

Online Workshop on Strengthening Whole-of-Society Capacities for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Resilience: Inclusive Governance and Innovative Mechanisms

Concept Note

12 - 14 May 2026

14:30-18:00 (Seoul Time), 07:30-11:00 (Geneva Time), 01:30-05:00 (New York Time)

Registration link:

<https://tinyurl.com/4hjss5z2>

Organized by

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), through the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) and its Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) CIFAL Jeju/Jeju International Training Center (JITC) and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Office for Northeast Asia (ONEA) and Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) and Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030), in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme's Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), and with support from the Incheon Metropolitan City, the Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS) and the Ministry of the Science and ICT (MSIT) of the Republic of Korea.

I. Description of the Event

An Online Workshop on Strengthening Whole-of-Society Capacities for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Resilience: Inclusive Governance and Innovative Mechanisms will be held on 12-14 May 2026. The workshop is organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), through the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) and its project office - United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) CIFAL Jeju/Jeju International Training Center (JITC) and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Office for Northeast Asia (ONEA) and Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) and Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030), in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme's Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), and with support from the Incheon Metropolitan City, the Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS) and the Ministry of the Science and ICT (MSIT) of the Republic of Korea.

Organized annually, the Workshop introduces concepts, frameworks, and practical approaches to strengthen inclusive disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate resilience, and climate action through effective governance, risk-informed planning, private sector engagement, and technology-enabled solutions. It provides participants with a comprehensive understanding of disaster and climate risk, resilience, and effective governance for strengthening public institutions, while highlighting how these priorities can be translated into actionable measures across different levels of government and society.

In this year's edition, inclusive resilience-building will be emphasized by exploring gender-responsive and disability-inclusive DRR approaches, and by presenting practical tools that support local-level planning. In particular, participants will be introduced to the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities and its thematic addenda, alongside innovative cases on local application to strengthen the capacity to design and implement inclusive local DRR strategies.

The second component of the Workshop will focus on strengthening public institutions and policy planning by embedding strategic foresight methodologies for integrated climate action. Participants will be introduced to key tools, methods, and approaches for strategic foresight and forecasting, and will examine how foresight can enhance policy coordination, coherence, and integration across sectors to support effective implementation of climate actions.

Finally, the Workshop will explore ways to catalyze private sector engagement and leverage climate technologies for DRR and climate resilience. It will highlight how risk-informed corporate governance can enhance business resilience while mobilizing private finance for societal resilience. By introducing emerging, concept-proven technologies related to climate resilience and disaster risk management supported through UNEP CTCN's capacity building and technical assistance projects, the Workshop will explore practical approaches that drive private investment and help close the financing gap for DRR and climate resilience.

II. Background and Thematic Focus

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development places great importance on disaster risk reduction (DRR) as a cross-cutting element in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It proposes concrete commitments to reduce risk, vulnerability, build capacity, and promote resilience to disasters.¹ Reducing disaster risk and building resilience are interrelated thrusts of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.²

¹ Bello, O., Bustamante, A., & Pizarro, P. (2021). Planning for disaster risk reduction within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/46639/1/S2000452_en.pdf

² For more information: <https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/what-sendai-framework>

The Sendai Framework calls on governments to move towards risk-informed governance arrangements that include broader hazard and risk scope and incorporate the concept of systemic risk. Priorities of the Sendai Framework expressly call for strengthening disaster risk reduction planning, governance, and financing to manage disaster risk. Both frameworks emphasize the core principle to “Leave No One Behind” (LNOB), as a central transformative promise to address the needs of those who are most vulnerable and address their needs as part of sustainable development and disaster risk reduction commitments.

These commitments are increasingly urgent as climate change reshapes the global risk landscape, magnifying the scale and complexity of hazards and accelerating cascading impacts across interconnected social, economic, and environmental systems. Average global temperature increases have already reached 1.1°C and passed the critical 1.5°C milestone in 2024 and 2025, and extreme weather events have doubled over the last 20 years compared to the previous twenty years.

This has exacerbated inequalities within and between countries, with Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) often experiencing the worst impacts despite contributing the least to global greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change compounds other human security risks, such as conflict and food and water security challenges, leading to increased humanitarian needs. The Political declaration of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in May 2023, recognized these challenges and the devastating impacts that increasingly frequent and intense disasters cause. It expressed deep concern at the massive loss of lives, food insecurity and the negative economic and social consequences, particularly for people in vulnerable situations.

It also noted that persistent implementation gaps remain. Despite widespread recognition of the need to integrate climate change adaptation and DRR, planning and delivery are often constrained by fragmented mandates, limited institutional capacity, and weak coordination across sectors and levels of government. This fragmentation can slow decision-making, dilute accountability, and undermine the ability to anticipate and manage systemic risk. These challenges, and potential pathways to address them, are explicitly reflected in Guiding Principles (d) and (e) of the Sendai Framework³, which emphasize “all-of-society engagement and partnership” and “coordination mechanisms within and across sectors and with relevant stakeholders at all levels.” With less than five years remaining until 2030, which marks the end point of the Sendai Framework for DRR, the need for accelerated, data-driven, rights-based and inclusive disaster risk reduction efforts is more urgent than ever.

Furthermore, the Secretary-General’s United Nations 2.0 (UN 2.0) modernization agenda calls for strengthening a “Quintet of Change” which are data, digital, innovation, behavioural science, and foresight, to help institutions operate effectively amid compounding risks and uncertainty. The recent COP30 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has further emphasized implementation and accountability for adaptation and resilience, increasing expectations for countries to strengthen cross-sector planning, monitoring, and delivery systems. Combined, these commitments make strategic foresight directly relevant as it helps institutions anticipate cascading and compounding risks and stress-test policies against multiple plausible futures. In other words, strategic foresight can support the institutional conditions needed to translate DRR and climate integration into sustained and scalable action, including in contexts where loss and damage pressures continue to rise.

Against this backdrop, this online workshop will introduce inclusive local planning, institutional strengthening, and whole-of-society implementation by: i) strengthening inclusive DRR by focusing on people-centered and locally actionable tools and approaches, including gender-responsive and disability-inclusive DRR and practical instruments that support local resilience planning; ii) enhancing capacities of public institutions leveraging strategic foresight mechanisms and tools; and iii) highlighting how private sector engagement, finance, and

³ For more information: <https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/what-sendai-framework>

climate technologies can accelerate resilience outcomes and help close persistent financing and implementation gaps.

III. Workshop Objectives

The online workshop will:

1. Improve understanding of key DRR concepts and support localization and implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030;
2. Promote principles and strategies for inclusive DRR governance and planning;
3. Enhance familiarity with Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) resources and tools to enhance inclusive local resilience planning;
4. Introduce strategic foresight thinking to facilitate stronger coordination, coherence and integration of climate action across multiple sectors;
5. Enhance institutional and organizational capacities and strengthen policy planning to embrace strategic foresight methodologies, thereby facilitating sound policymaking for effective integration of climate action;
6. Provide an overview of strategies for private sector engagement, emphasizing the strengthening of business resilience and mobilization of private capital for societal resilience. This includes disclosure frameworks to incentivize corporate risk management and the development of pipelines of bankable, investable resilience solutions;
7. Strengthen knowledge of emerging technologies supporting climate resilience to disaster risk and damage, with special attention to applied examples of automation and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

IV. Expected Outcomes

By the end of the online workshop, participants will have:

- a) Understood the main concepts and global frameworks for coherent disaster risk reduction, climate resilience, and sustainable development governance at different levels of government and society;
- b) Understood the principles and strategies for disability-inclusive and gender-responsive DRR;
- c) Enhanced their understanding of MCR2030 tools supporting inclusive local risk reduction and resilience planning;
- d) Improved comprehension on core concepts and practical approaches for embedding strategic foresight in public institutions to support integrated climate action;
- e) Acquired a solid grasp of key foresight tools and methodologies and their application on policy planning and decision-making to support integrated climate action;
- f) Acquired an understanding of approaches to engaging the private sector, with a focus on enhancing business resilience and leveraging private finance for societal resilience, including disclosure mechanisms to promote corporate risk management and the cultivation of pipelines of financially viable and investable resilience solutions;
- g) Access to knowledge on concept-proven technologies supporting DRR and climate resilience.

V. Structure, Methodology and Sessions' Thematic Focus

The training will consist of lectures and thematic presentations by experts, case study presentations, interactive Q&A discussions, and knowledge check quizzes and exercises. The workshop is composed of three Sessions and the thematic focus of each session will include:

Session 1. Ensuring Inclusive Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience: Key Concepts, Frameworks and Tools

This session will introduce key concepts and issues related to climate and disaster risk reduction and resilience, with focus on issues and approaches related to inclusive DRR governance. The aim of the session is to strengthen participants' understanding of global and local risks, related global policy frameworks, as well as tools for inclusive national and local planning and implementation. In particular, the session will introduce MCR2030 tools for local resilience gap assessment and planning, which can be used by local governments to create a baseline understanding of their progress, identify gaps and needs, and define actions to ensure effective disaster risk reduction. Participants will further dive into concepts related to gender, disability and youth inclusive DRR and tools to strengthen all-of-society capacities for climate and disaster resilience, such as the Annex for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, and the thematic Scorecard Addenda for Gender Equality and Intersectionality and for Education System Resilience for Extreme Weather Events. Participants will also learn from the practical experience of a local government that has applied one of these tools to guide its resilience efforts. Finally, participants will have an opportunity to share their experiences during the Q&A and will participate in an interactive quiz to help practice and apply the concepts learned during the session.

Session 2. Embedding Strategic Foresight in Public Institutions for Climate Action

This session provides a practical introduction to the principles, tools, and institutional approaches needed to embed strategic foresight in public institutions and strengthen integrated climate action. It is designed to help participants translate long-term uncertainty into actionable planning by applying foresight thinking to real policy questions, linking climate priorities with broader sustainable development objectives and strengthening coordination across sectors and levels of government. Particular attention will be given to ensuring that foresight processes consider the differentiated impacts of climate change across communities and support more inclusive and equitable policy responses. The session consists of two parts and combines interactive discussion between presenters and participants, enabling participants to not only understand core approaches but also apply forecasting tools in a structured way.

Part 1. Strategic Foresight: Building Future-Ready Climate Policies and Actions

The first part introduces strategic foresight as a set of methods for anticipating change and supporting decision-making amidst uncertainty. It familiarizes participants with key foresight concepts, common tools, and practical use cases in the public sector, with an emphasis on how foresight can be institutionalized, not as a one-off exercise, but as a sustained capability within government. Participants will explore how public institutions can organize foresight functions, build internal capacity, and connect foresight processes to planning, budgeting, and policy coordination mechanisms that enable coherent climate action, ensuring that diverse perspectives of people in vulnerable situations are considered in long-term policy design.

Part 2. Use of Forecasting Tools and AI for Integrated Climate Action

The second part focuses on how forecasting tools and AI can be used to support integrated and inclusive climate action across sectors. It introduces practical approaches such as horizon scanning, trend analysis, impact and uncertainty mapping, and scenario development, and highlights which methods are best suited for different policy contexts and how they can be combined within a structured decision-making process. This part emphasizes the practical application of these tools, and a case study will be presented to illustrate how AI can be used to support climate predictions and inform forward-looking policy responses.

Session 3. Unlocking Private Sector Engagement and Catalyzing Climate Technologies for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Resilience

Disaster and climate resilience cannot be delivered by governments alone. The scale, complexity, and systemic nature of contemporary risk require the active and sustained engagement of the private sector, including through strengthened corporate preparedness, strategic financing, and technological innovation. With risk-informed business strategies and innovative financial instruments, private actors can both safeguard their own assets, operations, and supply chains and make a decisive contribution to wider societal resilience and sustainable development.

Given that the private sector accounts for approximately three-quarters of total capital investment in most economies⁴, achieving an all-of-society approach to resilience depends fundamentally on embedding disaster and climate risk considerations into corporate governance and operation, investment decision-making, and financial practices. Risk-informed private sector engagement not only reduces future losses and disruptions, but also supports long-term financial viability, market stability, and macro-economic resilience.

Technology innovation further amplifies this contribution. Since launch of the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism's joint initiative on #AI4ClimateAction⁵ at COP28, UNEP CTCN provides a space for policy dialogue, awareness raising, capacity building, and the exchange of knowledge and experience on developing and deploying climate solutions powered by AI. In parallel, 10 Technical Assistance (TA) projects with strong AI components are under implementation at the request of Nationally Designated Entities (i.e., technology focal point to the UNFCCC) to support national-level interventions on climate mitigation and adaptation. Acknowledging the importance of sharing which technologies are emerging for countries climate resilience and DR management development, and what projects are underway for a consideration of post-implementation scale-up.

This workshop will take stock of how the private sector can strengthen its own business resilience while also mobilizing finance for broader societal resilience by integrating disaster and climate risk into corporate decision-making with an introduction to the concept-proven technologies for scale-up. It will highlight practical approaches for embedding risk into governance, strategy, and financial planning, and explore ways to catalyze private investment to help close the disaster risk reduction and climate resilience financing gap.

V. Target Audience

This training is open to national and local government officials including SDGs, Sendai Framework, climate and urban development focal points and other stakeholders from national government, civil society and institutions in Asia-Pacific and beyond interested in or supporting inclusive climate and disaster risk reduction and resilience approaches, risk-informed governance mechanisms and innovative partnerships and technologies for risk reduction, climate action and sustainable development.

VI. Certificates

The organizers will issue a joint certificate of participation to participants upon successful completion and meeting the requirements* of the training.

*Requirements:

- Attend and actively participate in all three sessions.
- Submit the post-workshop knowledge assessment and evaluation survey.

VII. Application and Deadline

⁴ United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. (2025). *Global assessment report on disaster risk reduction 2025*. UNDRR. <https://www.undrr.org>

⁵ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp2023_11a01_adv.pdf

Interested participants are required to complete the registration form by **11 May 2026** at <https://tinyurl.com/4hjss5z2>.

VIII. Agenda

DRAFT AGENDA

Time 14:30-18:00 (Seoul Time)	Day 1: Tuesday, 12 May 2026
14:30-15:00	Opening Session
	Moderator: Ms. Ana Cristina Thorlund , Governance and Public Administration Expert, UN Project Office on Governance, DPIDG/UN DESA (2 mins)
	Welcoming Remarks Mr. Sungchul Shin, Director, UNITAR CIFAL Jeju/JITC, Jeju, Republic of Korea (3 mins) Introductory Remarks Mr. Changseob Han, Head of UN Project Office on Governance, DPIDG/UN DESA, Incheon, Republic of Korea (3 mins) Mr. Sanjaya Bhatia, Head, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR ONEA & GETI), Incheon, Republic of Korea (3 mins) Ms. Tomoko Furusawa, Head of UNEP CTCN, Partnership and Liaison Office, Incheon, Republic of Korea (3 mins)
	Photo Session
	Orientation – Overview of the Training Workshop (10 mins) Ms. Hyunju Grace Lee, Program Officer, UNITAR CIFAL Jeju/JITC, Jeju, Republic of Korea - Overview of the Workshop - Sharing the 2025 DRR workshop Impact Survey Results with Participants - Certificate requirements - Housekeeping announcements
	Session 1 – Ensuring Inclusive Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience: Key Concepts, Frameworks and Tools
15:00-15:05	Moderator: Ms. Daria Mokhnacheva , Programme Management Officer, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR ONEA & GETI), Incheon, Republic of Korea
15:05-15:35	Setting the Scene
	Presentation: Understanding Disaster and Climate Risk, Resilience and Policy Coherence Mr. Sanjaya Bhatia, Head, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR ONEA & GETI), Incheon, Republic of Korea (20 mins) Q&A (10 mins)
15:35-16:35	Leaving No One Behind: Towards Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction
	Presentation: Building Inclusive Resilience: Putting Gender-Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction into Action Ms. Ryce Chanchai, Global Gender Adviser, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific), Bangkok, Thailand (25 mins)
	Presentation: Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR) Mr. Talal Waheed, Global Disability Adviser, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific), Bangkok, Thailand (25 mins) Q&A (10 mins)
16:35-16:45	Break

16:45-17:45	Tools for Local DRR Planning Presentation and Exercise: Using the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities and its Thematic Addenda to Support Inclusive Local DRR Planning - Ms. Daria Mokhnacheva, Programme Management Officer, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR ONEA & GETI), Incheon, Republic of Korea (40 mins) Experience sharing: Insights from Local-level Application of the Annex for Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities - TBC, MCR2030 City (10 min) Q&A (10 mins)
17:45-17:55	Quiz (10 mins)
17:55-18:00	Wrap-up and Closing for Day 1 Preview of the Day 2 Session (to be introduced by Mr. Jin Seong Choi, Associate Research and Policy Analysis Expert, UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA)
14:30-18:00	Day 2: Wednesday, 13 May 2026 Session 2 – Embedding Strategic Foresight in Public Institutions for Climate Action
14:30-14:35	Moderator: Ms. Hye Kyung (Shelley) Choi, Senior Programme Management Assistant UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA
14:35-16:00	Part 1. Strategic Foresight: Building Future-Ready Climate Policies and Actions Presentation: Climate Readiness Assessment for Public Institutions Ms. Ana Cristina Thorlund, Governance and Public Administration Expert, UN Project Office on Governance, UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA (10 mins) Presentation: Tools, Methods and Approaches for Strategic Foresight Mr. Marius Oosthuizen, Foresight Faculty, University of Pretoria (60 mins) Q&A (15 mins)
16:00-16:10	Break
16:10-17:50	Part 2. Use of Forecasting Tools and AI for Integrated Climate Action Presentation: Introduction to Strategic Foresight Tools for Climate Action - Mr. Marius Oosthuizen, Foresight Faculty, University of Pretoria (30 mins) Presentation: Global Horizon Scanning Tool - Mr. Gregory McGann, Programme Management Assistant, DPIDG/UN DESA (10 mins)(tbc) Plenary Activity (30 mins) - Case Study: Using Artificial Intelligence for Weather Forecasting and Climate Modelling - Presentation: Mr Daehyun Kang, Senior Researcher, Center for Climate and Carbon Cycle Research, Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) (20 min) (tbc) Q&A (10 mins) Plenary Activity (15 mins)

17:50-18:00	Wrap-up and Closing for Day 2 Preview of the Day 3 Session (to be introduced by Ms. Hyunju Grace Lee, Senior Programme Officer, UNITAR CIFAL Jeju/JITC, Jeju, Republic of Korea)
14:30-18:00	Day 3: Thursday, 14 May 2026 Session 3: Unlocking Private Sector Engagement and Catalyzing Climate Technologies for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Resilience
14:30-14:40	Moderator: Ms. Hyunju Grace Lee, Senior Programme Officer, UNITAR CIFAL Jeju/JITC, Jeju, Republic of Korea (15 mins)
14:40-15:20	Strengthening Private Sector's Business Resilience • Speaker (TBD) (30 min) Q&A (10 mins)
15:20-16:00	Mobilizing Private Sector Finance for Societal Resilience • Speaker (TBD) (30 min) Q&A (10 mins)
16:00-16:10	Break
16:10-16:20	Moderator: Ms. Jeawon Kim, Capacity Building and Network Engagement Specialist, UNEP Climate Technology Centre and Network
16:20-17:30	Emerging technologies for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Resilience Presentation: The era of automation and artificial intelligence for DRR and climate resilience • Prof. Byungsik Kim, Kangwon National University, Director, AI Climate Disaster Technology Convergence Research Institute (20 mins) Case studies: Application of robots, drones, and AI for DRR and climate resilience • Strengthening the community-based Flood and drought preparedness and early warning system in Sudan: Using operational and innovative models in addition to Satellite-based transmission technology for real-time automatic water level telemetry system, Sharone Molly, CTCN (15 mins) • Pre-feasibility Study for Groundwater Desalination and Resource Recovery in Uzbekistan, Youngbok Ryu, KITECH (15 mins) Q&A (10 mins)
17:30-17:50	Exchange of Key Takeaways Quiz for Participants (20 mins)
17:50-17:55	Closing Remarks • Mr. Sanjaya Bhatia, Head of Office, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR ONEA & GETI), Incheon, Republic of Korea (5 mins)
17:55-18:00	Wrap-up & Closing of Workshop

IX. Contacts

UN DESA/DPIDG/UNPOG

Mr. Changseob Han
Head, UN Project Office on Governance (UNPOG)
DPIDG/UN DESA

Ms. Ana Cristina Thorlund

Governance and Public Administration Expert
UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA
E-mail: thorlund@un.org

Mr. Jin Seong Choi

Associate Research and Policy Analysis Expert
UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA
E-mail: jin.choi1@un.org

Ms. Carolit Salvacion

Associate Networking and Outreach Expert
UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA
E-mail: carolit.salvacion@un.org

UNITAR CIFAL Jeju

Mr. Sungchul Shin

Director
UNITAR CIFAL Jeju

Ms. Hyunju Grace Lee

Senior Programme Officer
UNITAR CIFAL Jeju/JITC
E-mail: hjlee.jitc@cifaljeju.org

UNDRR ONEA & GETI

Mr. Sanjaya Bhatia

Head
UNDRR ONEA & GETI
E-mail: bhatia1@un.org

Ms. Daria Mokhnacheva

Programme Management Officer
UNDRR ONEA & GETI
E-mail: daria.mokhnacheva@un.org

UNEP Climate Technology Centre and Network

Ms. Tomoko Furusawa

Head
UNEP Climate Technology Centre and Network, Partnership and Liaison Office

Ms. Jeawon Kim

Capacity Building and Network Engagement Specialist
UNEP Climate Technology Centre and Network
E-mail: jeawon.kim@un.org