

2026 United Nations Water Conference Organizational Session
3 March 2025, ECOSOC Chamber

UNDRR Statement

Distinguished delegates and colleagues,

It is an honor to address you today on behalf of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction as we build momentum towards the 2026 UN Water Conference. UNDRR stands in full support of this critical gathering, recognizing that water is at the heart of disaster risk reduction and resilience.

Nine out of ten disasters in the past decade were water-related—floods, droughts, storms—causing immense human and economic losses. The 2023 Water Conference underscored these connections, particularly through Interactive Dialogue 3, which addressed the interlinkages between water, climate, resilience, and disaster risk reduction. As we look ahead to 2026, we encourage Member States to build upon this foundation, ensuring that disaster risk reduction remains a central theme.

A multi-hazard, multi-sectoral approach is essential to managing water risks effectively, including through initiatives like the UN System-Wide Strategy on Water and Sanitation. UNDRR is proud to report that we have made progress in implementing the three commitments made to the Water Action Agenda, including on strengthening data on water-related disasters,

enhancing water infrastructure resilience and supporting early warning systems for water-related hazards.

The year 2025 offers key milestones to further address the interlinkages between water and resilience as we progress towards the 2026 Water Conference, including the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, taking place in June in Geneva. Let us seize these opportunities to reinforce global commitments, translating knowledge into action. UNDRR stands ready to support Member States in ensuring that water remains not only a resource but a driver of resilience and long-term sustainable development.

Thank you.