

Policy Brief

Integration of **SDGs**, the **Sendai Framework**, **DRR**, and **NDCs** for Effective Developmental Planning

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The Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) is an intergovernmental network of 22 countries working towards pursuing an Asia-Pacific region that is successfully addressing the challenges of global change and sustainability.

Highlights

- The Paris Agreement, the SDGs, and the Sendai Framework were all signed in 2015 and have 2030 as one of their key years for achieving different targets under each process.
- Among the key commonalities are the focus on reducing social and economic vulnerabilities, and building the resilience to face diverse natural and climate induced hazards.
- All three refer to multi-stakeholder driven processes for achieving their targets and place high importance on the availability of data, access to information, and relevant research and evidence through efficient data sharing mechanisms.
- The integration of the actions under SDGs, Sendai Framework and the NDCs on adaptation and loss and damage could be interlinked with common mandates, common national targets, and common data sharing mechanisms to make effective use of finance and human resources.
- The 2020 revision of NDCs in countries provides an opportunity to consider the integration and alignment of the Paris Agreement, SDGs, and Sendai Framework processes.

Introduction

In 2015, 196 Parties signed the Paris Agreement with the objective of changing the world's course towards a sustainable pathway, and limiting global warming to 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. One of the key elements of the Paris Agreement is nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

The Paris Agreement requires each Party to prepare, communicate and maintain successive NDCs. The NDCs communicated are recorded in a public registry maintained

by the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariatⁱ and are submitted every five years. To date, 184 Parties have submitted their first NDCs, and 1 Party its 2nd NDCs.ⁱⁱ

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are considered a universal plan for all countries to move towards a sustainable and environmentally friendly pathway to development. Introduced in 2015, they form 17 goals and 169 targets. The key focuses on ending poverty, hunger; providing good

health and well-being, quality education, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy; ensuring gender equality. The goals also focus on decent work and economic growth; industry and innovation; reducing inequalities; sustainable cities and communities, sustainable production and consumption, climate action, life below water and on land. Additionally, good governance, justice and partnerships for development also form key focus areas in achieving SDG targets.

The Sendai Framework signed in 2015, is a voluntary agreement that recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk. It also highlights that the responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders. It consists of seven global targets and four priorities for action. Among the seven targets are the target to substantially reduce global disaster mortality

by 2030; substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030; reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030; substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030; substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020; substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of this Framework by 2030; substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030.ⁱⁱⁱ

Alignment and Integration of the Processes

All three processes have a common time frame: The Paris Agreement, SDGs and the Sendai Framework were all signed in 2015, and the key target years include 2030, for achieving different targets under each process.

Common focuses and objectives: Among the key commonalities are the focus on reducing social and economic vulnerabilities, and building the resilience to face diverse natural and climate induced hazards. The focus of NDCs lies mainly in reducing climate change impacts. However, many SDGs align with the implementation of NDCs of a country which spreads across diverse sectors. For example, Sri Lanka's NDCs cover a large spectrum of SDGs such as food security sectors which interlink with zero hunger,^{iv} economic resilience building that links with zero poverty^v, and ecosystem-based adaptation and relevant adaptation sectors linking with SDGs on life below water^{vi} and on land^{vii},

sustainable consumption and production.^{viii} Not to be ignored climate action, which forms SDG 13 which cuts across all actions related to NDC implementation. Further, the Sendai Framework has its focus on elements that link to adaptation actions aligning with early warning and reduction of climate risks, as well as components connected to NDCs on loss and damage i.e. reduction of loss of life, damage to property among others.

International and regional cooperation, stakeholder engagement, and mobilizing finance for actions: All processes refer to multi-stakeholder driven processes for achieving their targets. NDCs focus on participatory and inclusive climate action, while SDG 17 and building partnerships for development highlights the need for the contribution of different actors to achieve sustainable development. The Sendai Framework while highlighting the primary role of the state to reduce disaster risk, highlights

the need for other stakeholders to play a crucial role in achieving its objectives.

Data, and access to information: To achieve the objectives of all three processes it is important that data, access to information, and relevant research and evidence is

available. To achieve this, countries need to develop efficient mechanisms for sharing data, which would contribute to developing participatory, inclusive and stakeholder driven measures.

Recommendations for Integration

Integrate climate and disaster risk reduction into national and sub-national level policies and plans: With diverse commonalities, the integration of the actions under SDGs, Sendai Framework and the NDCs on adaptation and loss and damage could be interlinked, and complimenting each other. This will contribute to effective use of finance and human resources, and facilitate targets of all three processes.

Developing common mandates, and institutional coordination: Climate action and addressing climate risk and vulnerabilities is common to all three processes. And at most time, there are overlapping roles of the ministries, and institutions working on disaster risk reduction, with the other relevant process-based authorities. Aligning the mandates of each ministry and entity is important to avoid inefficient use of time and resources.

Stakeholder driven actions with common national targets: In most countries the

stakeholders focusing on the three processes are similar, and the same actors. Integrating actions of the three processes and creating coordinated efforts to achieve targets will contribute to efficient means for building climate resilience and reducing climate risks and disaster risk.

Common data sharing systems for monitoring and evaluation: The commonalities among the three processes provide the opportunity to share common templates for data sharing, as well as developing common monitoring and evaluation processes, risk and vulnerability assessments, and indicators for target measuring. So as to establish common systems, it is important that data is accessible, and reliable. This will not only save the multiple actions on accumulating the same data through diverse systems and processes, and provide the opportunity for decision making that is evidence-based.

Conclusions

The 2015 development processes have several commonalities, and also a common time-frame which provides opportunities to align climate action on adaptation and loss and damage, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

To achieve this, it is important that the key stakeholders in a country, of all three processes work together to identify the entry

points and opportunities for building synergies and aligning the actions. With climate change being a key SDG, overlaps between NDC sectors and priorities with the 17 SDGs, and climate and disaster risk being considered as a key element in the Sendai Framework, countries need to take the initiative to coordinate and align different mandates of key stakeholders under the

different process, and to develop a common development roadmap which integrates all processes. The 2020 revision of NDCs in countries provide the opportunity to consider the integration and alignment of all processes, which will contribute countries working by

building synergies among different processes, without duplication of similar actions leading to inefficient use of finance and other resources.

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ⁱ UNFCCC (2015). Paris Agreement, Article 4.

ⁱⁱ UNFCCC. NDC Registry. <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>

ⁱⁱⁱ UNDRR (2015). The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

^{iv} SDG 1

^v SDG 2

^{vi} SDG 14

^{vii} SDG 15

^{viii} SDG 12

^{ix} Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment of Sri Lanka (2016). First Nationally Determined Contributions of Sri Lanka.