Good morning chairs and distinguished guest,

I am Regina Pritchett, I coordinate the Global Community Practitioners Platform, work for the Huairou Commission and one of the four Co-chairs of the NGO major group, along with Climate Action Network, The Global Network and The Japanese CSO Coalition.

We want to commend the Co-chairs, the Bureau on the work that has been done so far to produce the zero draft.

I am going to focus this morning on only two points but want to also make sure we are reminding ourselves of the diversity and divergence in various global context:

***1) Development as a driver of risk***

***2) People Centered--and we want to deconstruct this in terms of who needs to be at the center and how***

**1. Building back better is essential, but we need to be "building better from the start"** (as stated by the Business and Industry) or **focusing on Development as not only a Driver of Risk but an opportunity to reduce and even eliminate it**.

We call on the Bureau to keep consistent with the regional consultations that call for a **proportionally greater focus on underlying drivers of risk--namely development and its role in generating new risks**. This pre zero draft heavily focuses its attention on early warning, disaster preparedness and begins to move towards addressing the role of development by specifying planning as an important sector which has a role in reducing the impacts of disaster on communities. WE AFFIRM mentions to land use policy that address the planning dimension of development (e.g. Section 15.h, 15.1, 17.i ), and social safety net that are essential to have available during emergencies. But reality shows us that formal planning governs very little land in the global south. We need to acknowledge that the informal planning, community risk mapping and subsequent community actions in high-risk communities are the dominant modality by which development is happening. We can call it informal but we should accept that it as normative. Towards this aim, we call on the strengthening of language in the document under the sections around *investing in social economic and environmental resilience* or to create a separate section on how to "Build Better from the Start":

-INCLUDE: improving building and construction standards--but this needs to account for the fact that the majority of urban development is happening in the worlds slums and is informally constructed outside the formal labor market. Specific mention needs to be made to the reality of the resource scarcity, the informality of tenure and labor relations and the spatial dimension of where development is happening. The document needs to outline the realities of rapid, often unplanned urbanization in the preamble and directly speak to addressing the need for investing in social, economic and environmental resilience building section. It should make reference that community level resilience is built (in reality) through transferring and scaling up practices through community-to-community exchanges in partnership with local authorities and facilitating NGO's. (Community Led Practice Transfer--HFA Priority 3). Additionally, addressing risks related to urbanization requires a serious investment in urban infrastructure for all residing in the city whether their degree of formality recognizes them as a resident or not.

INCLUDE: the necessity to secure the land/housing tenure security (including the access, use and control) of these and other assets. Especially recognize that slum dwellers are likely to settle on land that has a high degree of vulnerability to risks because it is available land. The risk of potential hazards may be reason to relocate people to land but should not lead to the man-made disaster of eviction without resettlement or resettlement in remote, disconnected areas that lack basic services.

INCLUDE: Community based financial mechanisms that channel resources to communities enabling them to identify local risk, learn, demonstrate and scale up resilience initiatives in relation to enhancing pro-poor, gender equitable initiatives for livelihoods, basic services and infrastructure that reduce the impacts of disaster (HFA Priority 4)

Given the resource constraints that many countries and communities are facing, the importance of community practitioners and their support NGO's should be emphasized as essential towards building resilient communities as the building blocks of resilient nations.

2. **Deconstructing "People Centered" --who is there and how are they there?**

At the heart of this discussion around an HFA that is "People Centered" is a desire to delineate roles, responsibilities and recognition.

We believe the document takes real steps in becoming people centered through naming three groups we believe have important roles in DRR:

1) local officials;

2) volunteers (e + K) of Section 14 and target groups;

3) Target groups whom are especially or uniquely impacted by disasters like women, youth, the elderly and the disabled.

**We are missing strong language around are the groups which stakehold the resilience building--community practitioners and their support/facilitating NGO's.** We aren't going to buy our way out of this problem, or regulate our way out--or even staff our way out of the problems of disaster, climate change and technical hazards. Poor people can't afford to wait on "trickle down" benefits. They are going to continue to do this work, under resourced, with their support NGO's and local authorities (the triad team of actors who have been and will localize HFA).

We wish to see them included as distinct stakeholders: ***suggested amendment to the role of stakeholders (III 23)****-- Community practitioners, those who work and live in their own community on resilience building, together with their support NGO's should be recognized and resourced for their ability to contribute to community level resilience building through their role in resilient development, disaster risk reduction, mitigation and response.*

WHAT IS IN this document that pertains to communities, is mainly references to communities as a location where resilience is built, disasters happen and mobilization takes place are mentioned in places like (g) of Section 14. We affirm the mentions to the important roles of women have and in tracking of their condition through making available gender disaggregated data.

WHAT IS NOT in the document is reference to the contributions that organized sections of civil society including networks of community practitioners and their support or facilitating NGO's have made to improve resilience building at the community level in spite and despite the challenges of resource scarcity, losses due to climate change and disasters and lack of coordination of other actors. Community practitioners, NGO's and civil society organizations are not the vulnerable groups that the document makes reference to.

While these groups often advocate for the fair treatment and empowerment of target groups, which are included here--they should not be conflated. Target groups can make important contributions to planning for disasters but these groups play a different role from community and civil society groups, which have been involved in doing resilient development. These groups vary from farmers, fisher folks, indigenous people, rural women's savings groups, federations of urban poor--have steadily a repertoire of practices, enabling them to advance sustainable agriculture, food security, improve infrastructure, access to water, sanitation, health services and partner with local and national governments to leverage resources. These practices clearly demonstrate how grassroots organizations have been playing a critical role in the local implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. These groups are organized around development issues and care about resilience building from the stand point that it is key to the *protection* and increased *productivity* of their assets--land, housing, cattle, etc.

**WE URGE the chairs to include organized community groups and their support NGO's as the social and organizational infrastructure necessary for building resilient communities**. They are essential to the bottom-up approach called for by many thus far, including at the regional consultations. Under HFA1 organized community practitioners and their support NGO's led the first stage of efforts to localize HFA. Thus HFA2 should be seen as an opportunity to engage with these actors, their experience and strategies to scale up resilience building efforts through coordinating local action. Section 15.d calls for communities active participation and ownership of the process. But we need to also recognize and resource, the resilience innovations, strategies and practices that communities have built up over time and build on those as a first step towards community resilience.

WE AFFIRM the mechanisms put forth to ensure the engagement of stakeholders of multi-stakeholder platforms (Section 15.e and HFA Priority 1)--and in the African regional platform we went as so far as to say that many of the existing stakeholder platforms that have existed working on resilience building for a long time should be instructionally linked to these platforms--these included specific mentions to local authority networks, parliamentarians and community practitioner platforms.

- INCLUDE explicit mention, in section 14 a reference to collaboration, cross-fertilization and integration of innovations and interventions to support multi-stakeholder approaches in approach holistic understanding and approaches to DRR. (Community Led Practice Transfer--HFA Priority 3) As key to this we see the need to add language that has already been included in most of the regional consultations (see Latin America and African regional outcome documents for strong language) that spoke to the need for *inclusion and integration of indigenous, local and scientific knowledge to help inform decision making and interventions to strengthen resilience.*

\*Note on Structure: the levels of government (International, regional, national and local) and their coordination (through mechanisms like the platforms and legal frameworks) should be spelled out in the same sections--not separated as they appear in the pre-zero draft now

Thank you for your time and consideration of our inputs to refine this document.

-The NGO Major Group

(The Community Practitioners Platform, Japanese CSO Coalition, The Global Network, Climate Action Network)