



UN Major Group for **Children and Youth** childrenyouth.org

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Geneva Switzerland

STATEMENT

United Nation Major Group for Children & Youth **Second Open-ended Informal Consultation with Major Groups;** *Priorities for Action of the Pre Zero Draft of the Post 2015 DRR Framework*

We welcome the Pre-Zero Draft of the Post 2015 DRR Framework and in line with the more inclusive language of the draft, welcome the open ended informal consultations with stakeholders including major groups.

In terms of the priorities for action, we would like to applaud the Bureau for already capturing the following points:

- We specifically welcome recognition of the needs and rights of vulnerable groups and youths as well as their inclusion in decision making, planning and implementation.
- We are pleased to see reference to disaggregation by sex, age and disability, as evidence shows that different groups face different risks depending on their vulnerability, capacity and exposure.
- We note the recognition of the role that strengthened governance and basic social services, including health, education and food security have in addressing underlying issues and reducing risk.
- We would like to reiterate the reference to all aspects of school safety – safe school structures, school preparedness and teaching and learning – as foundational aspects to strengthen resilience to not only disasters but to wider shocks and stress. This is in line with the priorities identified by 600 children from 21 countries in 2011 when they launched the Children’s Charter on DRR.

In terms of further strengthening the priorities for action, we would request the Bureau to consider the following:

General Comments

- We would like to see explicit reference to protection of people and social service by strengthen the linkages between DRR, social protection, ecosystems management and thereby assure social, economic and environmental resilience. Special attention is needed for women, girls and boys, from violence and abuse, resulting from disaster events (or as a driver of vulnerability and risk).
- While recognizing that the priorities for action do not yet include specific metrics, we as a group stand ready to provide suggestions such as: ‘States must ensure that no child or youth dies due to disaster in a school built/modified after 2015 and school days missed as a result of shock or stress are reduced by 50%’.



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- Assure adequate support and actions to meet the need of capacity development for national staff as well as young professionals working in DRR related sectors, in order to sufficiently provide basic social services such as health care and education.
- Assure that the Post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction develop its scope in order to address all disasters, including biological and conflict. The last year man-made disasters resulted in larger amount of human injuries than all the natural disasters together, which stress the cruciality to enhance actions to link disaster risk reduction with measures to strengthen peace and implementation of international health regulations, and thereby take necessary actions to prevent and prepare for biological and man-made disasters.

Understanding Disaster Risk

- While supporting UNISDR campaigns (18.B), we would recommend multi-stakeholder inclusion in the conceptualization, design and implementation of these campaigns.
- In understanding risk, we would suggest one additional action: children, youth, women, the aged and those living with disability are supported to meaningfully participate in DRR and development planning and implementation locally, nationally and globally.

Strengthening governance to manage disaster risk

- Recognizing the important role of national platforms and National/Local Disaster Management Authorities, we would propose greater explicit recognition that the governance of risk is a crosscutting issue which transcends all national and local government departments, policy positions and decision making.
- We support the point (15.D) that effective governance requires the participation of all stakeholders, and would propose explicit mention of including ‘the most marginalized and vulnerable groups, and youth, with representatives in DRR governance locally, nationally and globally’.
- We would not limit (15.A) strengthening of resilience to economic resilience alone; we suggest also addressing social resilience.
- To strengthen accountability (12.F/12.H), we would stress the importance of monitoring and reporting mechanisms (15.B) that foster participation of all groups.
- Additional target: All national child and youth protection legislation and policies recognise and address the sex and age disaggregated impact of disasters on children.

Preparedness for Response, Recovery and Reconstruction – “Build Back Better”

- Given the likelihood of increased levels of sexual exploitation and abuse following a disaster (and often as a driver of risk), we would suggest explicit reference to ‘strengthening existing national child and youth protection systems to be able to operate effectively in emergencies’.



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- Action by members of society should not just be promoted, they also should be supported and incentivised.
- Disaster simulation and interactive activities for children and young people are highly valuable and should be encouraged and supported.

Investing in Social, Economic and Environmental Resilience

- While noting several references (including 17.J) to ensuring development planning is informed by a risk assessment, to help promote 'safe development', we would suggest explicit mention of ensuring risk assessment capacities exist to inform the design and delivery of all basic social services, including health and education.
- While recognizing the role of social safety nets, with wider use of social protection to reduce vulnerability and exposure should be included (17.A). representing some of the most vulnerable and 50-60% of the population, children and youth should also be a focus of social protection (17.A).
- The youth and young professionals are here to show that we are not just victims, but rather we are a main part of the solution. With unique interests, needs, abilities and capacities in leading behavioural change, generating innovative ideas and being resourceful, the youth do represent a main pillar of change. To that end, we propose an additional action under the title "social, economical and environmental resilience"; "to invest in and endorse specific measures to empower, educate and develop youth to be crucial partners in managing disaster risk, leading behavioural change and creating a resilient society through building national customizes disaster risk reduction programs for youth."