Preamble

World BOSAI Forum 2023/IDRC 2023 in SENDAI was attended by 5,412 participants from 40 countries. The Forum discussed tangible solutions for disaster risk reduction and disseminated information to the world through dialogue among international organizations, governments, academia, private sector, NGOs, and citizens. The Forum voiced its desire to see conflicts around the world resolved as soon as possible, since conflict is the biggest impediment to disaster risk reduction. Conflict is one of the reasons why the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have fallen far behind in achieving their goals. On the other hand, the Forum emphasized that international cooperation on disaster risk reduction may be beneficial in resolving conflicts. The Covid-19 Pandemic took a tremendous toll, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction pointed out the importance of being prepared in advance and of maintaining the health care sector in times of emergency. A special session on earthquakes in Turkey and Syria discussed challenges and solutions by academia and practitioners. It was pointed out that while the development of new technologies is effective for disaster risk reduction, we already have a substantial amount of viable technology; the problem is that they are not being disseminated throughout society. A human-centered approach, including inclusiveness and sustainability in disaster risk reduction, was suggested to address the problem that some socio-economic groups are more vulnerable to disasters. Education and public awareness, including picture books and disaster storytelling associated with disaster-related museums, are useful to keep memories of disaster experiences alive in the next generations. Several sessions emphasized that inclusion of the perspectives of women, children and the disabled would further reduce disaster risks. City of Sendai conducted a mid-term review on the Sendai Framework which helps understand disaster risks at the local level. The exhibition, called World BOSAI EXPO, introduced disaster risk reduction product technologies from private companies and activities of disaster risk reduction-related organizations.

The forum came up with recommendations to the Mid-Term Review Process of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as below.

Our recommendations:

1. The Forum recognizes the high value of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the need to accelerate its implementation. We respect the important role of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for that goal. Ultimately, promotion and review of the Sendai Framework must lead to practice of disaster risk reduction in each country and to strengthen national and local mechanisms to implement disaster risk reduction. This includes strengthening of the National Platforms and their secretariat, in many cases National Disaster Management Organizations/Authorities (NDMOs).

Understanding disaster risk (priority area 1 of the Sendai Framework for DRR)

2. We need sound and reliable evidence based on data collection and analysis, including risk assessment, to further enhance the connection between risk information and DRR decisions and actions.

3. To enhance credibility, we must fully utilize and refer to historical disaster loss and damage data and statistics. We need to improve accuracy in the calculation of economic losses, including those of infrastructures.

4. We need consistent and understandable metrics regarding disaster risk reduction and building resilience. How resilient is resilient enough? There must be substantial discussions among the relevant stakeholders within and across countries.

5. The Sendai monitoring should be done not only by national governments but also local governments, including municipalities, to understand disaster risks at the local level.

Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk (priority area 2 of the Sendai Framework for DRR)

6. We need more robust education programs for securing skilled human resources dedicated to disaster risk reduction. More transdisciplinary practical programs should be

inaugurated to formulate an optimized set of DRR actions based on scientific evidence.

7. We must strengthen the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and coordination with national organizations that invest in disaster risk reduction such as the Ministry of Public Works, Construction, Planning, and Finance.

8. We must stress the importance of balance between structural and non-structural measures to reduce disaster risk. An optimal combination of disaster risk reduction measures is needed to maximize the effectiveness of disaster risk reduction by various stakeholders with limited resources. A disaster risk reduction effectiveness metric needs to be established for this purpose.

9. We encourage further involvement of the private sector in investments in disaster risk reduction. Private sector involvement would be more effective if there is a national strategy and budget for disaster risk reduction at the local level.

10. Specific actions (tangible, measurable, visible, 'mapable,' GIS-based actions) are needed at the local level. The global level agenda should be for local level actions. Since all disasters affect the local level, activities must be action oriented.

Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience (priority area 3 of the Sendai Framework for DRR)

11. Continued investment in disaster risk reduction, including cooperation and guidance with private investors is necessary for substantial risk reduction. We need to secure a sustainable budget to achieve resilience in the event of a disaster.

12. We need to link disaster risk reduction with urban and rural land use planning. The continued investment in land use planning for disaster risk reduction will significantly reduce the short-term impacts of climate change.

13. We need to develop better financial mechanisms for resilient infrastructure, including insurance of public assets.

14. Pre-disaster investment and DRR actions should be optimized based on the economic and social development level of the countries and regions. While Early Warning Systems are

effective to achieve Sendai Framework's global targets A and B, we also have to consider combining with other effective DRR measures to attain Sendai Framework's global targets C and D.

Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to Build Back Better in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction (priority area 4 of the Sendai Framework for DRR)

15. Pre-disaster recovery planning derived from the Build Back Better principles learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami can reduce the recovery time and serve as effective pre-disaster DRR investment.

16. Restoration in the "hard" aspects of recovery and reconstruction, such as infrastructure, does not necessarily mean "recovery" for each and every one of the victims. For example, the rate of suicide among disaster victims remains higher even several years after large-scale disasters. In that sense "Build Back Better" should highlight individual victims' psychosocial status and take necessary steps as well. Such steps will even encourage those people's engagement in future risk reduction and enhance resilience of the local community.

Cross-cutting and emerging issues

17. Scientific global collaboration networks should be strengthened with more involvement of academia to share successful cases and to improve the accuracy of disaster risk assessment.

18. The forum identified a need for an intergovernmental venue to discuss key disaster risk reduction issues from the NDMO's perspective. These include sharing of national and regional good practices accumulated during the 2015-2023 period of the Sendai Framework implementation period, periodic review of the Sendai Framework, and the climate change adaptation issues mentioned above.

19. The forum concerned that disaster risk reduction issues related to climate change are currently discussed and decided without sufficient involvement of NDMOs in the global process of climate change adaptation under the UNFCCC, especially in the COP series.

20. There is a need to bridge the gap and share knowledge between countries that have long

dealt with climate change and those facing climate change as a new risk. Conventional disaster risk reduction strategies are also effective for climate change-induced disasters.

21. There is a need for science-based discussions and evidence on the linkages between climate change adaptation measures and disaster risk reduction, based on solid data on disaster losses and damages at all levels.