

Conclusions of the Conference "Disaster Risk Reduction and Importance of Cross-border and Regional Cooperation"

Podgorica, 14-15 November 2019

- **Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**, as an international agreement adopted by 187 United Nations Member States is of considerable importance for all countries with the aim of strengthening the concept of disaster risk reduction which should contribute to reducing the number of human victims and people affected, reducing economic losses, preventing degradation of the environment and natural resources and destroying cultural assets.
- **Understanding of risks** by decision makers at all levels, representatives of the relevant institutions and organisations and citizens along with significant **investments** in this area is necessary in the implementation of measures and priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;
- For efficient achievement of results in disaster risk reduction a special emphasis should be on **constant improvement of human and technical capacities** of the participants of the protection and rescue system, as well as of related institutions and organisations; competent and well trained people are the most important asset of a society in the fight with natural and other disasters and mitigation of their consequences, which should be supported by adequate material resources and equipment; It is needed to intensify activities directed at organisation of trainings, improvement of infrastructure and procurement of the equipment;
- It is necessary to **bring appropriate strategic documents and plans at national and local levels** adjusted to the relevant context, conditions and possibilities, and at the level of particular institutions, organisations and companies which have a legal obligation for that, starting from strategies, risk assessments, plans, etc., as well as their full implementation, monitoring and evaluation;
- **Climate changes and their complexity** are one of the biggest challenges nowadays, with a global character and consequences felt at all levels and which requires full recognition of its importance and an adequate response.
- **Improvement of the early warning system** on the possibilities of natural hazards as well as of the modalities of communication between the relevant institutions is a necessary condition for providing fast and effective response which contributes to reducing the consequences of these events;
- Investment in the **prevention** of natural and other disasters and implementation of preventive activities is of the key importance in reducing the consequences of natural and



other hazards and building resilience of local communities, towns, states and the whole regions;

- A very important segment which requires considerable attention is **recovery from disasters** with the aim of regaining the state as before these events as soon as possible. In that process, it is necessary to make efforts to build even better during reconstruction;
- When implementing measures and activities in disaster risk reduction, it is necessary to take into consideration **the vulnerable groups in a society**, such as elderly people, children, people with disabilities, etc.;
- A very important contribution in the fight against disasters and strengthening of protection and rescue systems can be made through **implementation of projects** which should be aligned with the needs of beneficiaries, strategic documents and plans; they should have applicable and sustainable results and there should be appropriate synergy between them; Building capacities and making teams for project writing with the aim to access the resources and funds available for improvement of the protection and rescue systems are also needed;
- **Active involvement and cooperation between all actors** is necessary for effective disaster risk reduction - starting from the line institutions and services of the protection and rescue systems, to other relevant institutions and organisations, such as health institutions, educational institutions and science community, media, cultural institutions, civil society organisations, citizens, etc.;
- For reducing disaster risks, the membership in international organisations and an intensive cross-border, regional and international cooperation are necessary because **disasters do not know borders**, and more and more often states are not able to provide adequate response on their own, due to the increased number of disasters, their intensity and consequences. International cooperation enables **provision of aid and assistance** in different phases of risk management and contributes to the improvement of capacities through exchange of experiences, good practice models and lessons learned;
- One of the priorities should be the **education and raising the awareness of citizens** on risks, preventive measures and appropriate activities which should be implemented in case of a certain disaster; Only educated and well informed citizens can contribute to adequate functioning of the protection and rescue system, protection of themselves and the protection of natural and economic assets. When educating citizens, it is needed to work on raising their awareness on the need of their participation in the protection and rescue system, while messages and communication channels need to be adjusted to their age, interests and other specific characteristics. A special attention should be paid to the **education of children and youth**, from preschool institutions to universities.
- It is needed to work on the **development of volunteerism in the area of disaster risk reduction**, as volunteers can considerably contribute in various phases and different ways -





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from providing information, implementing preventive activities, education of citizens to protection and rescue actions when certain disaster struck through voluntary units and associations whose establishment and functioning need to be continuously supported. It is also needed to follow contemporary communication methods and create conditions for involving online volunteers.



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