

Draft Statement by the Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends for Disaster Risk Reduction

Consultation on SDG Summit Political Declaration Elements Paper

16 March 2023

Excellencies, delegates, colleagues,

It is my pleasure to deliver this statement on behalf of the co-Chairs of the Group of Friends for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Permanent Missions of Australia, Indonesia, Norway and my own country, Peru.

At the outset, we express our appreciation to the Permanent Missions of Ireland and Qatar, for leading this consultative process.

At the 2019 Sustainable Development Goals Summit, we committed to pursue policy, investment and innovation to reduce disaster risk and build the resilience of countries, economies, communities and individuals to economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters. We left the Summit with a feeling of hope that all countries would embark on development trajectories that reduce risk and build resilience to current, emerging and future shocks and hazards.

Since the 2019 Summit, the world has faced the cascading impacts of the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its consequences, compounded by the adverse impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, pollution, and other environmental degradation aspects.

At the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, many countries have made progress in adopting a risk-informed approach to development. However, we are deeply concerned that progress is too slow to counter the rising tide of risk. It is clear that our best efforts to reduce risk and build resilience have been

no match for the COVID-19 pandemic or the adverse impacts of climate change.

With only seven years until 2030, few countries will achieve the SDGs without reducing the economic, social and environmental impacts of disasters. Put simply, reducing disaster risk and building resilience have never been more important.

As Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends for Disaster Risk Reduction, we hope to see commitment and action to build climate and disaster resilience through risk reduction embedded across the political declaration of this year's SDG Summit and mainstreamed across all economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development.

We look forward to working with the Co-Facilitators, as well as the entire Membership, to ensure that climate and disaster risk reduction features prominently in the SDG Summit political declaration. We urge that key findings and recommendations of the midterm review of the Sendai Framework are integrated into the [SDG summit](#) political declaration. This can provide countries with clear and actionable policy guidance on how to embark on a risk-informed approach to development; ensure commitment at the highest level of governments; and promote synergies across the various stock takes and reviews underway this year for better results.

Thank you for your attention.