

UNGA 81 Side Event Concept Note

“Delivering the Sendai Framework: An ASEAN Approach to Inclusive Disaster and Climate Resilience”

BACKGROUND

As the international community enters the final stretch towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, there is an urgent need to accelerate action to deliver on the commitments and targets of both frameworks. The growing complexity of disaster and climate risks, coupled with evolving demographic, technological and socioeconomic trends, underscores the need for an approach that is more inclusive and responsive to emerging challenges.

The Asia-Pacific region remains among the most disaster-prone regions in the world. The increasing frequency and intensity of disasters, compounded by climate change and other systemic risks, continue to cause significant human, economic and environmental losses, threatening sustainable development and widening inequalities. While significant progress has been achieved under the Sendai Framework, persistent gaps remain in reducing disaster losses, protecting critical infrastructure and basic services and ensuring that risk information reaches those most at risk through effective early warning and early action systems.

ASEAN has demonstrated growing leadership in disaster risk management through regional cooperation and institutional innovation. The ASEAN Community Vision 2045, the Complementarities Initiative 2.0, the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2026–2030 and the ASEAN-UN Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management 2026–2030 provide a strong foundation for advancing integrated approaches that connect disaster risk reduction, climate action and sustainable development. As ASEAN Coordinator on Sustainable Development Cooperation, Thailand has played an important role in promoting policy coherence across sustainable development, climate action and disaster risk reduction and in strengthening regional and international partnerships.

Looking towards 2030, ASEAN is well positioned to contribute regional perspectives and practical experience to the implementation of the Sendai Framework. In particular, ASEAN's experience demonstrates the importance of regional cooperation, locally led resilience, anticipatory action, and whole-of-society approaches.

There is also increasing evidence that resilience policies and investments are more effective when they reflect experiences, capacities and needs of different population groups and all members of society are able to participate meaningfully in decision-making and resilience-building processes. Improving the availability and use of sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated (SADD) data, strengthening women's leadership and participation and ensuring more inclusive financing mechanisms are critical to understanding risk, targeting investments and achieving more effective and equitable resilience outcomes. These priorities are reflected in the Sendai Framework, including the Health Aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Bangkok Principles) adopted in 2016, and its Gender Action Plan (Sendai GAP) adopted in 2024, and can complement efforts on ensuring protection of all people in vulnerable situations, as highlighted in the ongoing negotiations on the Treaty on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters (PPED).

Against this backdrop, this side event will explore key elements of an ASEAN approach to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework, drawing on national and regional experiences to identify priorities for a future global disaster risk reduction agenda. The

discussion will focus on how strengthened risk and disaggregated data and analytics, inclusive leadership, innovative financing and enhanced regional cooperation can help shape a more inclusive, resilient and risk-informed framework.

OBJECTIVES

The side event aims to:

- Discuss ASEAN perspectives and priorities for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Showcase ASEAN's experience and leadership in promoting integrated disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and sustainable development through the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, the Complementarities Initiative 2.0, the AADMER Work Programme 2026–2030 and the ASEAN-UN Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management 2026–2030.
- Identify key building blocks of an ASEAN approach to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework, including risk-informed decision-making, regional cooperation, anticipatory action, inclusive leadership, SADD data and resilience finance.
- Strengthen partnerships and international cooperation to accelerate progress towards reducing disaster impacts, strengthening early warning and early action and advancing sustainable development outcomes in ASEAN and beyond.
- Promote dialogue among ASEAN, ASEAN's partners, relevant UN agencies and other development partners on how regional experiences can contribute to the development of a more inclusive, forward-looking and implementation-oriented global disaster risk reduction framework.
- Develop recommendations that can contribute to regional and global consultations on the implementation of the Sendai Framework, while strengthening coherence with climate action, sustainable development and the ASEAN Community Vision 2045.

TENTATIVE DATE & AGENDA: THURSDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 13.15-14.30 HOURS

Duration: 1 hour and 15 minutes

Time	Session	Remarks
0:00 – 0:25	High-Level Segment Welcome and Opening Remarks • Thailand • Philippines as Chair of ASEAN (tbc) • Japan (tbc) • Australia (tbc) • DPPA (tbc)	Ministerial level
0:25 – 1:05	Panel Discussion “ <i>Delivering the Sendai Framework: An ASEAN Approach to Inclusive Disaster and Climate Resilience</i> ” • Representative from ASEAN Member States/ASEAN Secretariat (tbc) • Representative from UNDRR (tbc) • Representative from UN Women/UNFPA (tbc) • Representative from ClimateWorks Foundation's Adaptation & Resilience Fund (tbc)	Moderator and Panelists
1:05 – 1:15	Interactive Q&A	Member States and Stakeholders

Guiding Questions for panel discussion

Risk-Informed Decision-Making and Regional Cooperation (ASEAN)

- Based on ASEAN's experience, what priorities should shape the implementation of the Sendai Framework to strengthen risk-informed decision-making in the face of increasingly complex, interconnected and transboundary risks?
- What lessons from ASEAN's regional cooperation mechanisms—including AADMER and related regional platforms—can inform more effective risk-informed decision-making under the Sendai Framework?
- How can regional and international cooperation strengthen anticipatory action, knowledge sharing and evidence-based decision-making to build resilience to disaster?

Data for Risk-Informed Decision-Making (UNDRR)

- What data and evidence should be prioritised in the Sendai Framework to better understand evolving disaster and climate risks and support risk-informed decision-making?
- How can we improve the availability and use of sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated (SADD) data to strengthen risk-informed decision-making and guide more effective resilience investments?
- What innovations and partnerships can help countries close data gaps and strengthen early warning systems and support more anticipatory, people-centred action?

Inclusive Leadership and Strengthening Local Resilience (UN Women / UNFPA)

- What lessons from the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Sendai Gender Action Plan should inform a more inclusive policy and actions?
- How can women's leadership and the meaningful participation of local communities, persons with disabilities, youth and other underrepresented groups strengthen disaster risk governance and local resilience?
- What are concrete examples of inclusive approaches in disaster preparedness and response, such as gender-based violence (GBV) and gender equality, protection, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), contributing to more effective resilience outcomes?

Financing Resilience (Partners)

- What changes are needed to strengthen risk-informed financing for disaster and climate resilience?
- What does inclusive and locally led climate adaptation look like in practice? What changes when the local communities are involved in designing the solutions rather than simply being treated as beneficiaries?
- What can funders do differently to ensure adaptation finance reaches those who are often left behind- and how can subsequently be taken to scale through public and private finance?

Expected Takeaway Messages

- **Inclusive Disaster and Climate Resilience as a Development Accelerator** – Advancing the Sendai Framework, the SDGs, and the ASEAN Vision 2045 requires addressing risk and vulnerability through data, leadership and financing.
- **An ASEAN Perspective for delivering the Sendai Framework** – ASEAN's experience demonstrates the value of integrated, risk-informed and people-centred approaches that connect disaster risk reduction, climate action and sustainable development.

- **Better Data for Risk-Informed Decision-Making** – Strengthening the availability and the use of sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data and analysis is essential for understanding risk and targeting resilience investments effectively.
- **Inclusive Leadership for More Resilient Communities** – Meaningful participation and leadership of women and other underrepresented groups strengthen disaster risk governance, improve decision-making and enhance resilience outcomes.
- **Financing Resilience for the Future** – Risk-informed and inclusive financing, aligned across disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation and sustainable development, is critical to reducing disaster losses, strengthen resilience and support long-term sustainable development.
- **Regional Cooperation as a Catalyst for Global Action** – ASEAN cooperation, knowledge sharing and collective actions provide valuable models that can inform the development and implementation of the Sendai Framework.
- **Building on an ASEAN Approach to the Implementation of the Sendai Framework** – The dialogue will help identify shared regional priorities and recommendations that can contribute to ASEAN's efforts to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework and reaffirm ASEAN leaders' political will to further advance disaster risk reduction based on inclusivity and people-centered approach.