

**Plenary session:  
Implementing Sendai Framework, SDGs and Paris Agreement in a Coherent Way**

22 November, 14.30 – 16.00,  
European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction 2018

---

**Speaking points for  
the Director General of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) Secretariat,  
Ambassador Maira Mora**

---

1. Dear Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am very honored to address such a distinguished audience, and would like to begin by expressing special appreciation to the organizers of this forum: **The Italian Chairmanship of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Italian Civil Protection Department's Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the European Commission, the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement of the Council of Europe, and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction** – thank you for inviting me, and for offering this opportunity to present the CBSS position on how we can strive for coherence in the implementation of the three policy frameworks we will discuss in this session: the Sendai Framework, 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.
2. I would like to begin by stressing the importance of these three policy frameworks – **together they are the stepping stones for us to build a future for the next generations on this planet – and in Europe in particular.** These frameworks show us the way forward that we *must* take, if we want to respond to the challenges standing in front of us in a conscious and responsible way.
3. The frameworks clearly show that there is nothing wrong with the knowledge we have – we know the situation we have at hand: **we have analysed and assessed the risks, we have discussed and identified the actions we need to take, and we have agreed on how we should move forward together.** Yet, there are several challenges remaining in **gathering and applying** this knowledge that we need to solve. And, in making all of us aware of how urgent it is to apply the relevant measures to meet these challenges.
4. One of the main challenges we have at hand, is the specific one that this session will address – that of coherent implementation. **The reason why coherence is so important is simply because it is a matter of efficiency – if our efforts are not coordinated and aligned we are wasting valuable time and resources.**
5. Unfortunately, all the knowledge we have is not only to our advantage, partly because we have so much information that it is difficult to process it, but also because the knowledge is scattered and fragmented. **We need to work more together – across sectors and between countries – to integrate the knowledge we have – to facilitate the implementation process in an efficient manner. Coherence in implementation starts with cohesion in the knowledge behind the actions that are taken.**

**Plenary session:**  
**Implementing Sendai Framework, SDGs and Paris Agreement in a Coherent Way**

22 November, 14.30 – 16.00,  
European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction 2018

---

6. What we need to do is to **bridge the cooperation gap between climate change experts and civil protection professionals – to enable real prevention and preparedness for current and emerging security risks related to climate change**. If we want the work with adaptation to the new conditions to be successful, we need to bring all knowledge on board.
7. There are existing platforms that can function as a bridge between different sectors and countries already today, and the Council of the Baltic Sea States, which I represent here, is one of them. At the Secretariat we are actively facilitating the connection between different networks and experts working with the implementation of the Sendai Framework, Agenda 2030 and the SDGs as well as the Paris Agreement. **The CBSS contribution to this work is to strive for the coherence in the implementation – by bringing the different stakeholders together.**
8. In our region, **the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region functions as an enabling framework that makes the implementation of these different policy frameworks coherent**. The CBSS Secretariat is coordinating Policy Area Secure – which specifically addresses the implementation of the Sendai Framework from the civil protection side, and Horizontal Action Climate – working on addressing all climate change related challenges in compliance with the Paris Agreement. The fact that these two areas are both under the umbrella of the strategy makes it easier to work together across sectors, and to bring together the different networks in these respective areas.
9. I will attempt to illustrate our way of **bridging the cross-sectoral gap and managing the knowledge in a coherent way** by describing a project we initiated recently. The specific output of the cooperation between Policy Area Secure and Horizontal Action Climate, under the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, is the project CASCADE – Community Safety Action for Supporting Climate Adaptation and Development, which will begin in January 2019. **The CASCADE initiative entails concrete cooperation between climate change adaptation experts and civil protection professionals – seeking to improve urban resilience in cities and towns, as well as overall macro-regional resilience**. The expected outcome of CASCADE is to adapt existing risk assessment methodology to the climate change context, and tailor it to the local level.
10. The strategy behind the CASCADE initiative is that two existing networks are already connected to the project initiative – **the CBSS Civil Protection Network and the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) Climate Dialogue Platform**. These two networks will both provide valuable input during the project itself – feeding in to the work process through the policy dialogues – but most of all, they will both be important in bringing the results from the projects into practice in all the member states.

**Plenary session:**  
**Implementing Sendai Framework, SDGs and Paris Agreement in a Coherent Way**

22 November, 14.30 – 16.00,  
European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction 2018

---

11. Even though projects are effective tools to advance the implementation of the different agendas in a concrete way, they are limited in scope and in time. This is why it is **important that project initiatives are anchored in institutionalized structures – that can be influenced by the outcomes and carry out the changes in practice – allowing the results from projects to work in a cumulative manner – and for them to change practices, bit by bit, over time.**
12. The CASCADE initiative, as well as other similar initiatives, is derived from common challenges that were identified and – regional **monitoring of the implementation of different policy frameworks would enable identification of common gaps in specific geographical contexts.** Through identifying regional gaps, it will be easier to initiate cooperation in areas where several countries or municipalities are facing challenges on similar issues. This would also be based on specific conditions the countries have due to their geographical location.
13. The answer to one of the challenges with making the implementation coherent is **to make different sectors and countries work more together.** However, another challenge often highlighted is that some of the goals we have set up might contradict each other. We know that it might be difficult to achieve SDG one and two: no poverty and zero hunger, without jeopardizing the goals that are related to climate change adaptation. However, knowing this does not mean that we should prioritize the goals – what we should do is to strive for new ways of thinking and to build prosperity. **It might be true that how we have reached the development level of today, has been through means that have been bad for the environment and the climate, additionally, it has also increased vulnerability of the populations in Europe and around the globe. However, this does not mean that the means we use in the future need to take the same path.** Therefore, innovation is key in this process – innovation in ideas on how we can work to achieve all the goals in an interconnected way.
14. I would like to conclude by emphasising three key issues that can greatly facilitate the process of making the implementation of these three important agendas coherent. **First, we need to be open-minded, creative and innovative. Second, we need to bring all the knowledge we have on board and use the knowledge we have more efficiently. And last – but not least – we do not only need to build a bridge between sectors, levels and countries – that is simply not enough – we need to build that bridge together.**
15. With these words, I would like to thank you all for your attention and wish you all an interesting forum with many productive discussions.