



INVITATION TO
THE FIRST GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON

Reimagining Resilience: Collective Futures for Disaster Risk Reduction

From risk to justice and collective survival

ISTANBUL - TURKIYE
5-7 NOVEMBER 2026



INVITATION

Reimagining Resilience: Collective Futures for Disaster Risk Reduction – From risk to justice and collective survival

Feminists, friends, and allies,

You have seen the devastation. You have witnessed disasters of different scales and magnitude. You have stood with communities in grief, in struggle, and in recovery. You have seen how crises deepen existing inequalities and how women, girls, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, marginalized communities, and those living at the frontlines of multiple injustices are often the first and hardest-hit and yet too often the last to be heard.

We invite you to come together because disasters are not simply “natural”. Hazards may be natural, but disasters are shaped by the vulnerabilities, inequalities, and systems that determine who is exposed to risk, who has access to resources and protection, whose knowledge is valued, and whose voices are heard. Disasters are produced and intensified by systems of oppression, exclusion, unequal development, and environmental destruction.

And while women and girls and marginalized communities bear disproportionate impacts, feminist leadership and knowledge remain deeply underrepresented in disaster risk reduction decision-making and practice.

The same is true of the relationship between disasters, climate change, biodiversity, and environmental degradation. These crises cannot be addressed in silos. Yet the engagement of climate, biodiversity, and environmental actors, particularly civil society in disaster risk reduction, remains far too limited.

This is why members of the **Women and Gender Stakeholder Group (WGSF)** and partners are coming together to host the first Global Feminist Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), **Reimagining Resilience: Collective Futures for Disaster Risk Reduction – From risk to justice and collective survival**. The conference is being convened by the **Women’s Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), ActionAid, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), UN Women, Oxfam KEDV, AWID, HUDOTO Law Nature and Society Foundation, Shifting the Power Coalition, and Duryog Nivaran**.

We are building this conference as a space to bring feminist movements, disaster risk reduction practitioners, humanitarian actors, climate and environmental justice

movements, researchers, advocates, and community leaders into conversation. Together, we will explore how we can build a transformative global feminist movement for disaster risk reduction, one rooted in justice, prevention, care, accountability, solidarity, and collective resilience in an era of escalating climate and disaster crises.

Conference Venue and Dates

We are intentionally hosting this conference just after CBD COP17 and before UNFCCC COP31 because the climate crisis and the disaster crisis cannot be separated and neither can the movements working to address them. We want to bridge the gaps between those working on disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action, climate justice, environmental and biodiversity protection, and feminist movements

So, if you are planning to attend COP17 and/or COP31, we warmly invite you to make a stop in Istanbul and join us.

Conference City: Istanbul, Türkiye

Dates: 5 - 7 November (2.5 Days - you can catch a evening flight on 7th to Antalya)

The conference will create space to understand emerging global trends and the state of disasters around the world, while learning from one another and deepening our collective political analysis. Participants will engage in strategic discussions, including around:

- The Sendai Framework and the Gender Action Plan
- Disaster risk reduction and climate finance
- Prevention, preparedness and early action
- DRR data and feminist research methodologies
- Early warning systems and early action
- Risk-informed development
- Loss and damage and the Santiago Network
- Disasters, natural resources, biodiversity, and the environment
- Feminist approaches to disaster prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and resilience

And, importantly, we will make enough time to find collective answers to “What next?” How do we engage, organize, influence policy and how do we move resources to the communities and movements leading change.

We will strategize collectively around:

- Influencing the “protection of people rights in event of disaster’ convention process

- National and local DRR governance engagement
- Resource mobilization and feminist financing
- Tracking implementation of Sendai GAP and strengthening accountability
- Building stronger links between DRR, climate, humanitarian, biodiversity, and environmental justice movements
- Media, communications, and narrative strategies
- Strengthening feminist leadership and collective action

Opportunity to share

If you or your organization holds knowledge, experience, research, tools, practices, or stories that could contribute to this collective learning and strategizing, we warmly invite you to express your interest in hosting a **teach-in or knowledge conversation** during the conference. We want this to be a space where expertise is not held by a few, but shared generously across movements and where the knowledge of communities, practitioners, researchers, and feminist organizers is valued equally as part of building our collective power.

A reality check. Invitation grounded in solidarity

We know that participation in global spaces is deeply unequal. We would truly love to fund the participation of everyone who should be in this room. However, the intersection of feminism, women's rights and disaster risk reduction remains severely underfunded, and our resources for participation are unfortunately limited. For this reason, we kindly ask that you register fully aware that this is a 'self-funding' conference. This is not a reflection of who we believe should be included. On the contrary, it reflects the very inequities that we are coming together to challenge.

Our vision is a world where those most affected by disasters are not simply consulted after decisions are made, but are at the center of shaping them. A world where care is recognized as infrastructure, prevention is valued over response, resources follow vulnerability, and feminist leadership is recognized as essential to building safer, more just, and more resilient societies.

We hope you will join us in making that vision possible.

In solidarity,

The Organizing Committee: Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), ActionAid, UNDRR, UN Women, Oxfam Türkiye, AWID, HUDOTO Law Nature and Society Foundation, Shifting the Power Coalition, Duryog Nivaran
On behalf of the Women and Gender Stakeholder Group (WGSG) of the UNDRR