

Nauru comments to Part C. Guiding Principals

Madam Co-Chair,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

We agree that the principles set out in the Yokohama Strategy and HFA general considerations retained their full relevance.

In view of the set of principles put before us, these set of principles are extension of the set of principles outlined under Yokohama Strategy and those under HFA1. We see these sets of principles focus on disaster risk management, which is an attempt at having a forward looking and ambitious HFA 2.

As presented in previous consultations, the Preamble Section should make reference to the fact that disasters are exacerbated by climate change.

Nauru would also add that making the same reference in the Guiding Principles is vital, particularly on some guidance on the linkages between the different processes whether it is the SDGs, Climate Change process or any other relevant process.

Making the appropriate linkages in the guiding principles ensure coherence and at the same time, give respect to the different mandates and legal or aspirational nature of the different processes.

We would therefore propose the addition of the following paragraph:

Disasters are increasing in frequency and intensity and those exacerbated by climate change will significantly impede progress towards sustainable development. Recognizing the different multilateral processes, member states should work through the United Nations and other relevant institutions, specialized agencies and processes, as appropriate, to promote coherence at all levels.

In view of the set of principles we now have in front of us, this could perhaps fit into what is now **12(n)** or perhaps a bit higher but we are flexible with placement at this point.

These set of principles before us form a good basis for discussions. However, this section could be streamlined to keep it short, concise and succinct. Additionally, we believe that what we could also strengthen them to reflect important elements pertaining to disaster risk management.

Particularly around the following ideas which we feel are reflected in some ways but are not as clear as we would like to see them in a set of principles:

First, we believe that the ultimate objective of any DRM efforts should be made clear and in our view is to reduce risk, manage risk and build resilient countries and communities. We believe this should be reflected in the list of guiding principles. **[We could see this added before what is now in (b)].**

Second, that disaster risk management is an important element in development and mainstreaming disaster risk management into development planning can reduce the current trend of rising disaster impacts. **[We see value in adding something along this line and this could be an addition to the end of 12(c)].**

Third, managing risk and building resilience should be viewed as part of an incremental and iterative process that will depend on the country context, specific needs, and capacities. **[This could be added into 12 a].**

Fourth, while focus have shifted to ex-ante approaches to disaster risk management, there should also be a continued focus on ex-post response and recovery needs, including through a special focus on disaster risk reduction via reducing vulnerability, capacity building, better information, and institutional strengthening, particularly for SIDS and LDC. **[We are flexible as how this will be reflected and we are happy to come back later with some suggestions for placement]**

Fifth, we see the value in promotion of a comprehensive risk management framework that takes into consideration the five core areas of comprehensive risk management. They are: risk identification, risk reduction, emergency preparedness, financial resilience, and sustainable recovery and reconstruction.

All these must be coupled with strong reference to the need for strong partnership and international cooperation between multiple stakeholders to make DRM effective, particularly for vulnerable developing countries like SIDS. On this note, we welcome substance reflected in 12(m) and the appropriate referencing of SIDS.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS INTO TEXT

C. Guiding principles

12. The principles contained in the Yokohama Strategy and the HFA general considerations retain their full relevance and are complemented as follows to guide implementation.

a) Each State has ~~the primary~~ responsibility to ~~holistically~~ manage disaster risk. **Managing risk and building resilience are part of incremental and iterative process that will depend on the country context, specific needs and capacities, and enabled through partnership and international cooperation.**

[Delete has “primary” and holistically”. We believe that when we speak of the climate related risks, the boundaries in terms of responsibilities are not as simple. We would propose going with responsibility only and we would like to delete holistically mainly as we do not know what it means in this context. Further to that, the term we understand that is used in the context of DRM is comprehensive risk management. We propose using the same terminology to be consistent with other usages.]

- b) **The ultimate objective of any DRM efforts is to reduce risk, manage residual risk and uncertainties, and build resilient communities, including** ~~Managing the risk of disasters should also be aimed at the protection of persons, communities, populations, their livelihoods and property. while respecting their human rights.~~ [We believe that the objective of DRM is broader than what is reflected and should be based on the premise is to reduce, manage risks and build resilience of communities. Hence our addition in bold]
- c) Disaster risk management **should be an important** ~~is an essential~~ component of governance at local, national, regional and global levels, and requires the full engagement of all state institutions of executive and legislative nature at local and central levels and **mainstreaming disaster risk management into development planning can reduce and/or reverse the current trend of rising disaster impacts.** [We tried to soften the language here to reflect the realities on the ground particularly for small island developing states].
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- d) Disaster risk management requires an all-of-society engagement and empowerment, equality, and an inclusive and non-discriminatory participation . Gender considerations should ~~are to~~ inform all policies and practices, and women’s leadership is to be promoted. Children and youth, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples are to be fully engaged in the determination and implementation of policies.
- e) While the causes and consequences of risk may be national, transboundary or global in scope, disaster risks have local and specific characteristics and their management requires the full leadership and empowerment of local communities and administrators, **and the requisite provision of support, including financial, technological and capacity building support.**
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- f) ~~A clear recognition, articulation and~~ **Alignment of responsibilities across public and private stakeholders, including volunteers at all levels, local, national and international is important,** ~~are essential~~ to ensuring implementation and accountability in disaster risk management [**Amendments in bold**].

g) Building on and leveraging the potentials, as well as taking into account the needs, of all groups of society, especially the poor and vulnerable, are a requisite for effective disaster risk management policies and practices.

h) Transparency in, and the disclosure of, disaster risk information in public and private transactions and investments are essential, together with accountability for risk creation.

i) Sound disaster risk management is based on risk-informed decision-making, which requires freely available, publicly accessible, simple and easy-to-understand, science-based, non-sensitive risk information, including on disaster losses, socio-economic impact, hazards' characteristics, and people and assets' exposure and vulnerability, at every level. Relevant, local, traditional and indigenous knowledge, culture and practices are to be taken into account.

j) Countries and communities' risk profiles need to be fully understood and differential capacities duly taken into account in the planning and implementation of disaster risk management.

k) The sustainability of development depends **in part** the ability to manage disaster risk. Public and private investments are to be disaster-risk informed.

l) The post-disaster recovery and reconstruction phase is a critical opportunity to prevent the creation of new risk, reduce existing risk, and strengthen resilience.

m) An effective and meaningful global partnership and international cooperation are essential to allow for effective disaster risk management. Specific attention needs to be given to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, and landlocked developing countries, and Africa. Predictable and sustainable means of implementation including access to resource and technology are crucial in this regard and need time-bound commitments. [We welcome this paragraph, particularly the reference made to SIDS]

n) The United Nations system, through the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, and other relevant International Organizations **and treaty bodies, including the Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change** need to work together with a view to avoid duplication and ensure optimum use of resources in support to **particularly vulnerable developing** countries, **especially SIDS and LDC**, and benefit of the most vulnerable.