

Women's Major Group Intervention
(Sections E and F)
Informal Dialogue #4 between Co-Chairs and Major Groups
October 9, 2014

Dear Co-chairs and distinguished colleagues,

I am Leah Kimber, speaking on behalf of the Women's Major Group, and I would like to take this opportunity to express our thoughts on the final sections E and F.

We see that people are almost entirely absent from the discussion in Section E, and although their improved safety and well-being is the aim, they are invisible. Following on suggestions by many for a more people centred and human rights-based approach, we suggest to change the framing of the opening statement in Section E. Rather than say it is the primary responsibility of States to manage disaster risk, we recommend to reiterate that it is the responsibility of States, supported by international cooperation and the international partnership, to seek to achieve a substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of all men and women. This framing would keep the end aim of these actions at the forefront.

We agree that for this to be achieved, an 'all-stakeholder effort' is needed. We stress that it requires that local, regional, central and global authorities are held accountable for ensuring this occurs. At present the roles and responsibilities of each is not clear and needs greater clarity on what unique role the different groups bring into the equation, and the division of responsibilities and distribution of resources, accordingly.

We would also like to ask that the voluntary nature of financial contributions be re-considered, asking countries to make a clear and appropriate financial commitment to DRR through providing adequate funding, and including gender responsive budgeting.

At present the classification of countries in 26a seems to follow a Climate Change logic, but DRR demands a focus on vulnerable and marginalized communities, particularly those that rely on natural resources for their livelihoods such as small-scale women and men farmers and fishers. Thus, rather than focusing only on blocks of countries for assistance, these communities that could be in any country must also be identified in HFA2.

While recognising the role of international, national, regional actors at the same time we recognise the vital role of communities and individuals and would stress the need for the active engagement of men and women in DRR. However, this demands the provision of the resources – material and social - necessary to ensure this can occur.

As Section F describes the transition and post-transition of the HFA, it is critical that a systematic gender-sensitive human rights-based approach guide the consultations and interactions with UNISDR

and member states in all aspects of DRR. The recognition of the importance of data collection needs to be strengthened to specify that gender-specific and sex/age/disability-disaggregated needs to be collected as standard practice and embedded in the indicators and monitoring for progress on DRR. Networks looking at women's concerns need to be part of the implementation and monitoring framework & review of the framework (section E, paragraph 26c). Data on gender differences in ways that loss is experienced, such as loss to backyard production, should be gathered. How women experience 'disaster' must be fully recognised, through the monitoring of any changes in levels of violence against women and girls, both at the hands on known and unknown men, transactional sex, trafficking, and early and forced marriage, as well as the monitoring of and provision of services to support the psychosocial health of the whole population.

Further noted is the attention to using existing strategies, plans, and programs, from the UN System, UN Conventions, and member States, and these need to incorporate a comprehensive, inclusive human rights-based framework for disaster risk reduction. It would be beneficial to all if there were also a consolidated country report sharing progress on HFA; CC and Sustainable Development.

Moving forward, we advocate:

- that governments **support** and **resource** gender-responsive approaches that recognize women's leadership, knowledge, and expertise in formal and informal education and training, including science and technology, and programs for disaster risk reduction.
- that the design, implementation, and evaluation of the HFA2 monitoring system be inclusive, diverse, participatory, and gender-responsive, reflective of affected communities' experiences in disasters.

We reiterate that the Guiding Principles state that 'gender considerations are to inform all policies and practices...' but this is not enough. For mainstreaming to succeed, there is a need to explicitly mention gender differentiation and women as a specific group in all appropriate instances. Women must be positioned as more than a human and economic resource for DRR but as active stakeholders and decision makers, with rights and knowledge. Through Principles, targets and indicators, the HFA2 can guide Member States toward measures to ensure women's active role is encouraged valued and supported. This must include actions to ensure the participation of networks of women representing their own collective voices in the process, beginning with a call on all national delegations to the global meetings on DRR to increase the proportion of women in their own delegations.

Thank you.