

**POSITION PAPER**

**Country: United Kingdom**

**Committee: United Nations Development Programme(UNDP)**

**Agenda Item: Strengthening the Integration of Crisis Resilience Systems with Peacebuilding Initiatives and Conflict Prevention Strategies**

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, known as UK or Britain, is a country in Northwestern Europe. It includes England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. As of 2023, the estimated population of the UK is over 68.2 million people. The UK is a constitutional monarchy with parliamentary democracy under King Charles III and Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

Crisis resilience, as defined in the guide, is the ability of groups, people and systems to foresee, take in, adjust to and recover from shocks, pressures and crises including natural disasters, conflicts and socio economic upheavals. Resilience programs are a must, and these are defined as certain policies, programs and processes which will enhance a system’s overall capacity.

The UK Government Resilience System was first published in late 2022, which has purposes and aims to improve the UK's ability to anticipate, assess, prevent, respond

to, and recover from known, unknown, direct, indirect, and civil contingency risks. It has a wide network of domestic services, and services which are overseas. It has three main principles, which are

-Developed and shared understanding of the situation

-Prevention rather than cure wherever possible

-Resilience in society

The UK also believes that engaging with local communities and groups is a must; and we have also aligned with local networks. These include Local Resilience

Forums(LRF), Community Safety Partnerships, Counter Terrorism Boards and Event Safety groups, amongst many others. We must ensure that our efforts are complementary, and there is a clear communication and a shared understanding of what it means to be resilient.

Each LRF includes representatives from agencies below;

-Territorial Police Force

-British Transport Police

-Fire and Rescue Services

-Ambulance Services

-Local Authorities

-National Health Service Bodies

-Utility and Transport Companies

-Telephony Companies

-Voluntary and Community Sector Organizations

These bodies could increase and strengthen collaboration and cooperation among the local people, which also can help in ensuring and securing a coordinated response to crises. The pros of LRFs include very big community engagement, as they are able to engage with the locals and raise awareness in an easy way-that's indeed why they were established. They would raise public awareness and further enhance public participation in activities related to resilience building.

The UK recommends the establishment of mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of national guidelines at a certain level and further calls for receiving feedback. The UK's national framework on disaster risk is known as the Civil Contingencies Act,(CCA). In 2008, the UK agreed on the Climate Change Act 2008. This is a long-term framework to cut gas emissions and to build a framework for the UK's ability to adapt to a changing climate. The Climate Change Act 2008 requires a UK-wide climate change risk assessment (CCRA) every five years, a National Adaptation Programme (NAP) and Adaptation Reporting Powers.

As also defined in the guide, bottom-up crisis resilience initiatives mainly focuses on local participation and lets communities design and lead their own efforts in resilience and peacebuilding. UK further recommends establishment of small village and neighborhood response communities and community sector arrangement.

UK also thinks and takes action with the idea that collaborative action among the local authorities is a huge priority, and is ready to establish local response agencies for risks and disasters.

For social groups and society, The UK has implemented peer supporting programs (PSP) in schools and rural areas. UK has also established skills training programs to recover from the loss and build capacity. These programs are designed and integrated with LRFs, Action with Communities in The United Kingdom(ACUK), The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs(UN DESA) and The United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

These programs will aim at knowledge and skill acquisition,sharing experiences and peer to peer collaboration, capacity building, networking and learning about practical actions. These programs are designed towards the Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs):

SDG 4: Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all

SDG 5: Achieving gender equality

SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

In case of a public health crisis (ex. COVID-19), the UK recommends that all governments should review its public health structures to ensure expertise; they should all fund public health services wherever they are located to enable the nation to better respond at a rapid pace during future emergencies. And all UK governments should urgently increase the numbers of public health staff at a local and national level and increase the number of public health training places provided via the programs above.

Also defined in the guide bottom-up system approaches, stress local participation and lets communities design their own efforts in resilience. A bottom-up approach, in which organizations work closely with communities to identify solutions and problems, strengthens local capacities and facilitates resource allocation. With bottom-up initiatives people are willing to join together as a community and support each other during a crisis.

UK recommends enabling networking for relevant stakeholders in the resilience community to produce corporate solutions, projects fostering resilience skills need to be integrated in already existing community developing activities.

UK also recommends and highly encourages all governments to align with and support both bottom-up and top-down approaches. A global system known as the Composite of Post-Event Well Being (COPEWELL) developed through research funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; helps to create a framework for community resilience; which integrates social, physical, and natural systems; and designs a model for predicting community functioning and resilience after disasters.

UK also believes that this issue is a worldwide issue; and believes that NGOs and UN agencies should definitely be included in it. They could provide major support; via money, humanitarian aid, education, employment agencies; and audiences through civil society organizations, and community engaged media.

UK recommends connecting and aligning with NGOs, international organizations and UN agencies like;

-Economic Cooperation Organization(ECO)

-International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies(IFRC)

-United Nations Centre for Regional Development(UNCRD)

-United Nations Environment Programme(UNEP)

-World Bank

-World Economic Forum(WEF)

-World Health Organization(WHO)

-Food and Agriculture Organization(FAO)

-Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs(OCHA)

UK once again underlines the importance for community engagement; and believes that engaging communities in resilience is a key factor; and encourages all nations to do likewise. UK is always ready to incorporate marginalized populations and groups; including women and youth.

UK acknowledges the Hyogo Framework for Action(HFA) and has been taking actions keeping in mind the HFA. UK also keeps in mind the key principles of HFA; accountability, legality, impartiality, transparency, participation, coordination, effectiveness, education and subsidiarity. UK also recommends that future framework should include voluntary peer reviews,these will be a helpful instrument for improving policy making sharing experience and accountability.

The new framework should further contribute to enhance governance for disaster management at all levels and across all sectors, building effective coordination mechanisms and sustainable partnerships between different public authorities and relevant stakeholders (civil society, academia and research institutions and private sector).

UK encourages each and every member of UNDP to collaborate and share ideas upon the topic; so that we could integrate crisis resilience systems, in the best and most efficient way possible. There are many countries integrating crisis resilience systems with peacebuilding initiatives; and we hope in this conference we could strengthen them; and minimize the consequences that they might cause.

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