

## **Business and Industry Major Group Oral Statement for 9 October 2014**

I represent the Business and Industry Major Group and the UNISDR private sector group.

Over the last few weeks, our Major Group has actively participated in all three Open-Ended Informal Consultations to date, as well as in the Consultative Session with Major Groups and Member States. Throughout the duration of this process, we have reached out to all members of our Group for input on the Co-Chairs' Pre-Zero Draft, and have submitted a number of detailed Private Sector Position Papers for each Session. For today's final Informal Consultation, we would like to provide a summary of our key recommendations.

### **i. Structure and General Views, and Sections A, B, and C - 9 September**

For the sections on Structure, General Views, A, B and C, the private sector's main recommendation is to bring back the urgency and the insistence to engage the private sector, which was evident in the SRSB's 'Suggested Elements' and during the consultations. We ask for explicit statements on the need for active collaboration between governments and the private sector, because we believe that every area of DRR requires a strong public-private partnership. The private sector is able to make an important contribution to resilience if governments provide the right regulations and long-term incentives, are willing to actively collaborate with us, and display robust leadership. We strongly recommend that the new framework advocates for Member States to discuss DRR in wider circles, beyond the established sphere of DRR practitioners and policy-makers, in order to mainstream DRR into the very fabric of economic decisions.

### **ii. Section D - 18 September**

Building on the first session, our subsequent input for the 18<sup>th</sup> of September described how the new framework might give, in Section D, 1) more explicit encouragement for active collaboration between governments and stakeholders, particularly the private sector; and 2) wording that compels governments to create an enabling regulatory and policy environment for private sector investment, namely in the three areas of the built environment, financial regulation, and corporate reporting and transparency. We note that the new framework should build on existing efforts and resources. We explicitly encourage the adoption of internationally proven methods to local conditions, such as the LG-SAT and the City Resilience Scorecard developed in the past decade under HFA, as to not "reinvent the wheel". Finally, we ask the Co-Chairs to consider and support a new concept, "Build Better from the Start", in addition to "Build Back Better", in the context of DRR and the Built Environment.

### **iii. Section D Continued - 2 October**

Based on a recommendation by Co-Chair Ambassador Kairamo, our input on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October discussed how our suggestions to the framework would lead to action by DRR practitioners on the ground. We want to build a future under the new framework where:

- 1) strong public-private partnerships drive DRR and resilience at the local and national level;
- 2) resilience in the built environment is driven by both the public sector raising minimum standards, and the private sector voluntarily working towards optimum standards;
- 3) all financial investment decisions, public and private, are risk-sensitive;
- 4) everyone, including the public and businesses, behave in a resilience-sensitive way and create a positive cycle of reinforcement;
- 5) the identification, disclosure and proactive management of risks carried by companies and public sector entities, is standard practice.

We demonstrate, through this exercise, that certain government actions are fundamental for the above visions, such as multi-stakeholder engagement at global, national, and local levels; a favourable policy environment combined with a seriousness of intent shown by governments towards DRR and resilience that encourages stakeholders to take further action themselves; and the baseline need for risk data, information and metrics. We reiterate our invitation to governments to take a close look at our detailed position papers, which we intend not as a list of demands, but as a guidance to governments to understand what private sector engagement entails.

**iv. Sections D (continued), E and F, and Other Issues - 9 October**

In terms of today's new sections under discussion, E and F, we support the strong mention of the role of UNISDR, and reiterate our suggestion that a description of the new proposed system of indicators, including the use of both public and private sector indicators, is specifically mentioned in the framework, perhaps in these sections.

In closing, we wish to report how useful and stimulating these sessions were to us as a stakeholder group. In addition to motivating many members from diverse geographical locations and industry sectors to submit their working examples, it has also focused our internal discussions on what we may and must do, as a group, to catalyse private sector action, gain wider private sector buy-in, how we may collaborate with other Major Groups, and identify the areas in which we can envision a concrete way forward and commit to voluntary action by the World Conference and beyond. I end this statement with thanks to the Co-Chairs for their initiative and our hope that we may be called upon to contribute as meaningfully in future discussions.