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Approaching the Decade of Delivery: Importance of Multi-stakeholder and Inter-regional Partnerships in the HADR-SDG Conversation



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With the fifth anniversary of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development fast approaching, it is timely to assess the current state of affairs. The Agenda, with its 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, provides a blueprint for shared prosperity in a sustainable world. However, the world is currently not on track to achieve the SDGs by 2030. Reports published in 2019 by the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) indicate that, despite progress being made in a number of areas on some of the SDGs, it has largely been a slow and even regressive process. Vulnerable populations are still subjected to inordinate levels of suffering, stemming from systemic inequalities and exposure to climate-induced disasters. The global response has not been ambitious and effective enough to stimulate the level of transformation needed to achieve

the Goals.

The SDGs and disaster risks are interconnected. Many of the SDGs focus on issues that are underlying drivers of risk. Achieving SDG 1 –eradicating poverty in all its forms- and SDG 10 – reducing socio-economic inequalities- would significantly reduce and alleviate the impact of disasters. However, the onset of disasters can also exacerbate poverty and inequalities in societies. The UNESCAP Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2019 shows that a 1 percentage point increase in exposure to climate events increases the Gini coefficient by 0.24 and decreases education rates by 0.26 percentage points. Our goal to end poverty by 2030 has been severely jeopardised by the increased frequency and severity of disasters in recent years. When you consider that the poorest countries in the world experience a disproportionate share of

damage and loss of life when disasters hit, the need to source for effective scalable solutions becomes even more apparent.

One way to address this is by encouraging a humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach. This is not a new concept but it is one that is notoriously difficult to implement effectively. How do you ensure that immediate needs are met in a timely manner, while simultaneously incorporating longer-term development initiatives that address systemic causes of vulnerability? To this end, humanitarian and development stakeholders are constantly striving to find the right mix of humanitarian, development and peace approaches. Working towards the fulfilment of SDGs 11 and 16 for example, with a focus on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies with sustainable and disaster-resilient infrastructure, is a step in the right direction.

As the world enters the 'decade of delivery', there is a need to make a concerted effort to meet most, if not all, the SDGs by 2030. The multi-faceted and wide-ranging nature of the SDGs necessitates the need for multi-stakeholder participation, across all sectors. For instance, as part of the Business Avengers campaign launched in September 2019, 17 companies- each focusing on one SDG- will come together to communicate the overall importance of the Goals as well as showcase their efforts in achieving them. This initiative was conceived as a means to foster private sector collaboration and action in support of the SDGs. Hopefully, this will translate into greater investment in disaster risk reduction and development programmes, which is of particular significance considering that sourcing for such investments has not always been an easy endeavour.

Forging inter-regional partnerships through knowledge sharing plat-

forms is another excellent way to lay the foundation for the achievement of the SDGs and to help communities and governments cope with the numerous complexities of humanitarian challenges. An example of this can be found in the recent ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management (SPDDM), which engaged with members from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the African Union on issues such as disaster management and climate security. Knowledge sharing and building communities of practice can help to bridge gaps between regions, and strengthen collective efforts to address overlapping issues.

At face value, addressing the multi-faceted and wide-ranging nature of the SDGs might prove to be a daunting task. However, the agenda's vision of 'shared prosperity in a sustainable world' is not beyond reach. It is imperative that we continue to champion this vision, in pursuit of a better future for everyone.

Suggested Readings

- Oxfam. 2019. *The Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus: What does it mean for multi-mandated organisations?* Oxford: Oxfam International.
- UNISDR. 2019. *Words into Action Guidelines: National Disaster Risk Assessment*. UNISDR Report.
- UNESCAP. 2019. *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2019*. Bangkok: UNESCAP.
- United Nations. 2019. *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019*. New York: UN Publications.
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- Wahlen, Catherine Benson. 2019. "17 Companies Join Campaign for SDGs 'Decade of Delivery'" . IISD SDG Knowledge Hub.

CLIMATE SECURITY

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Singapore 'pushing the boundaries' on mitigating climate change: Masagos

Matthew Mohan,
Channel News Asia
21 October 2019

Climate change: Spain offers to host COP 25 in Madrid

Matt McGrath,
BBC,
31 October 2019

Trump serves notice to quit Paris climate agreement

Lisa Friedman,
The New York Times
4 November 2019

More than 11,000 scientists from around the world declare a 'climate emergency'

The Straits Times
5 November 2019

Cities could be an ally in climate change fight: Experts

Audrey Tan,
The Straits Times
5 November 2019

Despite a warmer, wetter world, there may be less water available for human use, study finds

Christian Detisch,
Yale Environment
5 November 2019

Why biodegradables won't solve the plastic crisis

Kelly Oakes,
BBC
5 November 2019

Dumped fishing gear is biggest plastic polluter in ocean, finds report

Sandra Laville,
The Guardian
6 November 2019

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

The extraordinary climate agreement on international aviation: An airline industry perspective

George Anjaparidze,
Harvard Project on Climate Agreements
2019

Climate-related security risks and peacebuilding in Somalia

Karolina Eklöv and Florian Krampe,
SIPRI
2019

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

World Climate Summit: The Investment COP

8–9 December 2019
Madrid, Spain

World Biodiversity Forum

23–28 February 2019
Davos, Switzerland



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ENERGY SECURITY

NEWS AND COMMENTARIES

Singapore sets solar energy target for 2030 that would provide enough power for 350,000 homes

Ang Hwee Min,
Channel News Asia
29 October 2019

Singapore will continue to rely on natural gas amidst push to boost solar capacity: Chan Chun Sing

Audrey Tan
The Straits Times
29 October 2019

Philippine energy chief says to draft plan for nuclear programme

Enrico dela Cruz,
Reuters
30 October 2019

IAEA delivers report on nuclear power infrastructure development to the Philippines

Elisabeth Dyck,
International Atomic Energy Agency
30 October 2019

Iran and Russia launch new phase of nuclear power reactor construction

AFP-Jiji,
The Japan Times
11 November 2019

Chinese envoy encourages IAEA to further promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy

Mu Xuequan,
Xinhua
12 November 2019



Courtesy of Wikimedia account of Gretchen Mahan and used under a creative commons license.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Establishing a system for control of nuclear material for nuclear security purposes at a facility during use, storage and movement

International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna: IAEA 2019

Establishing multilateral power trade in ASEAN

International Energy Agency, Paris: IEA 2019

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

13th International Conference of the Croatian Nuclear Society: Nuclear Option for CO2 Free Energy Generation

31 May - 3 June 2020
Zadar, Croatia

International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts

10-14 February 2020
Vienna, Austria

FOOD SECURITY



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SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Global Hunger Index 2019: The Challenge of Hunger and Climate Change

von Grebmer, Klaus et al., Dublin and Bonn: Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe 2019

The Missing Middle: Connected action on agriculture and nutrition across global, national and local levels to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2

Veldhuizen, Linda J.L. et al., Global Food Security Vol. 24 2020

NEWS & COMMENTARIES

Higher temperatures driving 'alarming' levels of hunger – report

Lucy Lamble, The Guardian 15 October 2019

Path of food security with Chinese characteristics gets broader

Bianji Hongyu, People's Daily Online 16 October 2019

China focus: China's food security a boon for itself and the world

Hua Xia, Xinhua News 16 October 2019

Experts unlock key to photosynthesis, a find that could help us meet food security demands

University of Sheffield, Science Daily 13 November 2019

UN agency sounds alarm: Dwindling agrobiodiversity 'severe threat' to food security

United Nations News 14 November 2019

Gov't on alert on rice smuggling, hoarding

Ben O. de Vera, Inquirer.Net 14 November 2019

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Global Partners' Meeting, November 2019 at World Food Programme Headquarters

26-28 November 2019
Rome, Italy

4th International Conference on Global Food Security

15-18 June 2020
Le Corum, Montpellier, France



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HEALTH SECURITY



Courtesy of Flickr account of Picture of Money and used under a creative commons license.

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Global Tuberculosis report 2019
World Health Organisation,
Geneva: WHO
2019

The power of cities: Tackling noncommunicable diseases and road traffic injuries
World Health Organisation,
Geneva: WHO
2019

NEWS & COMMENTARIES

First new HIV strain in 19 years identified
Karen Weintraub,
Scientific American
6 November 2019

‘Make Ebola a thing of the past’: First vaccine against deadly virus approved
Ewen Callaway,
Nature
12 November 2019

Using AI to understand what causes diseases
Sema Sgaier and Francesca Dominici,
Harvard Business Review
8 November 2019

Why is the world losing the fight against history’s most lethal disease?
Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,
The Guardian
14 November 2019

‘Forgotten’ pneumonia epidemic ‘kills more children than any other disease’
United Nations News
12 November 2019

UN to test impact of mosquito sterilisation on disease spread
The Japan Times
15 November 2019

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

743rd International Conferences on Medical and Health Sciences
1–2 December 2019
Dublin, Ireland

International Conference on Recent Advances in Medical, Medicine and Health Science (ICRAMMHS)
1 December 2019
Singapore



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HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF

NEWS & COMMENTARIES

Searching for the nexus: How to turn theory into practice
Hugo Slim,
The New Humanitarian
23 October 2019

Moving beyond mine risk education to risk awareness and safer behaviour
Louis G. Maresca,
Humanitarian Law & Policy
7 November 2019

Humanitarian leadership fails on diversity
Lisa Cornish,
DevEx
24 October 2019

UN peacekeepers warn of increasing global challenges
Jean-Pierre Lacroix,
UN News
7 November 2019



Courtesy of Flickr account of US Army and used under a creative commons license.

Framework for assessing prospective partners

Blair Palmer,
Centre for Humanitarian Data
11 November 2019

I'm a humanitarian. Don't prosecute me for doing my job

Michiel Hofman,
The New Humanitarian
12 November 2019



Courtesy of Flickr account of Jeffrey Pioquinto, SJ and used under a creative commons license.

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Japan-World Bank program for mainstreaming disaster risk management in developing countries
The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)
2019

Philippines disaster preparedness simulator
Mandy George and Estela Oliva,
Global Disaster Preparedness Center (GDPC)
2019

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

International Disaster Conference 2019
21 November 2019
Makati City, Philippines

AGU Fall Meeting 2019
09 – 13 December 2019
San Francisco, California

MIGRATION



Courtesy of Flickr account of ILO Asia Pacific and used under a creative commons license.

Migrant wives: South Korea's model daughter-in-law
AFP,
Channel News Asia
14 November 2019

Gender discrimination in China's labour income
Jane Golley, Yixiao Zhou and Meiyang Wang,
East Asia Forum
14 November 2019

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Changing attitudes and behaviour towards women migrant workers in ASEAN: Technical regional meeting
International Labor Organization
2019

International migration outlook 2019
OECD
2019

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UK truck deaths: families of missing Vietnamese migrants stuck with crippling debts
AFP,
South China Morning Post
30 October 2019

Warning over Cambodia's garment workers as EU tariff threat looms
Matt Blomberg,
Reuters
4 November 2019

Bangladesh Rohingya island relocation 'uncertain' after UN doubts
AFP/zi,
Channel News Asia
3 November 2019

Vietnam's Refugees and the Slave Trade
Richard Broinowski AO
Australian Institute of International Affairs
8 November 2019

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

9th Annual Conference on Immigration in OECD Countries
12-13 December 2019
Paris, France

Twentieth International Conference on Diversity in Organizations, Communities & Nations,
10-12 June 2020
Milan, Italy