

on the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2022



Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2022, Bali (Indonesia)

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) is the most important international conference in the field of DRR. Seven sessions of the GPDRR have taken place since the first one in 2007, five of them in Geneva. [The 7th session of the GPDRR](#) was held in Bali, Indonesia from 23 to 28 May 2022 as a hybrid conference, with 3200 participants present on-site and 3000 connected online, and was concluded with the [Bali Agenda for Resilience](#) (see below).

The GPDRR is based on a jointly defined framework for action: the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030](#). At the conference, progress in its implementation was discussed. The Sendai Framework (SF) is a voluntary, non-binding agreement on disaster risk reduction signed in 2015 by 187 States, including Switzerland. The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) is mandated by the UN General Assembly to convene and organise the Global Platform. The GPDRR plays a critical role in mobilising governments, the UN system and stakeholders to accelerate disaster risk reduction. Solutions formulated at the conference feed into multilateral negotiations and regional and national sector policies.

The focus of this year's GPDRR was on preparing for the mid-term review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the analysis of the COVID-19 pandemic in relation to the understanding of risk and disaster risk reduction. Participants reflected how global crises (climate, pandemic) can be used as an opportunity for radical change. This is essential to achieve the goals and targets of the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda.

Switzerland played an active role, with a delegation of 9 people on-site and 19 on-line, from across government, civil society, academia, private sector and the youth, led by Ambassador Manuel Bessler, State Secretary, Deputy Director of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Sergio Pérez, Program Officer for DRR Strategic Partnerships at SDC, coordinated the Swiss delegation and will share a few key insights about this year's conference.



Switzerland's role and engagement at the GP2022

Switzerland has a rich and globally recognized expertise in the DRR sector. Switzerland's focus in Bali was primarily on prevention, risk governance and the role of youth in disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. The Swiss delegation was actively engaged and contributed to shape the processes at different levels, shared the Swiss insights and learned from other participants.

Switzerland is convinced that DRR pays off financially, socially and ecologically. However, for measures to be successful, all relevant stakeholders – including the affected local population – must be involved in the planning process from the outset.

Some key highlights in which the Swiss delegation was involved are mentioned below.

Input Paper "Switzerland's Focus on DRR"

The paper summarises key elements that Switzerland considers important in disaster risk reduction (DRR).

In line with the global trends and as depicted in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Switzerland strives to reduce existing risks substantially and to prevent new risks. Moreover, Switzerland is committed to strengthening the ability of its society, economy and environment to resist and adapt to hazards and recover from disasters, thereby safeguarding people's welfare.

Read [more](#).

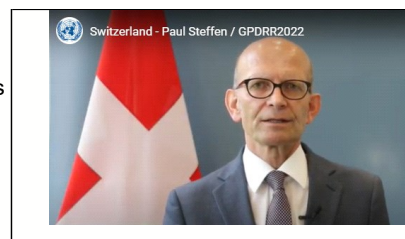


Switzerland's official statement at the GP2022

Dr. Paul Steffen, Deputy Director of the Federal Office for the Environment, delivered Switzerland's official statement.

"As a mountainous country, Switzerland has a long history of dealing with hazards. People in the Alps have always lived with the forces of nature, and learnt to deal with them. In the past decades, the impact of climate changes has become very tangible, adding new challenges. In the 1990s up to the mid-2000s Switzerland was struck by a number of devastating storms, floods and debris flows, causing damage to lives, property, and infrastructure."

Read [more](#).



Ministerial Roundtable on Scaling-up Disaster Risk Reduction to Tackle the Climate Emergency

The objective of the session was to discuss challenges, identify solutions and enhance political leadership towards the implementation of the Sendai

Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and specifically the links between climate and disaster risk reduction. **Switzerland highlighted** three elements of DRR to which it is strongly committed: looking for co-benefits (for example by supporting carbon capture as well as the adaptation and protective function of forests), accelerating climate and DRR finance, and acting BEFORE events turn into disasters through prevention, risk mitigation and early warning systems.

Read [more](#).

Switzerland was a speaker in various sessions

Switzerland participated at the [Stakeholder Forum](#), the thematic sessions on [Breaking the Silos \(Risk Governance\)](#) and [Diversity in DRR Leadership](#), and the side event on [Regional Stand-by Mechanisms](#).

Switzerland also co-hosted the [GNDR Donor Roundtable](#) and was invited to the special event on “Water related Disaster Risk reduction under COVID-19 Pandemic and Changing Climate”, hosted by the Ministry of Public Work and Housing of Indonesia, and attended several high-level bilateral meetings.

Find [more](#) about the programme.

Mr. Sergio Pérez, what would you highlight from the conference?

*I was very impressed by the active role of the representatives of local communities. They are the ones that are feeling the brunt of disasters and climate change. They not only provided testimony of the impact of disasters, but they also came with **concrete ideas to build up resilience in their communities**. Governments and donors were challenged to really live up to the whole-of-society approach and the localization agenda and facilitate the means with which local actors can find and apply solutions adapted to their own specific context.*



*I took with me one important message: **access to funding mechanisms and sources must be made easier**, so that actors at risk at community level can have direct access to finance and put their specific skills and knowledge into action.*

Young people showed that they really want to take their future into their own hands. Switzerland was proud to present the “[One Million Youth Actions Challenge \(1MYAC\)](#)”, an initiative that supports young people getting into concrete action, and we were very proud that important actors in the regions such as the [U-Inspire Alliance](#) decided to become partners of 1MYAC.

Key Findings of the GP2022

The key findings of the GP2022 are presented in the co-chair's summary of the conference titled “**Bali Agenda for Resilience**” - From Risk to Resilience: Towards Sustainable Development for All in a COVID-19 Transformed World.



Co-Chairs' Summary

[Bali Agenda for Resilience](#)

Overall, the GP2022 called for integrating DRR at the core of development and finance policies and enacting systemic changes with

*From Risk to Resilience:
Towards Sustainable Development for All
in a COVID-19 Transformed World*

appropriate budgetary targets and tracking mechanisms. It highlighted the close interdependency between DRR and climate change policies and made an appeal to urgently scale up action under both.

Read [more](#).

Some of the most relevant findings from the perspective of the Swiss delegation are:

- **We are not on track to reach the SFDRR targets by 2030 - we are creating risks faster than we can reduce them.** Climate change is driving up disasters. The COVID-19 pandemic increased number of deaths. Economic losses have increased and the least developed countries are bearing the brunt. Financing to DRR increased but mainly to disaster response, with only 4% going to prevention and preparedness, and not to the most vulnerable people.
- **Invest more in prevention:** we need to shift financing from response to preventive actions. We need to mainstream DRR in investment decisions and prioritize actions that create intrinsically resilient systems. Prevention is very high on the agenda of vulnerable countries, but investments do not follow: long-term prevention and mainstreaming resilience competes with their pressing short term-needs and their rising debt and requires new capacities and funding instruments that often are not yet accessible.
- **Better data for better decision-making:** open, disaggregated, comparable data is needed. Improved data of climate impacts and disaster risks can help demonstrate the need for prevention measures, anticipatory action, and insurance solutions.
- **Risk-informed development:** we need to integrate DRR into all investments and policies. But more importantly, we need to tackle social inequities to reduce vulnerabilities.
- **Transform risk governance:** governments can break institutional silos by working transversally across ministries and across all levels and sectors, in order to better anticipate and manage multi-hazards and compounding hazards (that both do not know ministerial boundaries). In practical terms, this requires more integration within the administration (government), involve all relevant actors and partners, set formalized procedures, have regular meetings, and work together on after-action reviews.
- **Stakeholder engagement, diversity, and Leave No One Behind:** we need policies, but we need mostly ACTION! Actions are more impactful when working together with government, businesses, civil society, persons with disabilities, academia, women, youth and children through a whole-of-society-approach. When working with these diverse stakeholders, we must be mindful of our biases and forget our preconceived idea of vulnerable groups, and rather consider them as actors of change particularly at risk with specific coping mechanisms and skills to overcome challenges. Investments in youth and young professionals should be enhanced to stimulate innovation and creative solutions.
- **Integrate climate action and disaster risk reduction:** there was a call for better coordination between the DRR and CC communities. This includes also the alignment of the global frameworks, such as the Agenda 2030, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework. The international community must honor the commitments made at COP26 to address loss and damage (L&D).
Useful documents:
 - [Promoting synergy and alignment: between Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in the context of National Adaptation Plans](#)
 - [Technical Guidance on Comprehensive Risk Assessment and Plan](#)

- **Scale-up Early Warning Systems (EWS):** EWS need to be adapted to the local context and be established on the base of long-term social processes, to make sure they are sustainable. Authorities should include all actors during design process, putting people in the center to reach the last mile. The [CREWS Initiative](#) plays an important role in scaling up EWS in least-developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).
- **Focus more on nature-based solutions (NbS).** They can address systemic risks and be a strong vehicle for comprehensive disaster risk management. They are key to address ecological degradation through DRR efforts and contribute to biodiversity protection. We need to show the economic value of ecosystem services through cost-benefit analysis.
- **Learn from the COVID-19 pandemic to improve DRR governance:** The pandemic has shown the importance of local stakeholders as first responders in the crisis. It is crucial to incorporate biological hazards into disaster risk management, which also includes institutional collaboration between the main line ministries. We need to work on reducing impacts from COVID-19 and also prepare for other pandemics.
See [“Guiding Principles to Build Resilient Post-Corona World: Towards building a more resilient and adaptive post-corona society”](#)
- **Anticipatory humanitarian action** can help ensure sustainable humanitarian impact and create synergies between humanitarian and development organisations and local authorities, but we need to make sure that it links to long-term climate change adaptation instruments and is well embedded in overall DRR-policies, mechanisms and programs. Anticipatory humanitarian action requires flexibility from donors, as it might be that allocated funds are not used entirely as planned.

What are the next steps after the GP2022 for Switzerland?

Switzerland reaffirmed its strong commitment to disaster risk reduction and expressed its will to continue to actively support the countries of the Global South in achieving the goals of the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Switzerland will keep playing an important role as responsible partner that proactively cooperates in the elaboration of risk-informed, sustainable solutions for the international community and specifically for the most vulnerable people.

Mid-term review of the Sendai Framework

The recommendations by the GP2022 will flow into the midterm review (MTR) of the Sendai Framework. Switzerland will contribute with a voluntary national report, to be presented in September 2022 (PLANAT and SDC lead, with contributions from BABS and BAFU and a broad range of partners constituting the Swiss DRR Consultative Group). With this and many other inputs from a broad range of stakeholders, UNDRR will produce a global MTR report by December 2022. It will set the base for a political declaration to be agreed by a high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly that will take place in May 2023 and that will provide momentum for the work to be done from 2023 to 2030 to achieve the targets of the Sendai Framework.

[Read more.](#)

Switzerland announced that the next Global Platform will be hosted in Geneva in 2025, as a hybrid meeting, and will make the best use of technological solutions to have as many people as possible contributing to the discussions, while reducing the CO2 footprint.

CONTACT

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