



Research Unit
Press Information Bureau
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India



G20 Series #43

India's G20 Presidency

1st Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group Meeting

(Gandhinagar, Gujarat - March 30 - April 1, 2023)

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting)

May 03, 2023

"Tradition and technology are our strength, and with this strength, we can prepare the best model related to disaster resilience not only for India but for the entire world"

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi

The G20 India Presidency has achieved a significant milestone by building consensus to start a new workstream on disaster risk reduction after assuming the G20 Presidency. The 1st Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG) meeting took place from March 30 to April 1, 2023, in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. More than 80 delegates from G20 member countries, invited countries and international organisations attended the meeting.

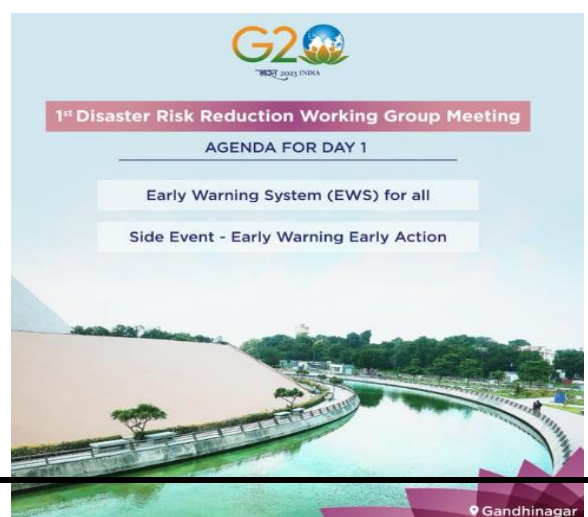
This momentous occasion serves as a resounding call to action for the global community to come together and collaboratively pave the path towards a future that is fortified against the devastation caused by disasters.

As a prelude to the main event, a Curtain Raiser: 'Learning from Disasters: Memorialising disasters, learning, building back better, investing in resilience' took place on March 29, 2023 at the Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM) attended by Dr. PK Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister along with subject-matter experts in Disaster Risk Reduction.

Day 1: March 30, 2023

The 1st Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group meeting was inaugurated by the Minister of State for Communication, Shri Devusinh Chauhan, and Dr. P K Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Union Minister of State for Communications, Shri Devusinh



Chauhan welcomed delegates and invitees to the first-ever Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group meeting and said that India has been investing in innovative technology and building disaster-resilient infrastructure. He highlighted Gujarat's experience of managing disasters and its successful experiments with strategies for building back better following disasters

While speaking at the inaugural session of the 1st Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group Meeting, Dr. P K Mishra said that there is a need to work together to achieve the targets identified in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The first day of the G20 meeting focussed on five key priority areas of the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group. These included the **Global coverage of Early Warning Systems, Increased commitment towards making infrastructure systems disaster-resilient, Stronger national financial frameworks for DRR, Strengthened national and global disaster response systems, and Increased application of ecosystems-based approaches to DRR.**



The Plenary Session began with a keynote presentation by the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction followed by a discussion on the five priorities of the working group.

It was followed by the first technical session, on **'Early Warning Systems for All'** delegates discussed challenges in Financing Early Action, Regional and Sub-Regional Plans of Action, and Risk Knowledge and Preparedness. Delegates also made interventions on leveraging the power of Early Warning Systems

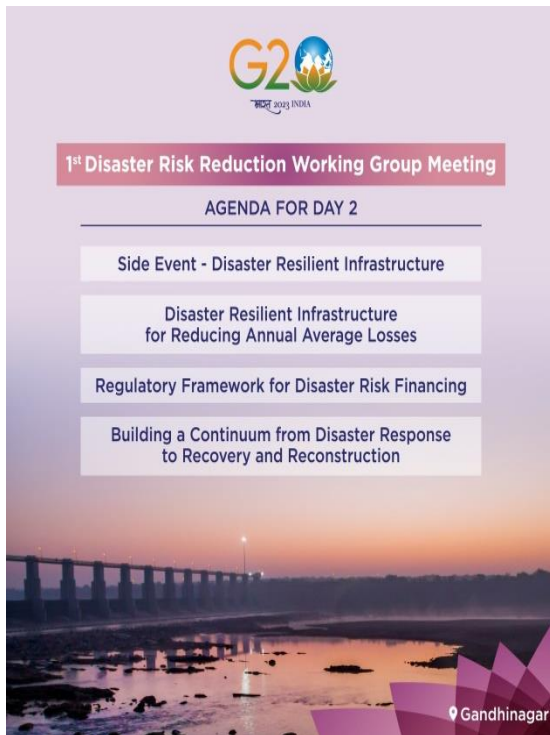
The Side Event on **'Early Warning, Early Action'** provided an opportunity for delegates to hear the voices of the community.

The delegates also had the opportunity to enjoy the cultural exhibitions and stalls organized by the Gujarat Government at the Mahatma Mandir Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Day 2: March 31, 2023

On the second day of the event, a side event along with three sessions were organized.

Day 2 began with a side event on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. The event focused on an important issue - the need to take proactive measures to build disaster-resilient infrastructure. Such infrastructure can play a critical role in building the resilience of communities & economies worldwide.



1st DRRWG meet continued with fruitful deliberations on developing disaster-resilient infrastructure to decrease the yearly average loss caused by natural disasters. It also highlighted the framework for standards & codes in various infrastructure sectors.



Insightful discussions continued with a focus on creating a regulatory framework for disaster risk financing. G20 nations also strengthened their commitment towards a sustained investment framework for DRR & for improving resource accessibility.



The final session featured discussions on the necessity of enhancing local response capabilities against multiple threats, documenting best practices in preparedness, and many other vital concerns.



Day 3: April 1, 2023

Member Secretary, National Disaster Management Authority, Shri Kamal Kishore, delivered the opening remarks on the final day and reiterated the deliverables for the Working Group. He urged the members to think collectively about how to prioritize the deliverables and bring them into motion. Proposed deliverables for the way forward included a focus on disaster and climate-resilient infrastructure, an inventory of risk

assessment tools for infrastructure, and good practices for financing Build Back Better, among others. The importance of public financing by local governments, international aid, and private sector finance for DRR was also discussed.



The session on eco-system-based approaches for integrated DRR and Climate Change Adaptation delved into alternative ways for DRR and discussed sustainable interventions at the local level and explored the creation of a national framework for implementing nature-based solutions. concluded with a commitment from the G20 DRR Working Group to explore new and innovative ways of implementing eco-system-based approaches to disaster risk reduction.

The DRR Working Group meeting at Gandhinagar has been a significant event as delegates from G20 countries have shared their best practices, discussed challenges, and identified opportunities to collaborate toward achieving the Sendai Framework's goals.

The Working Group has emphasized the importance of taking a comprehensive approach to Disaster risk reduction, with a focus on building resilient communities worldwide. The G20 DRR Working Group will continue to lead the way in this effort, playing a crucial role in creating a safer and more sustainable world for all. Their ongoing efforts are vital to ensure that communities around the globe are better prepared for and protected against the risks of disasters.

After the meeting concluded, delegates were taken on a tour to Smriti Van memorial at Bhuj. At the memorial, exhibits and presentations depicting the resilience shown by people during the devastating 2001 earthquake in the Kutch region of Gujarat were showcased.



References:

[G20 India Presidency's First Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group Meeting to be held in Gandhinagar from March 30 to April 1, 2023](#)

[Global Cooperation Key to Advancing Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: G20 DRR Working Group Meeting Concludes](#)

Twitter links:

[Gandhinagar all set to host 1st DRRWG Meeting](#)

Video:

[1st DRRWG Meet Gandhinagar : Curtain Raiser - "Learning from Disasters"](#)

[Media Briefing On 1st Disaster Management Working Group Meeting](#)

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