Peer Learning Round Tables

Cluster 3: Planet

Pathways to a sustainable COVID-19 recovery
for climate and the environment

Session 3-3

Building back better through Climate-Resilient Recovery

Monday, 15 March 2021, 10:00 – 12:00 (CET) | Languages: English and Russian

Guiding questions for round table

Question 1	How can countries of Europe and Central Asia benefit from climate resilient recovery and build back better efforts, and what are the challenges in this respect?
Question 2	Addressing an increasingly complex risk landscape, and the cascading impacts of multiple systemic risk, how should countries approach risk governance at both national and local levels? How are disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies being developed and adapting to this increasingly complex reality?
Question 3	Looking at the experiences of the hydromet sector, how are data and evidence-based approaches critical to support climate resilient recovery efforts? To what extent is the transposition of international agreements into national legislation a critical step in strengthening our knowledge of climate risk?
Question 4	How can the international community support countries in promotion of climate resilient and build back better COVID-19 recovery efforts? How can coordination mechanisms provide integrated and complex assistance?

Welcoming remarks

Ms. Agi Veres
UNDP Deputy Regional Director for Europe and the CIS
Mr. Octavian Bivol
UNDRR Regional Director for Europe
Mr. Milan Dacic
WMO Regional Director for Europe

Policy actions for discussion

Policy action 1	National coordination of efforts to respond to the pressing needs of COVID and improved resilience of National Health and National Disaster Management Authorities
Presenters	Ms. Armine Hayrapetyan, Representative of the Ministry of Emergency Situations in foreign countries and international organizations, Armenia Ms. Sandra Nedelkovic, Deputy Director, Public Investment Management Office, Government of Serbia
Policy action 2	Strengthening risk knowledge and governance by integrating systemic risk such as climate change and pandemic into all-hazard approaches to assessing and planning for disaster risk and delivering a green and resilient recovery.
Presenters	Ms. Nina Koksalan, National Focal Point for the Sendai Framework, Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK), Germany Ms. Amy Jenkins, Head of Clean Growth, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), United Kingdom
Policy action 3	Improving the sub-regional collaboration in establishment and maintaining of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems in support of Disaster Risk Management
Presenter	Mr. Michael Staudinger, Director General, Austrian national service for meteorology and geodynamics (ZAMG), President of the WMO Regional Association VI (Europe)
Policy action 4	Climate change adaptation and mitigation through sustainable resource management and rural livelihoods, greener industries, and improved disaster risk reduction response
Presenter	Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu UN Resident Coordinator, Tajikistan

Moderator

Moderator	Mr. Vlatko Jovanovski Head of Secretariat Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe

Background

The world is being hit hard by two unprecedented crises – the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. The only way to manage these mutually reinforcing emergencies with limited time and resources is to make sure that we use every opportunity in the COVID-19 recovery to "build forward better" towards "greener" and more resilient economies. As countries are shifting their focus from COVID crisis response to long-term recovery, they are presented with an unprecedented opportunity to accelerate the transition to sustainable and resilient economies while also advancing towards more equitable and inclusive societies.

Building back better and more resilient systems will rely on robust risk knowledge and risk governance at both national and local levels. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and other related disaster risk reduction and climate change plans (e.g. National Adaptation Plans, National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies and Long-Term Strategies) can, through a multi-hazard and people-centred approach, serve as important lighthouses to guide countries in recovery efforts and economic stimulus plans.

Informing resilient and green recovery relies on evidenced and risk informed approaches, driven by a need for data, projections and the testing of future more resilient systems. Early Warning Systems, earth observation, as well as loss data collection and climate projections are the baseline for ensuring resilient and long-term recovery. Given the systemic impacts of the COVID crisis on countries, capacities to build evidence, collect data and attend to the future climate disasters that we know are going to happen have been challenged (e.g., air transport reductions impacting the quality of the weather forecasts). Improved sub-regional, regional and global data exchange may alleviate this. Policy measures on the national level are needed to foster this data exchange and collaborate better on Early Warning Systems and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Organizers

Lead organizers	UNDP, UNDRR, WMO
Contributors	IOM, UN Women, UNEP

Registration

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