



## Intervention at the 13th meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate

19 October 2022

- Disaster risk and water are closely connected: **Nine out of ten disasters triggered by natural hazards are water related.** There is also a close nexus between climate change and water-related disasters: climate change is projected to result in more intense droughts and floods.
- Disaster risks are increasingly resulting in compounded and cascading impacts that are felt across geographies and sectors. It is therefore critical that we accelerate our joint efforts on climate resilience by working through transboundary, multi-hazard and systemic approaches across all levels.
- We should, therefore, build on complementarities of existing instruments. For instance:
  - The **coinciding midterm reviews** of the Water Action Decade and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2023 offer critical opportunities the world must seize to identify adjustments that promote risk-informed regenerative development while sustainably managing water resources and associated ecosystems.
  - There is an urgent need to enhance **infrastructure resilience, including through nature-based solutions** that build adaptive capacity while reducing risk.
  - Last week the world observed the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction that focused on early warning systems. This assumes significance in context of the UN Secretary-General's call to action on *Early Warnings for All* by 2027 in support of which UNDRR and WMO have launched a report on *Global status of multi-hazard early warning systems: Target G*. Most climate-related disasters happen due to either deficit or excess of water, and hence the need to strengthen our hazard monitoring systems around water, forging partnerships around risk information and management.
  - Disasters don't acknowledge boundaries - All these approaches need to be underscored by cooperation on transboundary water bodies and river basins.
- Monitoring disaster risk reduction and water is vital. Data provided to the **Sendai Framework Monitor** (shared with SDGs 1, 11 and 13) offer readily available evidence on the impact of water-related disasters and our action against them.
- As we prepare for COP27, we need to apply a "**think-resilience**" frame to overcome the challenges at hand.
  - Pursuing a **comprehensive risk management** approach to better integrate disaster risk reduction and climate action is key to optimizing available resources, avert, minimize and address losses and damages, prevent maladaptation, and overall, to save the planet from breaching the tipping points.
  - There is a need to boost political leadership and commitment on **adaptation and resilience**, and urgently operationalize the **Santiago Network**, as a key platform to catalyse technical assistance to developing vulnerable countries.
  - UNDRR stands ready in our commitment to resilience, and step up the momentum through **#ZeroClimateDisasters** which is attainable only if we address water-related disaster risk.