natural resources among countries (such as watersheds and coasts), as well as other challenges that could arise such as epidemics, the displacement of people, among others.</p>

	<p><b>Compare legislation</b> on disaster risk reduction at the regional level.</p>
	<p>Learn more about the <b>national strategies</b> developed by the country to achieve the Sendai Framework objectives and create relevant legislation that will provide <b>budgetary support</b> for its implementation.</p>
<b>Sendai Priority</b>	<b>2. Compilation of information on disaster risk reduction</b>
	<p><b>Actions:</b></p>
	<p>Establish a unit or an <b>institutional alliance with organizations that generate information</b> to gather, process and systematize data related to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.</p>
	<p>Promote the <b>collection and systematization of information on disaster risk</b> and climate change adaptation at the national and sectoral levels, disaggregated by gender and other intersecting factors such as, age, source of livelihood, socioeconomic status and ethnicity of the population.</p>
	<p><b>Define the most likely and severe risk scenarios</b> by gathering information on climate projections by region and projections on the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions.</p>
	<p><b>Establish mechanisms to collaborate and exchange information</b> on risk with research centres, civil society (including rural or women's organizations, the elderly, populations living in situations of poverty, Indigenous peoples, vulnerable groups and people with disabilities), private sector and the general population.</p>
	<p>Carry out a <b>national vulnerability assessment</b> to identify the populations and areas most affected by climate change, as well as at-risk areas. The assessment should include the actions being undertaken by different actors, valuing the experiences, traditional knowledge, skills and wisdom of women, vulnerable groups and Indigenous peoples.</p>
	<p>Establish <b>institutional mechanisms to promote and compile reports</b> on studies, diagnostics and recommendations that address disaster risk reduction. These should also consider potential gaps in information, such as a lack of data or understanding of the experiences of women, Indigenous peoples and vulnerable groups, as well as mechanisms to correct any biases and deficiencies.</p>
<b>Sendai Priority</b>	<b>3. Establishment of priorities and content for bills addressing key disaster risk reduction issues</b>
	<p><b>Actions:</b></p>
	<p>Facilitate <b>land regularization and the resolution of conflicts generated by damage to goods and property caused by disasters</b>, guaranteeing the rights of more vulnerable populations to access justice, including Indigenous peoples, marginalized urban groups, women, people with disabilities and populations living in situations of poverty in rural areas.</p>

	<p>Determine which <b>aspects of society that are at risk will be covered through government intervention</b> (for example, education, health, infrastructure) and which will not (for example, movable and immovable private assets) and promote legislation that facilitates private sector investments in insurance against losses caused by disasters in vulnerable economic sectors such as agriculture, forests and commerce.</p>
	<p><b>Establish financing mechanisms</b> that can be strengthened by legislation: disaster funds, loans and insurance, among others, and determine how they will be communicated and made accessible to people with greater vulnerability.</p>
	<p>Encourage the <b>inclusion of insurance systems</b> in cases of disasters and climate impacts in legislation.</p>
	<p><b>Promote the creation of disaster risk reduction plans at the sub-regional and local levels;</b> include local risk analysis, promote training programs and financial assistance for sub-regional and local governments and strengthen risk governance at the local level.</p>
<b>Sendai Priority</b>	<h4 style="color: #2e7131;">4. Discussion and debate on the bills or bills related to disaster risk reduction in committee</h4>
	<p><b>Actions:</b></p>
	<p><b>Strengthen inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms</b> that allow for the involvement of different actors from the public sector and civil society in the process of reviewing, modifying and drafting legislation.</p>
	<p><b>Establish or strengthen communication mechanisms with ministries or secretariats responsible for implementing development policies at the national level</b> to promote the integration of disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation measures.</p>
	<p><b>Facilitate communications with ministries at the national level</b> to advance on international commitments and agreements adopted by the country on the subject matter. In addition, promote vertical communication (between all levels of government) for better coordination that ensures that the rights, inclusion and well-being of the population are respected through effective and efficient implementation at the local level.</p>
	<p><b>Guarantee the participation of women, Indigenous peoples and traditionally marginalized groups</b> in all mechanisms developed for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at all levels, ensuring their representation in the decision-making processes. <b>Create capacity building programs to continue empowering women and increase their representation in these decision-making spaces.</b></p>

<b>Sendai Priority</b>	<h4 style="color: #2e7131;">5. Public hearings or consultations with citizens and experts</h4>
	<p><b>Actions:</b></p>
	<p><b>Prepare parliamentary reports or national press releases</b> on activities and measures or progress in risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The reports should use disaggregated data, gender analysis and gender-inclusive language to help increase capacity and awareness on differentiated exposure to disaster risk and the importance of inclusion in responses adopted.</p>



Raise awareness on and discuss legislation and legislative reforms on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation with civil society organizations, local governments, academics and research centres.



Promote the participation of representatives from different social organizations and movements in spaces for dialogue and decision-making, including women, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities and other traditionally underrepresented groups.



Invite representatives from civil society, academic institutions and local governments to bilateral meetings on topics related to issues in parliamentarians' respective constituencies.

## Parliamentary oversight for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation

Different oversight mechanisms have been considered within this function and actions relevant for addressing disaster risk reduction are outlined for each ([table 2](#)). These actions can be carried out by different parliamentary committees in order to evaluate progress in disaster risk management and ensure it is inclusive and allows for the participation of vulnerable groups ([table 7](#)). Their implementation is expected to contribute to disaster preparedness and robust reconstruction, as well as increase the capacity of vulnerable groups to reduce their risk to disasters and adequately adapt to climate change ([table 5](#)).

**Table 2. Possible parliamentary actions for oversight on disaster risk management and climate change adaptation**

Sendai Priority	1. Monitoring the implementation of laws within parliamentary committees
	<b>Actions:</b>
	Establish monitoring mechanisms and performance indicators within legislation on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and ensure they are disaggregated by gender and other intersecting factors.
	Determine mandatory mechanisms for accountability on government progress towards disaster risk reduction by an enforcement authority.
	Establish a baseline and track the progress of measures related to disaster risk reduction and climate change impacts, applying a gender perspective to ensure that proposed actions respond to climate projections and the differentiated needs of the population.
	Employ participation mechanisms that allow for the inclusion of diverse stakeholders in processes to monitor and review compliance with legislation on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, with an equitable representation of women.

	<p>Set <b>inclusive indicators to evaluate compliance with the targets established in laws on disaster risk reduction</b>, which should also specifically indicate the progress made in building the capacity and resilience of particular groups.</p>
	<p>Develop <b>monitoring mechanisms and performance indicators for legislation at the local level</b>, ensuring that the mechanisms are inclusive, equitable and sensitive to the needs of women and vulnerable groups.</p>
	<p>Request <b>evaluations and reports from local institutions on existing programs for disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation</b>, and identify opportunities for new investments in infrastructure, education and health to mitigate the impacts of natural hazards.</p>

## Sendai Priority

### 2. Parliamentary work in constituencies to engage citizens in disaster risk reduction

Actions:	
	<p>Create audiovisual materials and graphics that allow for mass distribution of information on disaster risk reduction in constituencies.</p>
	<p>Organize working groups in the communities of constituencies to share and receive concerns related to disaster risk reduction and use this to contribute to the preparation of guides, manuals or regulations on these matters, ensuring that meetings are inclusive and accessible (in terms of timing, location, facilitating the participation of individuals from remote areas and those with disabilities, etc.).</p>
	<p>Develop guides and promote good practices on the application of a gender perspective in the creation and implementation of legislation and programs, as well as in monitoring and evaluation.</p>
	<p>Participate in forums or shows on radio, television or social media to build understanding of disaster risk and its impacts within constituencies.</p>
	<p>Participate in dialogues with representatives from civil society, international organizations and the private sector on disaster risk reduction and adaptation in the productive sector. The dialogue should consider how reduction and adaptation strategies will take into account the differentiated exposure, vulnerabilities and capacities of women, youth and the elderly; and people with disabilities, living in situations of poverty, or without a home; Indigenous peoples, and others. It should also address strategies to promote the meaningful participation of these groups or individuals.</p>

## Sendai Priority

### 3. Parliamentary work in constituencies to strengthen disaster risk reduction capacities

Actions:	
	<p>Identify diverse local and community leaders, including women, Indigenous peoples and vulnerable groups, and encourage their participation in work to reduce disaster risks.</p>



Organize capacity building workshops on disaster risk reduction for political, community and union leaders (both women and men), ensuring the application of a gender lens in these activities.



Organize training sessions in educational centres in constituencies on preparing for a disaster, actions to take during the impact and actions to take after a disaster - ensuring locations are accessible and inclusive.



Identify funding sources for capacity building programs and technical support.

## Debate, approval and parliamentary oversight of the budget for risk reduction and climate adaptation

Within this function, processes related to the debate, approval and monitoring of the public budget by parliament are considered, including actions that ensure disaster risk reduction is being addressed ([table 3](#)). In exercising this role, parliaments can identify the specific sectors in which to invest, as well as the vulnerabilities that must be addressed in order to increase the population's economic, social, health-related and cultural resilience in the face of future disasters ([table 8](#)). Furthermore, analysis of identified risks and the use of disaggregated data should be promoted, with the objective of determining individual budgets designated to each of the risks. For example, financing for intensive and extensive risks should be analyzed, keeping in mind that extensive risks can cause greater economic losses.<sup>11</sup>

**Table 3. Possible parliamentary actions for the study, debate and oversight of the national budget**

Sendai Priority	1. Analysis and study of the public budget for disaster risk reduction
	<b>Actions:</b>
	Identify the budget amounts <b>allocated to disaster risk management</b> and, if necessary, consider increases in critical areas and sectors.
	<b>Identify potential disaster risks and determine the type of financing</b> assigned to each, considering intensive and extensive risks.
	Introduce <b>inclusive criteria in the evaluation and management of disaster risk and climate change impacts in the budget allocation process at the sectoral, regional and local levels</b> , including how resources are allocated to respond to the differentiated needs of the population that have been identified.

<sup>11</sup> Impacto de los desastres en América Latina y el Caribe 1990-2013. UNISDR, 2016.  
[https://www.unisdr.org/files/48578\\_impactodesastresamericalatinacaribe.pdf](https://www.unisdr.org/files/48578_impactodesastresamericalatinacaribe.pdf)

	<p>Include <b>criteria for the evaluation and management of disaster risk and climate change impacts in commercial operations and public investments</b> to ensure that investment is resilient both in the long term and to the most severe climate impacts.</p>
	<p>Advocate for the relevant ministries responsible for planning and analyzing public investments to <b>integrate disaster risk – arising from natural hazards and the vulnerability and exposure of territories – in the analysis and allocation of these investments</b> to guarantee their resilience to these threats.</p>
<b>Sendai Priority</b>	<p><b>2. Debate and approval of the public budget, ensuring budget allocations for disaster risk reduction</b></p>
	<p><b>Actions:</b></p>
	<p>Ensure financing is consistent with the potential cost of disasters <b>within budget allocations in the region</b>.</p>
	<p>Promote <b>incentives in tax legislation and national revenue collection codes for the acquisition of insurance and/or investments</b> that integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures in national economic development funds.</p>
	<p>Ensure that resources are allocated to budget lines for the creation of <b>emergency funds and post-disaster reconstruction</b>, with special focus on the most vulnerable communities.</p>
	<p>Promote the allocation of financial and logistical resources to the <b>creation, development and implementation of strategies, plans, laws and regulations for disaster risk reduction</b> in all relevant sectors at all levels.</p>
	<p>Identify, evaluate, create and promote financial alternatives <b>to transfer disaster risk through insurance, securities, bonds</b> or other mechanisms, as well as their diversification.</p>
	<p>Establish <b>fiscal incentives for private sector investments in insurance for highly vulnerable sectors</b> such as agriculture, fisheries, tourism and transportation.</p>
<b>Sendai Priority</b>	<p><b>3. Follow-up and monitoring of government actions on disaster risk reduction during the reconstruction process</b></p>
	<p><b>Actions:</b></p>
	<p><b>Participate in dialogues on reconstruction and progress monitoring in different sectors/services</b> so that the parliament can ensure that the outlined objectives and targets are met.</p>



**Identify the relevant stakeholders involved in all aspects of reconstruction**, such as construction companies, responsible offices at the local government level, disaster coordination centres and registration offices for those affected by disasters, in order to **receive periodic reports on the progress of the reconstruction process**, ensuring the inclusion of community groups and civil society organizations.



Promote the **use of new technologies and tools**, including social media, open platforms and other applications, **to monitor reconstruction efforts** and facilitate reporting on problems, challenges and activities that can affect these processes.



Address citizen demands and establish special mechanisms for affected residents that **facilitate the resolution of issues related to reconstruction**, such as the recovery of identification documents, property deeds and rights related to goods and services provided by the State. A gender perspective should be applied in the process of identifying the population's needs after a disaster occurs and in the design and implementation of the adopted responses.



Promote the **participation of the private sector** in the development of better disaster preparedness guidelines and in **training their employees to recognize risks in their communities**.

# Chapter 2. Sendai Framework priorities

As mentioned in Chapter 1, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 establishes four priorities for action: **understanding disaster risk, strengthening disaster risk, investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “build back better.”** Key elements of these priorities that will facilitate the implementation of the examples of parliamentary actions presented in this protocol have been identified and are described below.

## Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk reduction

Understanding disaster risk is crucial for designing responses and measures for comprehensive risk management. The nature of risk is a combination of various factors, which include natural hazards and their interaction with social and economic systems. The vulnerability, exposure and capacity of individuals, organizations and communities are also part of risk analysis and are essential for better understanding risk. It is also important to identify sources for information and the relationships between the various factors to develop and implement appropriate measures, policies and laws for disaster risk management at the national and local levels.

### Key aspects of priority 1

#### Actors and citizen participation

In the process of understanding risk, parliaments are called upon to identify organizations with which they can create strategic partnerships to generate contextualized information on a variety of topics, such as the current state of any of the high-risk areas or regions in the country, local natural hazards and the various economic sectors that may be affected during a disaster, especially local businesses. Similarly, parliaments can promote coordination among different actors in order to strengthen local and national disaster risk reduction systems.

Communicating disaster risk and disseminating information on this topic is important for encouraging actions to strengthen the planning and response capacities of communities in the face of risk events and extreme weather events. In exercising their representation function, parliamentarians can collect, document and disseminate local

#### Types of hazards<sup>12</sup>

**Biological:** Are of organic origin or conveyed by biological vectors, including pathogenic microorganisms, toxins and bioactive substances.

**Environmental:** Chemical, natural and biological hazards. They can be created by environmental degradation or physical or chemical pollution in the air, water and soil. However, many of the processes and phenomena that fall into this category may be considered drivers of hazard and risk rather than hazards in themselves.

**Geological or geophysical:** Originate from internal earth processes (e.g. earthquakes, volcanic activity and emissions, mass movements, landslides).

**Hydrometeorological:** Are of atmospheric, hydrological or oceanographic origin (e.g. hurricanes, floods, drought; heatwaves and cold spells).

**Technological:** Originate from technological or industrial conditions, dangerous procedures, infrastructure failures or specific human activities (e.g. industrial pollution, nuclear radiation, fires and chemical spills).

**Anthropogenic:** Human-induced hazards, induced entirely or predominantly by human activities and choices.

\*It should be noted that all of these hazard types areadversely affected by climate change.

\*\*Natural hazards are predominantly associated with natural processes and phenomena.

<sup>12</sup> Report of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction. United Nations: General Assembly, 2016. p. 20. [https://www.preventionweb.net/files/50683\\_oiewgreportenglish.pdf](https://www.preventionweb.net/files/50683_oiewgreportenglish.pdf)

disaster needs and experiences and share good practices and recommendations with governments, international organizations and other agencies involved in strengthening national risk reduction systems and local adaptation capacities.

**Table 4. Actors involved**

Government	Civil society	Private sector	Academia	International organizations
Ministries responsible for disaster risk reduction and climate change	Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) focused on disaster risk reduction or on capacity building and reducing vulnerability	Corporate responsibility programs on risk reduction  Companies with disaster response and business continuity programs	Local universities' research centres focused on risk, climate change and associated factors	Agencies responsible for disaster risk reduction (UNISDR, Red Cross, Red Crescent)
Risk management units at the provincial and municipal levels	Neighbourhood committees in charge of risk management	Logistical and volunteer support services to communicate risk to employees and families	Departments and faculties of geography, environment, health, geology, meteorology and urban planning	Networks for sharing good practices and technology transfer
National coordination agencies and early warning services, as well as institutions that provide meteorological information	Organizations and networks of women, youth, people with disabilities, the elderly, Indigenous peoples and migrants	Chambers of Commerce and Industry	National science and technology councils	Earth observation agencies
	Religious or rescue groups with disaster prevention and management programs	Companies working on climate change issues and promoting investments in risk reduction at the local, regional or national level	National institutes and centres for climate, geology and hydrology	Global partnerships for development
	Volunteer associations, university and college associations	Philanthropic and financing foundations		North-South and South-South cooperation partnerships
	Networks of small and medium-sized local businesses			Global technology consortiums
				Assistance programs
				Financial institutions
				The Inter-Parliamentary Union
				ParlAmericas

## Factors for understanding risk

To understand risk, it is necessary to determine the current state of infrastructure, goods and individuals' capacities within the context of risk, considering three factors: exposure, vulnerability and adaptive capacity. This will help in identifying strategies and gaps in resources, regulations and knowledge to address the impacts of natural hazards and the risks associated with climate change. It should be acknowledged that certain population groups (such as women) have specific needs and vulnerabilities that must be included in disaster risk reduction plans and policies.

- What have been the main human and material losses caused by disasters within the last five years?
- Is there gender-disaggregated data available on the impacts of disasters?
- Which cities or regions have been impacted?
- Which sectors have been impacted?
- What has been the economic cost of the losses suffered as a result of the disasters?
- What are the risk projections?

**Table 5. Key factors in understanding disaster risk**

Factors		
Exposure	Vulnerability	Adaptive capacity
The situation – in reference to the type, degree or nature of climatic variations – of people, infrastructure, housing, production capacities of goods and services and other tangible human assets located in hazard-prone areas.	Conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes that increase the susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets or systems to the impacts of hazards.	The combination of all the strengths, attributes and resources available within an organization, community or society that can be used to manage and reduce disaster risks and strengthen resilience.
Examples		
Critical facilities: airports, hospitals, water stations, emergency offices	Poverty levels	Human and social capital, such as risk specialists, climate change advisors, engineers and architects, emergency and disaster event planning professionals
Highways and roads	Status of land and household ownership in risk zones	Condition and number of healthcare facilities
Buildings and productive infrastructure	Sources of income and economic activities of communities in risk areas	Preparedness and control measures for communicable diseases associated with extreme events, including proliferation of transmission vectors
Economic activities, such as agriculture, transportation and local trade	Availability of insurance and/or financial support mechanisms for reconstruction for individuals and/or micro, small and medium enterprises	Availability of economic resources, such as subsidies, productive and financial funds and disaster insurance
Communities in the various provinces, both urban and rural	Women's participation in decision-making processes and in the creation of related legislation and programs	Individual and community access to government health and social protection services
	Survival skills	
	Pre-existing medical conditions	
	Education and literacy levels	
	Access to and ability to understand information	
	Roles and responsibilities in the household and in society	

## Access to Information

In the Americas and the Caribbean, only 42% of the information related to economic losses resulting from disasters that occurred between 1998 and 2017 is available. Parliaments and legislators can request that the institutions responsible for generating data produce useful information on disaster risk, in open data formats when possible, and disaggregated by gender and other intersecting factors, in order to strengthen understanding of future risks, potential losses and levels of vulnerability.

The information should be used in decision-making and to support the design of educational programs, workshops, dialogues and strategies on risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Similarly, estimates of future probable maximum losses should be used in the analysis of future public investments and the management of risk insurance mechanisms.

Parliamentarians are in a key position to ensure that national statistical bodies systematically record and report on disaster events, as well as data on loss and damage. To this end, incentives should be provided for these agencies to establish administrative mechanisms to capture this information from the relevant national sectors. It is also important to consider and encourage the use of communication networks to disseminate this information and raise public awareness.

## Priority 2: Disaster risk governance

Disaster risk governance is critical to all levels of disaster risk management. This priority focuses on promoting the development of clear objectives, plans and strategies, as well as a clear designation of responsibilities in relation to the actors involved in the decision-making process.

Disaster governance also relies on coordination between, and the inclusive participation of, sectors and actors at the national and sub-national levels to create better disaster prevention and response systems. Parliaments must strengthen the various dimensions of risk governance to enable national and local mechanisms to operate efficiently and transparently throughout the stages of disaster prevention, reduction, recovery and reconstruction.

Disaster risk reduction governance should foster collaboration and partnership among the various institutions and actors in order to implement disaster risk reduction and sustainable development measures and policies. To this end, the development of laws, plans, regulations and policies that promote and include these elements should be considered.

### Key aspects of priority 2

#### Transparency and accountability

All government institutions should exercise their functions under the principles of openness and transparency in decision-making. Transparency and access to information is fundamental in decision-making processes related to disaster risk reduction measures and the management of funds dedicated to strengthening reduction mechanisms in key sectors, such as guarantee funds for disasters, investments in health or social protection programs and subsidies or fiscal incentives for recovery, reconstruction or disaster preparedness.

#### Examples of key information that parliamentarians can request from the government

- National and subnational disaster risk maps and exposure and vulnerability maps.
- National budget allocations to finance disaster risk reduction.
- Financial costs associated with human and material losses due to disasters in recent years.
- Regions and individuals with greater vulnerability and exposure to disaster risk and climate impacts.

#### Types of legislation

In order to establish the objectives, plans, strategies and roles of the various actors responsible for the creation and implementation of risk reduction policies, it is essential to analyze, update or establish the related legal framework and thus strengthen the approach to disaster risk reduction from a national and sectoral perspective.

Legal frameworks for disaster risk management have evolved from general legal texts, which determined the government's response to emergency situations caused by a disaster, to laws seeking to reduce disaster risk based on preventative and precautionary principles. As a result, global and hemispheric legislation on disaster risk reduction demonstrate varying levels of development, differentiated by the priority they assign to addressing disasters (low, medium and/or high). These differences largely correspond with global legislative trends at the time of the legislation's enactment. The legislative challenge is, therefore, to move towards modernized frameworks that favour adaptation and resilience to the effects of disasters.

**Table 6. Types of legislation according to levels of development and priority**

Low priority or emergency response laws	Medium priority or prevention and preparedness laws	High priority or risk reduction laws
<p>Legislation that focuses on emergency management, which is often reflected in its title ("emergency laws"). Their objective is to ensure a <b>rapid response and assistance in the event of a disaster</b>. These are often old laws passed in countries with high levels of exposure.</p>	<p>Legislation that addresses disaster risk reduction in a broader way in its objectives and mandates, placing attention on prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. <b>Disaster risk reduction is not identified as a central priority</b> of the objective and/or purpose of the institutional framework.</p>	<p>Legislation that provides different institutions with <b>priority mandates</b>, with disaster risk reduction governance clearly established as an objective.</p>

### Ideal minimum standards in disaster risk reduction legislation

The evolution towards normative frameworks that prioritize disaster risk reduction should consider minimum standards regarding their content and ensure that national priorities and principles are informed by a holistic perspective that represents the population as a whole. It is also important to consider establishing criteria to improve collaboration and coordination among the entities involved in developing and implementing this legislation.

- How is the national system for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation organized?
- What sectoral legislation has integrated disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into national law?
- What are the roles and responsibilities of the different public institutions involved in disaster risk reduction?
- What are the mechanisms for participating in the development of strategies and programs in this area?
- Are there policies to ensure women's equal participation in spaces for decision-making on disaster risk reduction?
- How are national responsibilities and budgets for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation distributed?
- What are the forums for government coordination at the national or local levels?

**Table 7. Minimum standards to consider in disaster risk reduction legislation**

<b>Roles, tasks and functions</b>	<p>Define the responsible actors at the national and sub-national levels, their tasks and functions, with the greatest authority for disaster risk reduction assigned at the highest level to ensure proper coordination and compliance with the existing legal framework.<sup>13</sup> Responsibilities should also be clearly differentiated to avoid overlaps in responsibilities.</p>
<b>Link to climate change legislation</b>	<p>Define the links with climate change adaptation legislation and key sectors involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water: legislation should include floods and droughts.</li> <li>• Environment: disaster risk reduction needs to be incorporated in the environmental impact assessment system. Environmental legislation must also include disaster reduction and the safety of people and their property.</li> <li>• Land use and territorial planning: legislation must address the problem of land occupancy from a preventative and reparatory perspective that clearly defines the responsibilities of the actors involved.</li> <li>• Construction, urbanism, and land zoning: disaster risk reduction must be taken into account when defining the location of and methods for constructing hospitals, schools and other public buildings.</li> <li>• Human rights, construction standards and urban development that ensures people's safety and well-being.</li> <li>• Legislation must take into account the most recent and most severe climate projections to ensure its capacity to respond to disasters.</li> </ul>
<b>Coordination and collaboration mechanisms</b>	<p>Determine mechanisms for coordination, cooperation, exchange of information and collaboration with actors from different sectors (public, private, academia) to promote the integration of disaster risk management in other sectors.</p> <p>Establish and strengthen forums for coordinating technical, financial and administrative capacities, create systems to share information and good practices and establish programs for cooperation and capacity building.</p>
<b>Participation, access to information and justice</b>	<p>Establish participation and consultation mechanisms for different actors throughout the stages of decision-making on disaster risk reduction, access to information and justice.</p> <p>Ensure that information is available to all who are interested in an accessible format and that it is communicated effectively.</p>
<b>Gender perspective</b>	<p>Mainstream a gender perspective through the equitable representation of women and ensure that the needs and experiences of all genders are respected and included in legislation.</p>
<b>Instruments</b>	<p>Define instruments for disaster risk reduction: land use planning, regulatory systems, education programs, early warning systems, the use of geographic information systems to create maps and resources for risk analysis and scientific information.</p>

<sup>13</sup> United Nations Development Program, The checklist on law and disaster, risk reduction, Pilot Version, 2015, p.9. <https://www.ifrc.org/PageFiles/115542/The-checklist-on-law-and-drr.pdf>

## Incentives

Add compliance incentives to promote the implementation of sectoral laws and regulations.

## Rights

Define the rights that are protected during disasters, such as personal and material security, as well as how and when these will be communicated before and after a disaster.

## Sanctions

Establish sanctions for noncompliance with obligations and responsibilities for public sector entities, individuals and companies.

## Financing

Provide for financing for disaster risk reduction policies and laws through the allocation of a percentage of annual national budgets, a legal mandate to designate such a budget line or the commitment of public budget to disaster risk reduction.

It is important that the legislation includes funding for the sub-national (local) level, through co-financing and/or incentives.

## Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience

The Americas and the Caribbean absorbed 53% of the global economic losses from climate-related disasters between 1998 and 2017. Public and private sector investment in the prevention and reduction of disaster risk is essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including through the construction and maintenance of resilient physical infrastructure. Strengthening the capacities for action and resilience in all its dimensions (environmental, economic and social) of communities, countries and populations is a priority in our region. The results of these investments should be measured, in the context of disaster risk reduction, for their effectiveness in reducing the cost of losses from hazard impacts, protecting lives and ensuring effective post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation.

- What economic activities and sectors are most affected by natural hazards?
- What incentives can facilitate post-disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction?
- Are there social protection programs in place to meet the differentiated needs of community members affected by natural hazards – with specific protections for the most vulnerable groups?
- What is the physical condition of critical infrastructure in vulnerable areas, such as medical facilities, roads and bridges, collection centres and emergency coordination centres?
- Do cost-benefit reports exist to facilitate the incorporation of risk analysis for natural hazards and climate change-related events in government investments in various economic sectors?
- Are there training programs for civil society and health professionals on understanding, preparing for, responding to and recovering from disasters?

## Key aspects of priority 3

### Assessment of risk areas and sectors and investment incentives

It is important to identify the risks in cities, communities or regions to determine what kind of investments are optimal for risk reduction and adaptation. For example, in agricultural zones with a high risk of flooding during harvest seasons, the main costs will result from the loss of product or interruptions in product distribution due to effects on roads and bridges. In these cases, incentives should encourage the performance of routine assessments of existing infrastructure, the reinforcement of vulnerable areas, the facilitation of funding to acquire micro-insurance benefitting small producers and their families and the relocation of critical medical services to secure areas.

### Examples of investments for disaster risk reduction

**International:** Second-tier private financial institutions, insurance for agriculture and transportation, multilateral technical capacity investment programs and funds, international adaptation funds and climate finance.

**National:** Investments focused on evaluating and strengthening national infrastructure such as bridges and roads, installation of coastal protection, investments in innovation and technological development for early warning systems, climate monitoring centres, agencies specialized in risk analysis and specialized technical advisory teams for regional and local governments.

**Local:** Investments focused on improving and reinforcing critical infrastructure, such as bridges, roads and access areas for the city, town or community; infrastructure for the provision of basic services, local drain cleaning campaigns to prevent flooding, information technologies for emergency coordination, collection centres and educational workshops in schools, hospitals and public and private sector offices.

### Costs and benefits of investment

Investments in risk reduction should take into consideration the costs and benefits of short-, medium- and long-term investments to strengthen the resilience of communities. In this respect, it is important to study and evaluate vulnerable activities, value chains and systems that are vital to the functioning of municipalities or rural areas, with the purpose of making better investments aimed at reducing risk. It is also essential to identify the primary threats to economic and social assets of importance in the country, disaggregating these by sector and territorial level.

The following table presents the main types of costs associated with disasters, categorized according to social, economic and environmental factors.

**Table 8. Types of costs associated with disasters**

Social factors	Economic factors	Environmental factors
Health: interruption of basic services (including sexual and reproductive health), influence on mental health, access to medical resources (medicine), access to drinking water and food, access to and condition of healthcare systems.	Loss of family wealth and assets. Loss of livelihoods.	Loss or damage of local biodiversity. Changes in topography and land use.
Social cohesion: relocation, destruction of housing (formal and informal).	Time lost in the performance of economic activities and in post-disaster recovery processes.	Loss of natural areas that protect against floods or the infiltration of seawater in coastal areas (mangroves).
Education: interruption of schooling.  Loss of historical, religious and/or cultural sites.	Loss of informal jobs and occupations.  Increase in expenses for reconstruction.	Contamination of drinking water sources and hydrographic basins.

## Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “build back better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

Greater frequency and intensity of events associated with climate change, as well as occurrence patterns, have increased the degree of exposure of people and goods, including informal human settlements, dwellings and industrial areas, among others. It is therefore necessary to strengthen the disaster preparedness of individuals, organizations and communities through the integration of risk reduction in disaster preparedness plans and policies and the gradual building of local response and adaptation capacities to ensure efficient recovery at all levels.

The preparedness and reconstruction phases represent opportunities to “build back better,” and the resilience of communities and countries can be strengthened through informed decision-making that features inclusive participation of all sectors of the population and fair resource distribution.

- What national, regional and/or local laws support the “build back better” process in the different post-disaster stages?
- What are the roles and responsibilities of the different institutions and organizations involved in post-disaster reconstruction processes?
- Is there a comprehensive framework or strategy for the transition from recovery to reconstruction?
- Is there a multidisciplinary team dedicated to reconstruction work?
- What mechanisms are in place to ensure the inclusion of diverse citizen perspectives in these processes?
- In which risk zones and urban areas should houses, schools, hospitals or other infrastructure or critical facilities not be rebuilt?
- How can technical capacity be strengthened?

### Key aspects of priority 4

#### Follow-up and monitoring mechanisms for the “build back better” process

It is important to examine preparedness plans, policies and programs and assess whether these are up-to-date and functioning properly to ensure an effective response to disasters. Indicators should also be established for monitoring and follow-up on increases in local, sub-national and national resilience and adaptive capacity. Periodic analyses should be undertaken to assess the benefits of “reconstruction” for the social, economic and environmental aspects of communities, and to help determine which strategies have been effective, with the objective of sharing these good practices.

#### Build back better

This concept refers to the use of the post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation phases to build the resilience of nations and communities, through the integration of disaster risk reduction measures in the restoration of physical infrastructure and social systems and in the revitalization of livelihoods, economies and the environment. This process should focus on improving the location and characteristics of construction, taking into consideration new risk zones and the population’s recent experiences in responding to the impacts of natural hazards.

#### Sectors and means to promote resilience

It is equally important to promote the development and strengthening of mechanisms for disaster risk reduction management among various stakeholders and different levels of government. Priority should be given to critical infrastructure, rescue and relief activities, early warning and hazard prediction systems, risk transfer and distribution instruments, urban planning strategies and training programs. It is also essential to empower women and traditionally marginalized groups, including populations living in situations of poverty and Indigenous peoples, by supporting their leadership and universal access to response, recovery, and rehabilitation and reconstruction information.



## Conclusion

The adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 materialized the commitment of 187 states to reducing disaster risk and building resilience and demonstrated the importance of adequate legislation to support disaster risk reduction. In the absence of such legislative frameworks, it will be very difficult to move towards a safer and more sustainable future. Development will not be sustainable, nor will the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) be achieved, without effective disaster risk management that is underpinned by legislation promoting comprehensive national risk governance structures, as this contributes to ensuring that future risks are not underestimated and helps avoid the possible costs of disaster risk to poverty and inequality reduction, environmental sustainability and economic and social progress.

In this context, parliamentarians play an essential role in designing appropriate legislation to strengthen

comprehensive risk governance structures, integrating the knowledge and information needed to facilitate an understanding of the risks faced by the population and the measures to reduce these. Through collective work to build resilience, it is also possible for legislators to ensure cooperation between parliament, the government, civil society and the private sector towards the ultimate goal that was agreed upon in 2015 in the Sendai Framework: "Achieve 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."

We are grateful for the willingness of the parliamentarians who, recognizing this role and its importance, participated in this document and all those who will further commit to building a more resilient region by 2030.



## Annexes

### Annex 1. National regulations and policies for disaster risk reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean

COUNTRY	NAME	Nº	YEAR
Antigua and Barbuda	<a href="#">The Disaster Management Act</a>	13	2002
Argentina	<a href="#">National System for Integrated Risk Management and Civil Protection I (Sistema Nacional para la Gestión Integral del Riesgo y la Protección Civil I)</a>	27287	2016
Belize	<a href="#">Disaster Preparedness and Response Act</a>		2003
Bolivia	<a href="#">Risk Management Act (Ley de Gestión de Riesgos)</a>	602	2014
Brazil	<a href="#">Law Establishing the National Protection Policy and Civil Defence (Lei institui a Política Nacional de Proteção e Defesa Civil)</a>	12608	2010 -2012
Chile	<a href="#">National Disaster Risk Management Policy (Política Nacional de Gestión de Riesgo de Desastres)</a>	1512	2016
Colombia	<a href="#">Law by which the national disaster risk management policy is adopted and the National Disaster Risk Management System is established and other provisions are enacted (Ley por la cual se adopta la política nacional de gestión del riesgo de desastres y se establece el Sistema Nacional de Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres y se dictan otras disposiciones)</a>	1523	2012
Costa Rica	<a href="#">National Risk Management Policy (Política Nacional de Gestión del Riesgo)</a>		2016-2030
Cuba	<a href="#">Task of Life (Tarea Vida)</a>		2017
Ecuador	<a href="#">Regulations for the Law on Public and State Security (Reglamento a la Ley de Seguridad Pública y del Estado)</a>	486	1996
El Salvador	<a href="#">Civil Protection, Prevention and Mitigation Act (Ley de Protección Civil, Prevención y Mitigación)</a>	777	2005
Guatemala	<a href="#">Law on the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (Ley de la Coordinadora Nacional para la Reducción de Desastres)</a>	109	1996
Haiti	<a href="#">Draft Legislation on the State of Emergency (Proposition de Loi Sur l'Etat D'Urgence)</a>		2008
Honduras	<a href="#">Law on the National Risk Management System (Ley del Sistema Nacional de Gestión de Riesgos (SINAGER))</a>	151/09	2009
Mexico	<a href="#">National Civil Protection Program (Programa Nacional de Protección Civil)</a>		2014-2018
Nicaragua	<a href="#">Law Creating the National System for the Prevention, Mitigation and Attention to Disasters (Ley Creadora del Sistema Nacional para la Prevención, Mitigación, y Atención de Desastres)</a>	337	2000
Panama	<a href="#">Executive Ordinance Approving the National Policy for Comprehensive Disaster Reduction Management (Decreto Ejecutivo por el cual se aprueba la Política Nacional de Gestión Integral de Reducción de Desastres)</a>	1101	2010
Paraguay	<a href="#">National Emergency Secretariat (Secretaría de Emergencia Nacional)</a>	2615	2005
Peru	<a href="#">Law for the Creation of the National Disaster Risk Management System (Ley de Creación del Sistema Nacional de Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres (SINAGERD))</a>	29664	2011
Dominican Republic	<a href="#">Law on Risk Management (Ley sobre Gestión de Riesgos)</a>	147	2002
Saint Lucia	<a href="#">Disaster Management Act</a>	30	2006
Trinidad and Tobago	<a href="#">Disaster Measures Act</a>		1978
Uruguay	<a href="#">National Emergency System (Sistema Nacional de Emergencias)</a>	18621	2009
Venezuela	<a href="#">Law for the Integral Management of Socio-natural and Technological Risks (Ley de Gestión Integral de Riesgos Socionaturales y Tecnológicos )</a>	39095	2009

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710-150 Wellington St., Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5A4 Canada  
Telephone: + 1 (613) 594-5222 | Fax: + 1 (613) 594-4766  
[www.parlamericas.org](http://www.parlamericas.org) | [info@parlamericas.org](mailto:info@parlamericas.org)

