**Input from the Indigenous Peoples Major Groups to the Zero Draft of the Outcome document of the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction**

**Geneva, November 17, 2014**

Delivered by Galina Angarova, IPMG

Dear Co-chairs, member states, UN agencies, major groups and other stakeholders

I present on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group and Tebtebba, an indigenous peoples' global policy, research, education and resource center. I would like to congratulate you on your work and thank you and the UNIDSR for conductive an open, transparent and all inclusive process with engagement of all stakeholders. Indigenous Peoples are glad to be included in the dialogue especially considering the fact that Indigenous Peoples is one of the most vulnerable groups affected by impacts of climate change and natural and human-induced disasters. I am coming from a meeting of the Global Indigenous Caucus that has given me a mandate to express our views on the zero draft.

At the outset, the Indigenous Peoples Major Group would like to again draw your attention to the recent study done by the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples presented in September at the Human Rights Council on “Promotion and Protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples in disaster risk reduction, prevention and preparedness initiatives” which contains all key elements of DRR in relation to Indigenous Peoples.

Regarding the Zero draft, again, we would like to thank the co-chairs and members states for your work as we are very glad to see inclusion of specific references to Indigenous Peoples throughout the document. Specifically:

1. In the Preamble, paragraph 6, where Indigenous Peoples are mentioned along with other stakeholders - women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, volunteers, the community of practitioners, and older persons. However, we are also asking to include a specific reference to IPs in section 28 h) along with older persons, persons with disabilities, displaced persons, and migrants.
2. We also welcome a reference to IPs in Section D, **Priorities for action, under paragraph** 25 g) (Empower, through regulatory and financial means, local action and leadership in disaster risk management by local authorities, communities and indigenous people). However, since the adoption of the UNDRIP in 2007, “indigenous peoples” is the appropriate and acceptable UN term. I have already requested the change during the consultations in September, it is quite a sensitive issue for Indigenous Peoples, and I am kindly asking again to change to “indigenous peoples” to maintain consistency.
3. We are also glad to see the inclusion on Indigenous Peoples in Section E, Role of Stakeholders under paragraph 34 v) ( Indigenous peoples through their experience and traditional knowledge provide an important contribution to the development and implementation of plans and mechanisms, including for early warning).
4. Finally, we commend the inclusion of a specific reference to indigenous traditional knowledge in the Guiding Principles, section C, under paragraph 15h) ( Disaster risk reduction requires transparent risk-informed decision-making based on open and gender-specific/sex/age/disability-disaggregated data, and freely available, accessible, up-to-date, easy-to-understand, science-based, non-sensitive risk information complemented by local, traditional and indigenous knowledge, as relevant). In the same paragraph, it mentions the necessity of gender-specific/sex/age/disability-disaggregated data data, however, we would like to see the inclusion of **“ethnicity”** as one of the major component for data disaggregation.
5. Additionally, we are happy to see yet another reference to traditional knowledge and an aspiration to link it to scientific knowledge in 22 f) (Ensure the use of traditional and local knowledge to complement, as relevant and appropriate, scientific knowledge in disaster risk assessment and the development and implementation of policies, plans and programs) and 34 v) (Indigenous peoples through their experience and traditional knowledge provide an important contribution to the development and implementation of plans and mechanisms, including for early warning).

1. Finally, we are happy to see, that unlike in other processes including SDGs/Post-2015, culture and cultural resilience in the DRR are given a priority, which directly relates to the priorities of Indigenous Peoples. References to culture and cultural resilience are found throughout the document and specifically, in the paragraphs 10, 12, 15 e, 19, 27, 28 c, and 31b.

Recommendations to improve the document:

1. We would like to support other major groups in the call that the document should be **people-centered and human rights-based**. Marginalized groups, including indigenous peoples, have a right to participate, contribute and benefit from disaster risk reduction. The issue is very close to the hearts of indigenous peoples because they live in the most fragile ecosystems in the world and are most vulnerable to discrimination and marginalization as far as most Government disaster risk reduction programs were concerned.
2. Further on participation in decision-making, one of the main concerns and issues faced by Indigenous Peoples in all UN processes is the lack of **participation in decision-making** and lack of recognition of community-driven initiatives. Recognizing that the zero draft of the outcome document addresses the issues of participation and recognizes IPs as one of the stakeholders, we urge that national and local governments follow the suit and include IPs in matters that affect them and therefore recognize a vital role of indigenous peoples and welcome inclusivity and consultations with IPs in all stages of the development and formulation of targets, indicators and national policies for DRR and actively engage in disaster risk reduction, prevention and preparedness initiatives on local and national levels, including **provisions of material and financial support** for affected communities of Indigenous Peoples.
3. Related to the previous issue, and we wish to underline the centrality of **Free Prior and Informed Consent** which is of fundamental importance to Indigenous Peoples' participation in decision-making and establishes a framework for all consultations relating to projects affecting IPs, including in the area of DRR. It is the duty of States to obtain FPIC though genuine consultations and participation prior to any decision that would directly or indirectly affect indigenous peoples. Therefore, we are asking to include specific language on FPIC in the document.
4. The IPMG would like to point that the document is weak on linking with other relevant processes and asks to include a stronger language on cross-referencing with **SDGs, Post-2015 development agenda and UNFCCC as well as the process on FfD**. Much of the zero draft document for WCDRR is dedicated to building resilience, however, resilience is not possible without the necessary prerequisites such as **social protection measures** including poverty eradication, education, health care, child care and etc., which can be addressed within the context of SDGs. Therefore, it is important yet again to make strong linkages and insert relevant targets and indicators within SDGs.
5. One of the major concerns is that the document is also weak on **implementation**. The outcome document should not just be an aspirational but ambitious and **action-orientated**. It should include specific and proactive language on implementation and link with the goal 17 of the SDGs on Means of Implementation. It is believed that goal 17 of SDGs will be open for negotiation in January 2015 and we collectively need to have a strategy for inclusion of action-oriented targets and indicators within means of implementation of SDGs.
6. Finally, we are asking to give a special recognition to IPs in the **systems of early warning**. Over millenia, IPs have learned to read signs from the natural environment to predict natural disasters. These local, experiential, “early warning” systems are frequently credited with saving lives and property. Therefore, we are asking national and local governments to include targeted support for the communities of IPs to have quick and direct access to local and national early warning systems.

Thank you,

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