

Fifth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

**From Risk to Resilience: Accelerating
Local Action for Disaster Risk Reduction**

**08 - 11 November 2021
Rabat, Morocco**

Arab Private Sector Stakeholder Group for Disaster Risk Reduction

Statement for the 2021, 5th Regional Platform
for Disaster Risk Reduction, Rabat
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Burai,



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I am here today to represent the Arab Private Sector Stakeholder Group for Disaster Risk Reduction. I'd like to thank you, first of all, for giving me the opportunity of speaking here in this forum on behalf of the private sector.

Recognizing the critical role of the private sector in any given country and community, as employer, producer, exporter or investor, the Sendai Framework specifically asks Governments to work closely with business and private sector financial institutions, including insurance and financial regulators and accounting bodies.

Recognizing that the significant lasting impact of climate change and disasters have on economic growth, community wellbeing, and related financial and economic systems is rapidly growing. For companies, big and small, to survive and even prosper in this environment, they need to adapt fast.

Highlighting that investing in risk reduction and resilience building saves lives and makes financial sense as it preserves and protects capital assets and allows continuation of trade and community life in times of increasing frequency and intensity of disasters. Therefore, investing in risk reduction is relevant and compelling for Governments and businesses alike.

In recent years, as you know, disasters have become more frequent and more severe. In addition to natural hazard and man-made hazards, we are slowly emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic. It is worth nothing that the pandemic has affected societies and economies around the work and the Arab region is no exception. The region's economy has suffered the impact decreasing oil prices, remittances and a decline in tourism. In this context, there is a greater need for the public and private sector to work together and build back better.

The Arab Private Sector Stakeholder Group for Disaster Risk Reduction will work to promote, enhance and support the implementation of the Sendai Framework at the regional, national and local level.

Voluntary Action Commitments

- The Arab Private Sector Stakeholder Group for Disaster Risk Reduction Voluntary Action Statement commits to support the implementation of the Prioritized Action Plan 2021-2024 of the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in the region in the following ways:
- In Alignment with the goals, vision and mission of ARISE, the UNDRR Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Risk Resilient Societies¹; the Arab Private Sector Stakeholder Group for Disaster Risk Reduction, will work:
 1. **Raise Awareness:** Awareness raising with respect to disaster risk and mobilization of the private sector.
 2. **Influence:** Exercising influence in respective spheres of expertise.

¹ <https://www.ariseglobalnetwork.org/>

3. **Share Knowledge:** Share knowledge, experience and good practices amongst the private sector.
4. **Catalyze:** Be a catalyst to generate innovation and collaboration.
5. **Implement:** Implement projects and activities to achieve the targets of the Sendai Framework.

Commitments

- 1) Engagement in **regional and national advocacy** for, including in key regional United Nations meetings:
 - Enhancing the resilience of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises;
 - Integrating disaster and climate risk into investment decisions by the financial sector;
 - Incentivizing disaster risk reduction and enhanced data for risk-informed decision-making through engagement with the insurance industry as global risk manager;
 - Supporting resilient infrastructure development.
- 2) Organize the **ARISE Annual Regional Meeting (ARM)** with network leads for information exchange and **monitoring of progress**
- 3) **Promote membership** in ARISE amongst peers and constituencies, World Economic Forum, UN Global Compact and other relevant initiatives;
- 4) As appropriate, **facilitate the establishment and development of ARISE National Networks** and provide them with advice and guidance.
- 5) Represent the Private Sector in the Arab region in the **UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM)** to ensure cross-fertilization with other UNDRR Advisory Groups and stakeholders.
- 6) Support the implementation of UNDRR MCR2030 campaign in the Arab region

Thank you for your time,