



Input to the Co-Chairs' Consultations with Major Groups

9 September 2014, Geneva

A. Preamble

Stakeholders

It is encouraging to see that greater focus has been given to the importance of the multi-stakeholder process in DRR management, giving greater visibility to all stakeholders at all levels. This recognition that has been given to civil society, community capacities and leadership is to be not just maintained, but strengthened.

From the civil society point of view, who the stakeholders are and the extent of their engagement and participation is still somewhat vague and requires greater definition. If this is not defined more clearly, it can be agreed that in some nations or even regions, we will risk that the role and participation of individuals, communities and civil society will be neglected, weak or at the very least, underutilised. This would be a major setback of this global framework to not give stronger guidance to nations in empowering these groups to participate in DRR management.

The Environment

Environmental degradation is a major driver of increased disaster risk. Ecosystem-based approaches to disaster risk management, including the conservation and restoration of ecosystems and the sustainable management and use of land, water and other natural resources, are vital approaches to reduce disaster risk and adapt to climate change, while strengthening the resilience of countries, communities and their populations.

Monitoring

It has been well established that the global community and nations must counteract existing risks and hazards, and also prevent new risks and hazards from being developed. Civil society and the community is in a special position to understand the existing risks and new risks that may emerge so it is therefore essential to involve civil society and the community in the monitoring of risks and hazards.

B. Purpose, Scope, Outcome and Goals

Multi-Hazard Approach

It is important to acknowledge that it is clearly stated that the present framework applies to the risk of small and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, disasters caused by natural, environmental and technological hazards and risks. This gives clear focus on the wide range of hazards and risks affecting many communities. The inclusion of slow onset disasters could also be considered.

However, learning from the experiences in Japan and around the world, emphasis also needs to be placed on how these hazards and risks interact with each other and that the idea of cascading disasters is applied to this framework and disaster risk management.

Global Targets

Recognition is to be given to efforts to include global targets, a weakness of HFA1. We understand there will be much more debate to agree on which targets and the percentage figures to be introduced.

From the civil society point of view, more emphasis is needed to ensure that these targets are multi-stakeholder derived and that monitoring is conducted through a multi-stakeholder, peer-reviewed process.

C. Guiding Principles

Human Rights

Living without the danger and fear of being affected by disasters and their effects is one essential component of human security. The managing of disaster risks is a basis of our human rights and we strongly recommend that this principle have a greater prominence in the framework.

Transparency & Accountability

As a guiding principle, greater emphasis is required in ensuring the transparency of risk assessment formation and its timely disclosure. Targets are needed to increase the number of nations that have laws to ensure transparency in, and the disclosure of, disaster risk information.

This, combined with national laws to prevent and ensure accountability for risk creation, is essential.

Multi-Stakeholder Participation

Civil society gives strong support to the further recognition and articulation of responsibilities across public and private stakeholders. Individuals, communities and civil society organisations, often acting on a voluntary basis, require this pre-defined role and responsibilities to ensure implementation, monitoring and accountability in disaster risk management.

Stronger language is required to guide participation and capacity building of individuals, communities, civil society organisations and local governments and will help create a strong sense of self-governance and ownership.

All-of-Society & Unique Needs

Much work has been done to give greater prominence to an all-of-society engagement and empowerment process based on equality, inclusion and non-discriminatory participation.

Civil society strongly supports the continuation of this work and the focus given to gender considerations, children and youth, and persons living with disabilities is to be applauded and further supported.

There has been much discussion about giving greater focus to those persons with unique needs that are not covered by these headings and it is important to remember that even within these groups, not all have exactly the same needs. Perhaps greater guidance should also be given to not just identifying these groups of society, but to the processes that help identify and engage all the different people that have many unique needs.