

Paper:

# How Does the Central Government Make a Remark in the International Arena of Disaster Risk Reduction? Focusing on the Frequency of Statement Publication at the UN Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

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This study aims to clarify the attitudes of each member state on disaster risk reduction (DRR), and the issues that need to be addressed in the international arena of DRR, to move forward with the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR). To this end, we focused on the last three United Nations meetings of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) after the agreement on the SFDRR and analyzed the frequency of publication of official statements by each member state. In addition, the status of these official statements was analyzed in terms of the actual geographical distribution of disaster risk. We clarified that (1) the GPDRR is not necessarily aware of the situation and opinions of all member states; (2) the trends between the frequency of official statement publication and the actual amount of risk are not always closely related; (3) the member states in the Asian and Pacific Ocean region were more active in presenting official statements than those of other continents; in other words, the attitudes of Caribbean, Eastern Europe, and some African member states, which also have high disaster risks, were shared less frequently in the international arena; (4) some least-developed member states are actively making official statements and expressing their intentions despite the limited human and financial resources. The results of this study would be helpful for member states that have not yet made official statements in the past GPDRR to advance their official statement publication and situations in the international arena.

**Keywords:** Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, global governance, spatial analysis, international studies, sustainability

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. The Role of the United Nations in Global Issues

As the world's most major and comprehensive global organization, the United Nations (UN) has become the foremost forum to address issues that transcend national boundaries and could not be resolved by any one member state acting alone [1].

The UN system includes specialized agencies and treaty secretariats to address various global issues, including poverty, human rights violations, climate change, conflicts, biodiversity conservation, and desertification. Additionally, it provides forums for country representatives and stakeholders to discuss concerns, such as the Conference of Parties (COP).

### 1.2. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR)

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) has a history of discussion and action in the UN. At the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (UNWCDRR) held in March 2015 in Sendai City, Japan, 187 UN member states adopted a new framework referred to as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (SFDRR) [2]. All signatories are obligated to achieve the seven global targets of the SFDRR introduced at the conference [3].

The SFDRR was created as a successor to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). Unlike previous frameworks, this was the first international framework in the field of DRR to set specific numerical targets. Disability-accessible and disability-inclusive environments were also newly incorporated as explicit recommendations in the SFDRR [4]. The SFDRR is important not only for the DRR field but also for every field in the 2030 Agenda. This progress is reflected in some targets and indicators (1.5, 11.5, 11.b, and 13.1) of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established in the same year [5].





**Fig. 1.** Speaking session of the official statements by the member states, representatives of stakeholder groups, and international or regional organizations in the GPDRR 2022.

### 1.3. Status of the GPDRR as the Global Political Arena and Governments' Official Statements

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) is a multi-stakeholder forum established by the UN General Assembly to review progress and share knowledge on ways to reduce disaster risk. It is organized and convened every two years by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) [6]. The main attendees are national policymakers, practitioners, and other stakeholders meeting to exchange their experiences in DRR and access information on how other member states addressed particular challenges in the implementation of SFDRR [7]. Thus, the UN General Assembly recognizes the GPDRR as a critical mechanism for reviewing progress in implementing the SFDRR. Through this platform, governments, various UN departments, and all stakeholders collaborate to identify ways to further accelerate the implementation of the SFDRR. Since the conclusion of the SFDRR, the GPDRR has been held in Mexico, Switzerland, and Indonesia in 2017, 2019, and 2022, respectively. This meeting is generally held in Geneva, with five of the seven meetings having been held in Switzerland since 2007.

Member states issue and share official statements in every GPDRR (**Fig. 1**). These official statements are prepared by the ministry or national office responsible for DRR in each member state. It is the responsibility of the central government to publish it in the GPDRR, and the prime minister, competent minister, or other policymaker speaks on behalf of the member state. While presenting an official statement is voluntary, it is recognized as an important opportunity for member states to share the sta-

tus of DRR within them and their progress toward the implementation of the SFDRR with the world. The content of the official statement includes acknowledgments to the host country, the host city, and the UN; a description of the types of risks the country faces; a description of recent disasters and damage (number of deaths and displaced persons, number of livestock affected, etc.); a description of the natural environment and the political, social, and economic background of the damages; their efforts, achievements, and strategies of DRR; and the challenges they are facing. In some cases, such as for developed member states, the official statement may also describe technical and financial assistance to the UN system, multilateral systems, and developing member states.

Therefore, the official statement's publication and its contents can be considered a proxy for participating member states' attitudes on DRR [3]. In addition, information shared in the GPDRR—including official statements—is essential for stakeholders to understand and share the current situation of DRR worldwide. In other words, official statements are an important analytical target for understanding the status of discussions in the GPDRR as the most representative international arena in the DRR field.

### 1.4. Objectives

Sasaki conducted an advanced study that attempted to identify trends in governments' decision-making and the implementation of DRR by analyzing the trends of key terms and processes of developing the official statements made through international negotiations in the Asia-Pacific region [3].

The analysis of textual content provides a detailed understanding of the attitudes of member states that were proactive in releasing the official statement; however, it may overlook the fact that some member states did not release their official statements and that their voices might not have been heard. In other words, we consider the frequency of publication of the official statements, rather than their contents, to be an indicator of differences in the member states' attitudes toward the GPDRR. Thus, it is necessary to understand the status of all member states, including those that did not issue official statements.

Based on the above, the objectives of this study were as follows:

- i. To reassess each member state's attitudes, which are not necessarily noted, by analyzing the change in the frequency of official statements published in GPDRR over the last 5 years (2017–2022).
- ii. To compare the status of official statements with the actual geographical distribution of disaster risks and examine the nature of discussions in the international arena.

The main sources of the analyses in this study were the three meetings of the GPDRR (2017–2022) held after the SFDRR agreement. Our hypothesis is that official publications are an indicator of each member state's willingness to progress in DRR. In Sections 3 and 4, our analyses

suggest that the frequency of publication helps understand the progress status of SFDRR and the factors and mechanisms that may hinder or advance DRR.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1. Aggregation and Visualization of the Official Statement Publication Status by Member States

A dedicated website was launched at each meeting of the GPDRR [6, 8, 9]. The official statements presented by each member state were posted on the websites for viewing. In this study, we browsed each meeting website for 2017, 2019, and 2022 and tabulated the member states whose official statements were posted. In addition, the number of presentations by member states at the three meetings was represented on a map using a geographic information system (GIS) to understand the regional characteristics.

### 2.2. Comparison with Disaster Risks and the Official Statement Publication

We grasped the distribution area of the hazard magnitude, mortality risk, and economic loss risk of typical disasters (floods, landslides, droughts, typhoons and hurricanes, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions) using global natural disaster hotspot data. These were obtained from the NASA Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC) website [10]. These open data developed by Columbia University Center for Hazards and Risk Research, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and Columbia University Center for International Earth Science Information Network. In particular, two raster datasets were used: Global Multihazard Total Economic Loss Risk Deciles, v1 (2000) and Global Multihazard Mortality Risks and Distribution, v1 (2000). Both datasets were reclassified at no data, low risk (4 or less), medium risk (5 to 7), and high risk (8 or more) according to the recommendation and then overlaid to attempt mapping for each combination type in GIS. When assessing disaster risk, we also reviewed spatial information on each hazard scale and disaster risk [10] as well as the future impact of climate change on food and agricultural production published by the World Bank [11].

Furthermore, we examined the spatial relationship between the official statement publications and disaster risks and the issues they suggest.

## 3. The Statement Publication Status by Member States

### 3.1. Number of Published Official Statements by Member States

The total number of official statements in the last three GPDRR meetings of 2017, 2019, and 2022 was 106, 94,

and 52, respectively. The percentages of these publication numbers with respect to all UN member states (193) plus Palestine, Cook Islands, and the Holy See are 54%, 48%, and 27%, respectively. Aggregation and comparison of the previous three meeting situations revealed a conspicuous downward trend in the number of member states issuing official statements. Additionally, 40 member states published official statements at all three meetings, while 67 member states have never published official statements. This implies that the GPDRR is not necessarily aware of the situations and opinions of all member states.

The 40 member states that published official statements in all three meetings were Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Japan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, the People's Republic of China, Peru, the Philippines, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Turkey, and the United States.

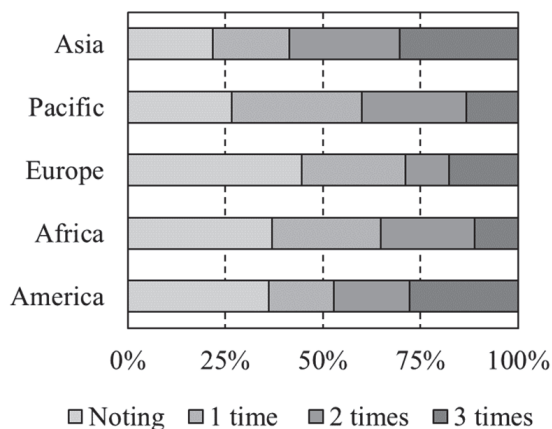
### 3.2. Published Official Statements by Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

We examined the frequency of submissions made by the members classified as Least Developed Countries (LDCs), which are low-income member states confronting severe impediments to sustainable development. LDCs are reviewed every three years by the UN Committee for Development Policy based on human, economic, and environmental vulnerability indexes [12]. As of June 2017, LDCs member states were 48. If we count the members of LDCs that published official statements more than twice, these are more than 30% of the total LDCs. Seven of the above 40 member states that published official statements globally at all three meetings—Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Nepal, South Sudan, Tanzania—and are the LDCs members. In addition to them, Afghanistan, Kiribati, Laos, Niger, Malawi, Myanmar, Uganda, and Zambia are also LDCs that have published official statements twice.

On the other hand, 42% of all member states including non-LDCs have published official statements more than twice globally; that is, the publication frequency of LDCs is over 10% lower than the global trend. This may indicate that LDCs have larger barriers to publishing official statements in GPDRR than other member states. However, from the other perspective, this means that approximately 30% of LDCs have actively shared their situation and opinions in GPDRR despite the mounting challenges and the limited human and financial resources.

### 3.3. Spatial Distribution of the Number of the Official Statement Publications

Furthermore, as shown in **Fig. 2**, a comparison by continent shows that Asia (including the Middle East and



**Fig. 2.** Ratio of member states in each continent aggregated by the number of the published official statements in the GPDRR from 2017 to 2022.

Central Asia) has the highest percentage of member states that published official statements at all three meetings. The next highest percentages are in America, Europe, Pacific, and Africa, but only Asia had more than 30% of member states issuing official statements in all three meetings.

Asia was also the only continent where the percentage of member states that had never published an official statement was the lowest (less than 25%). The percentage of member states that had never published official statements was similarly low in the Pacific region, with approximately 73% of member states having published at least one official statement. Meanwhile, more than 40% of European member states had never published an official statement.

### 3.4. Mapping and Spatial Comparison

**Figure 3** shows the number of published official statements by member states.

Distance from Geneva does not seem to have had any bearing on the number of official statement publications. Rather, neighboring member states appear to have made fewer publications than more distant member states.

The Asian region had the largest number of member states issuing official statements at a high frequency. Moreover, not only Japan, the People’s Republic of China, and the Republic of Korea, which published all three times in East Asia, but also many other member states in Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East have published official statements more than twice.

In the Pacific region, only Australia and New Zealand published official statements in all three meetings. However, other island member states were also active, with Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, and Tonga issuing official statements twice and Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu issuing them once.

A characteristic of America is the high frequency of presentations by member states in North America and the

Pacific coast of South America. In contrast, most of the Caribbean member states did not issue official statements, indicating a considerable difference with the Pacific islands.

Africa shows no clear trend in the distribution of member states with a high number of published official statements and those with a low number of published official statements. However, a few member states in the East, such as Ethiopia, Madagascar, South Sudan, and Tanzania, have published numerous official statements.

In Europe, member states with few published official statements are concentrated in Eastern and Southern Europe. While Nordic Norway, Sweden, and Finland published official statements every time, none of the Eastern European member states published all three times. Baltic states have never published official statements. Taking another regional view of Europe and Africa, many Mediterranean member states have published no official statements or only a few.

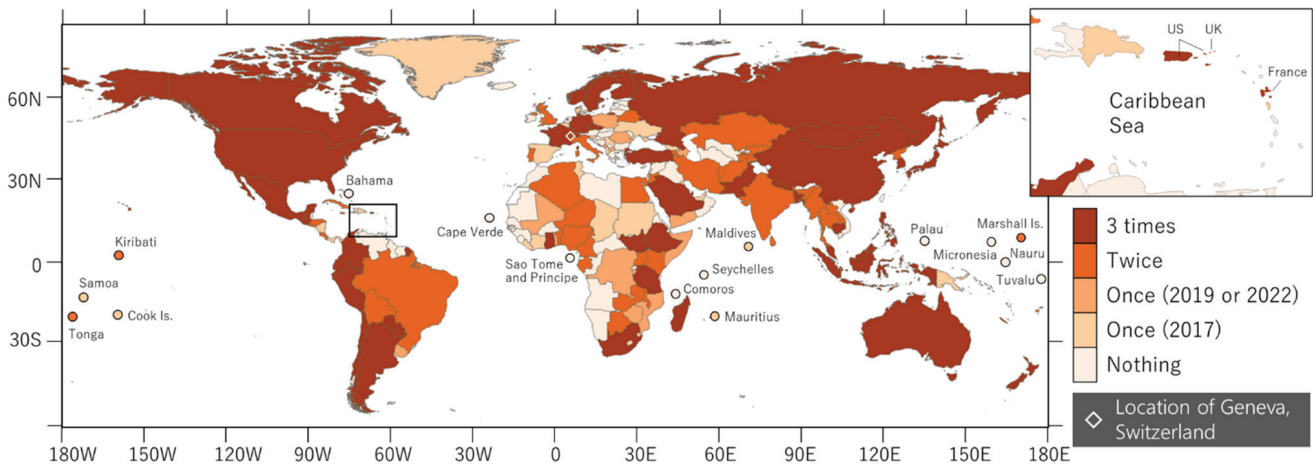
## 4. Relationship Between Disaster Risks and the Statement Publications

This study also discusses the relationships between the distribution area of the number of published official statements and the overall disaster risk by country (**Fig. 4**).

The general trend is that many of the member states publishing official statements face a high risk of natural hazards. Examples include the Pacific coast of South America, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, and Turkey, which is at high risk for large earthquakes and tsunamis caused by plate boundaries; Madagascar, with high economic and human risks of multi-hazard as shown in **Fig. 4**; and Bangladesh and the Philippines, which are affected by tropical cyclones and seasonal monsoons.

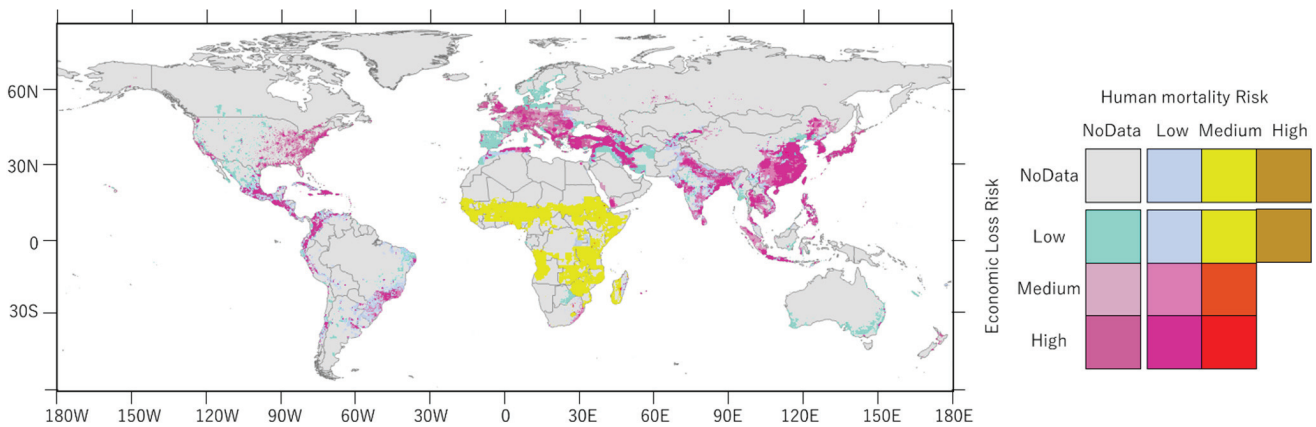
Asia has many plate boundaries (Eurasian, Arabian, Indian, Pacific, Australian, the Philippine Sea, North American, and some micro plates) and diverse climatic environments. South to East Asia is at risk of heavy rainfall by summer monsoons and typhoons, while West Asia and inland areas are at high risk of drought because of the dry climate. In addition, Japan has been providing the largest amount of international aid to the world in the field of DRR. The amount of Japanese aid surpassed that of the World Bank [13]; in particular, Japan has long been committed to assisting East, Southeast, and South Asian member states. When we look at the total monetary aids for DRR in the world, excluding multilateral development banks, Japanese aid accounts for 64% of the total financing for DRR in the world [13]. It is estimated the percentage would be greater if the focus were on only Asia. Thus, high DRR funding by Japan in Asia may explain why Asian member states are actively participating and expressing their opinions in GPDRR.

On the one hand, it is interesting to note that the trend between the frequency of official statement publication and the actual degree of risk is not always of one accord; this highlights the reality that the situation and opinions of



Overseas territories, home rule states, and exclaves are colored as the same color of the home member states (e.g., Puerto Rico, French Guiana, Greenland, Faroe Islands, British and US Virgin Islands). The white territories indicate the location of non-UN member states except for Palestine, Cook Islands, and Holy See, as well as areas experiencing territorial disputes.

**Fig. 3.** Spatial distribution of the number of published official statements in the GPDRR from 2017 to 2022.



**Fig. 4.** Spatial distribution and types of the multi-disaster risks.

high-risk regions are not always shared in GPDRR. Examples include Sahel and Sub-Saharan African member states, which are considered to be at high risk of human mortality, as well as the Caribbean and Eastern European member states, which are at relatively high risk of economic loss (**Fig. 4**).

As aforementioned, the Caribbean region has multi-hazard risks such as hurricanes, flooding, earthquakes, and tsunamis. In particular, the geoscience field has focused on the risks of earthquakes and tsunamis over the past 30 years [14]. However, most Caribbean member states have not submitted official statements in the past three meetings. These states include Haiti, which experienced large earthquakes in 2010 and 2021, as well as island member states that have been damaged by frequent hurricanes in the past.

The member states of the Balkan Peninsula are prone to various disasters, including floods, earthquakes, landslides, droughts, extreme temperatures, windstorms, and heavy snowfall. Balkan member states are particularly vulnerable to earthquakes, floods, droughts, and landslides, which have continuously resulted in human fatali-

ties since the 2000s. The major hazard types have differed in the sub-divided member states after independence, and the numbers of deaths and trends in economic damage also show large variations [15]. Thus, it is important to involve more member states in the discussion to ensure greater representation for the region.

Mortality risk due to disasters in African Continent is strikingly high (**Fig. 4**). In Western Africa, the West Africa Disaster Preparedness Initiative (WADPI) supports the global targets highlighted in the SFDRR. In particular, it aims to substantially increase member states with national and local DRR policies by the year 2020 and enhance international cooperation with the developing member states globally [16]. However, despite the above goals, many member states still publish official statements infrequently, as pointed out in Section 3.3. Only Ghana, one of the leaders of the WADPI effort, published official statements all three times in GPDRR.

In addition, funding and development assistance for DRR for Sub-Saharan African member states, which are affected by drought, is very low [13]. The low submission frequency of Sub-Saharan African member states and the

**Table 1.** A matrix showing the relationship between the frequency of official statement publication and disaster risk by region.

	Frequently publish official statements	Sometimes publish official statements	Rarely publish official statements
High multi-disaster risk	Asia Pacific coast of Southern America Mexico	Pacific Islands Eastern Africa	Caribbean Islands Other Africa Vietnam, Bhutan, Iraq, Syria
Medium multi-disaster risk	Northern America (Canada and US)	Western Europe Other America	Eastern Europe
Low multi-disaster risk	Northern Europe (Norway, Sweden, Finland) Pacific (Australia, New Zealand) Russian Federation		Other Northern Europe (e.g., Baltic states, Iceland)

lack of sharing their actual risks in GPDRR may be attributed to the low investment figures. Furthermore, a comparison of the degree of adverse effects on agriculture expected from climate change and that of death from disasters in Africa shows that states such as Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Namibia are expected to be especially affected due to meteorological disasters. However, these member states have not made any official statements; thus, the severity of disaster risks and the number of official statement submission are not necessarily related.

Academic circles and the global political arena have increasingly recognized the need to integrate DRR and climate change adaptation [17, 18]. However, the results show that member states expected to be significantly affected—particularly those in Africa and Central America, including the Caribbean islands—have yet to express their attitudes more proactively.

Cases of low official submission are also found in two member states in South and Southeast Asian region: Vietnam and Bhutan. Vietnam is severely affected by typhoons; in particular, the Mekong Delta is one of the areas subjected to high economic disaster risk and medium or higher human disaster risk in the world (Fig. 4). Bhutan is exposed to risks such as floods, landslides, earthquakes, forest fires, and glacial lake outburst floods. These two member states have not published official statements, and their response differs significantly from that of their neighboring member states (Fig. 4).

Turkey, which suffered from large earthquakes many times such as in 1976, 1999, and February 2023, was one of the most active member states in expressing its opinion in the GPDRR until 2022. This is a substantial difference from Syria, which has suffered similarly severe damage [19]. Conflict and terrorism have also played a major role, as with Iraq. In contrast, the Afghanistan and Palestine governments seem to be more active in expressing their opinions in the GPDRR.

In Fig. 4, the Northern Asian steppe areas, such as Mongolia and Kazakhstan, are represented as areas with relatively low disaster risk. However, these regions are not risk-free as they are subject to local multi-disaster risks, such as cold waves, heavy snow, water shortage by less snow, drought, and grass losses by the overgrazing, which

are collectively called *Dzud* in the Mongolian language (or *Jut* in Kazakh language) and mass mortality of livestock [20]. In Mongolia, climate change is expected to negatively impact agricultural production [11], making it important to address weather-related disasters and respect the nomadic lives in harmony with the ecosystem within the carrying capacity. This may be one reason both member states are working to release official statements on a regular basis. It is also noteworthy that their local attitudes are shared in the GPDRR. As a focal point, further dialogue with stakeholders is still required because the support of national governments and international organizations to the residents have room for improvement [20].

Like Northern Asian steppe areas, Greenland (a part of Denmark) and Iceland in Northern Europe are classified as low-risk areas (Fig. 4) and have experience of local characteristic disasters. In Greenland, a massive landslide in a fjord triggered a tsunami in 2017, causing substantial damage to nearby fishing villages, including casualties. The height of the waves reached 100 meters [21]. Floods caused by glacier outbursts are common in Iceland and are called by the Icelandic word *Jökulhlaup* [22]. In some cases, *Jökulhlaups* are affected by volcanic activity and geothermal heat. What is different from Mongolia is that these member states have had never published official statements, or they have only published a few. However, they may be exposed to greater risks in the future due to climate change. In addition, their experiences and knowledge could be a reference for member states around the world where mountain glaciers are distributed and affected by climate change. Therefore, the publication of official statements could play a role in sharing such information.

The discussions presented in Sections 3 and 4 can be summarized as shown in Table 1. An important aspect of this matrix is that it clearly shows that the frequency of official statement publication is low in some high or medium multi-disaster risk regions.

## 5. Conclusions

The study revealed the following points:

- Aggregating and comparing the previous three meeting situations revealed a conspicuous downward trend in the number of member states publishing official statements from 2017 to 2022.
- Forty member states published official statements at all three meetings, while 67 member states have never published official statements. Thus, the international arena in DRR is not necessarily aware of the situation and opinions of all member states.
- The trends between the frequency of official statement publication and the actual amount of risk are not always closely related.
- The member states in the Asian and Pacific Ocean region were more active in presenting official statements than those of other continents; in other words, the attitudes of the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean, and some Sub-Saharan African member states were shared less frequently in the international arena. Many members of the states in these less frequently published regions also have high disaster risks.
- Some least-developed member states are actively making official statements and expressing their intentions despite the limited human and financial resources. This fact may be helpful for member states that have not yet made official statements in the past three GPDRR to advance their attitudes and situations in the international arena.

The drastic decline in the number of member states publishing official statements indicates that the GPDRR may not be playing a sufficient role as a forum for member states to share the efforts and issues of other member states. Therefore, international organizations and experts leading the DRR need to encourage member states to publish official statements as the first step to achieving the original objectives of the GPDRR and making it more functional. Two findings of the study may be useful in help improving the cases of low submission of official statement. First, it would be effective to focus on the regions of low submission rate indicated in this study. Second, the experiences and findings of LDCs, which are proactive in official statement publication, may be helpful in encouraging the member states that have difficulty in publishing official statements due to their economic situation.

Future research is needed to further analyze the number of delegations, content, and changes in content to clarify each member state's intentions and issues in a spatiotemporal manner. In addition, by comparing the proactiveness of each member state in different frameworks (e.g., the COP of climate change, desertification, and biodiversity), it is possible to clarify a member state's position in the field of DRR.

Furthermore, a detailed analysis of the relationship among GDP values, political system type, civic awareness, and progress on each of the various SDG indicators

would allow for deeper consideration of the background of the official statement release. It is also significant to go into the content of the official statements and compare them by region and member states. At that time, a comparison between the official statements of each member state and the interest of academia in evaluating the SFDRR [16] should also be pursued. These issues should be addressed in future research.

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2022- Assistant Professor, Tohoku University  
2023- Lecturer (part-time), Tohoku Gakuin University

**Selected Publications:**

- Y. Hara, "Restoration of the distribution of pit-type yaodong dwellings in the 1970s using US military reconnaissance satellite images in Luoyang Basin, China," *J. of Arid Land Studies*, Vol.32, Special issue, pp. 253-257, 2022.
- Y. Hara, S. Asano, and I. Saizen, "Competitive edge of riverbank villages and problems of hilly villages in the rural Loess Plateau of China," *Geographical Review of Japan*, Vol.90, No.4, pp. 363-375, 2017.

**Academic Societies & Scientific Organizations:**

- The Association of Japanese Geographers (AJG)
- The Association of Rural Planning (ARP)
- Geographic Information System Association (GISA)
- The Japanese Association for Arid Land Studies (JAALS)
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2017- Assistant Professor, Tohoku University  
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**Selected Publications:**

- D. Sasaki, Y. Jibiki, and T. Ohkura, "Tourists' Behavior for Volcanic Disaster Risk Reduction: A Case Study of Mount Aso in Japan," *Int. J. of Disaster Risk Reduction*, Vol.78, 103142, 2022.
- D. Sasaki, H. Sofyan, N. R. Sasmita, M. Affan, and N. Nizamuddin, "Assessing the Intermediate Function of Local Academic Institutions During the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Aceh, Indonesia," *J. Disaster Res.*, Vol.16, No.8, pp. 1265-1273, 2021.
- D. Sasaki, K. Moriyama, and Y. Ono, "Main Features of the Existing Literature Concerning Disaster Statistics," *Int. J. of Disaster Risk Reduction*, Vol.43, 101382, 2020.
- D. Sasaki, "Analysis of the Attitude Within Asia-Pacific Countries Towards Disaster Risk Reduction: Text Mining of the Official Statements of 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction," *J. Disaster Res.*, Vol.14, No.8, pp. 1024-1029, 2019.

**Academic Societies & Scientific Organizations:**

- The Japan Society for International Development (JASID)
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2003-2009 Senior Programme Officer, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)  
2009-2012 Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction Section, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP in Bangkok)  
2012- Professor, Tohoku University  
2023- Deputy Director, IRIDeS, Tohoku University

**Selected Publications:**

- Y. Ono and M. Nagaishi, "National disaster databases," Disaster risk reduction for economic growth and livelihood investing in resilience and development, Japan Int. Cooperation Agency Research Institute (JICA, Tokyo), pp. 241-258, 2015.
- Y. Ono and T. W. Schmidlin, "Design and adoption of household tornado shelters for Bangladesh," Natural Hazards, Vol.56, Issue 1, pp. 321-330, 2011.

**Academic Societies & Scientific Organizations:**

- The Association of Japanese Geographers (AJG)
- The American Association of Geographers (AAG)
- Japan Association for Wind Engineering (JAWE)
- Institute of Social Safety Science (ISSS)

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