



Chair's Summary

1. The 2021 European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) was held from 24 to 26 November, in Matosinhos, Portugal, chaired by the Government of Portugal with the support of the EFDRR Secretariat composed by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the European Commission and the Council of Europe. The EFDRR welcomed delegations from 49 European and Central Asian Member States.
2. Building on the outcomes of the UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021(COP26), the participants agreed on the critical urgency to address increasing climate risk. They reiterated the need for urgent and coherent action on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
3. Participants reiterated the need to move beyond business-as-usual approaches and to invest in a more climate and disaster-resilient Europe and Central Asia. They endorsed the EFDRR Roadmap 2021-2030 and its four areas, to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework 2015-2030.
4. The participants recognized that lessons learnt from the Covid-19 pandemic illustrate the need to rethink how we address simultaneous and compounding crises. They stressed the need to strengthen transboundary collaborative mechanisms to understand risks better, as well as the need to support better governance and reduction of existing, emerging, and future risks. Participants reiterated the benefits of comparable common risk assessments and strategies to facilitate transboundary cooperation.
5. The participants underscored the need to invest in new and green infrastructure systems and services to address dangerously aging assets. They stressed that the systemic nature of risk, cascading, and complex interdependencies require innovative critical infrastructure systems.
6. The participants highlighted the transformative power of science, data, and technology. They agreed on the importance of the science-policy-society interface for an active and positive social discourse and as a counterweight to disinformation. Participants appreciated the ministerial commitment to invest in evidence-based approaches to underpin risk-informed policies and regulatory frameworks.
7. Learning from the Covid-19 and financial crises, participants emphasized the need for a new social contract for inclusive all-of society approaches to build resilience. They recognized that disaster risk reduction is a collective responsibility for leaving no one behind. They reiterated the need to budget and institutionalize all-of-society collaboration especially involving those most at risk.
8. The participants stressed the role of local governments to build resilience, and the fact that cities offer unique opportunities to boost sustainable development. They recognized the importance of support structures and the need for coherence at local, regional, and global levels, including city-to-city collaborations.
9. The participants expressed concerns about the unsustainable economic losses from disasters and stressed the need for greater public and private investments for reducing risks. They recognized important progress on financial disclosure of climate risk and emphasized the need to accelerate green and disaster resilient economic recovery.
10. Looking ahead, the participants stressed the importance of regional and sub-regional collaboration as well as the crucial role played by the Sendai Framework National Focal Points in establishing effective mechanisms for successfully implementing and reviewing progress of the EFDRR Roadmap 2021-2030 for a climate and disaster resilient Europe and Central Asia.

The participants express sincere appreciation and gratitude for the exceptionally warm hospitality from the Government of Portugal and the City of Matosinhos.