**18 September 2014: 09:30-13:00, Room XIX**
**MGST Intervention for Consultation: Pre-zero Draft section D para 13-17**
**Delivered by Anne-Sophie Stevance, Mark Pelling and Virginia Murray**

Co-Chair, Excellencies, colleagues,

The Science and Technology Major Group, representing the international scientific community, the International Council for Science and its members, wishes to record its appreciation to the Co-chairs, Bureau Members and to all Member States for the opportunity to participate in the Informal Consultations and to comment on Section D of the pre-zero draft.

***The Science and technology community would like to highlight that the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction in general, and the priorities for action section in particular, should fully recognize that disaster risk reduction and disaster recovery are opportunities to enhance sustainable and equitable development as well as partnerships with all actors to put transformative and resilient development at the heart of disaster risk reduction strategies. Transformative development in this case meaning that DRR activities are an opportunity to build back better while also recognizing the need to move beyond resilience to embrace change in development and enable wellbeing. In this way, HFA2 should recognize that all DRR activities and especially response and reconstruction are key opportunities to enhance risk reduction and enable sustainable development.***

***This calls for joining up local and strategic planning in response to this new post-2015 context to address systemic and interconnected complex risk, that cause secondary impacts in other countries. This also calls for developing strategies for managing future risks including those linked to climate change, and for collaboration across all actors to allow for concerted and mutually reinforcing action to support risk reduction and enable prosperity to grow or be maintained.***

***The role and value of scientific information in all-hazard disaster risk reduction and resilience has long been recognized. However, it is vital that research becomes more directly actionable, coupled with more effective ways of providing evidence-based advice to support disaster policy and practice. Given the coalescence in 2015 of three major international instruments, a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, a post-2015 sustainable development goals and a renewed agreement on climate change, there needs to be an immediate step change in the ways science is produced and used through close partnership with government, private sector, civil society and those at risk.***

1. We feel that multisectorial stakeholders should be included and engagement across sectors and themes encouraged at the level of national and local platforms. Specifically In Para 14, we suggest an additional section to "promote collaboration between science, policy, practice and those at risk to help coproduce knowledge and facilitate science policy communication for evidence-based DRM". This would ensure the participation of all stakeholders and sectors with interests and responsibilities for DRM activities be recognized. Also in 14d we applaud the explicit recognition of private sector engagement for resilient investments, and would also hope to see explicit recognition of science for evidence-based resilient investments. In 14i we support more encompassing text to emphasise "single and multiple hazard contexts and from everyday to extreme events".

2. Throughout the text we encourage recognition of the role for DRM to open opportunity for development through transformation in addition to guarding development gains through resilience. In particular in section 15a we encourage emphasizing a holistic understanding of resilience including "to strengthen ecological, cultural, social and economic resilience and transformation".

3. In 17: investing in social, economic, environmental resilience, We encourage support for resilience and transformation building with those in fragile regions and states. . We propose a new clause " To collaborate with social actors to strengthen local livelihoods, access to basic needs, the rule of law and good governance, to build resilience with marginal urban and rural population where state capacity is limited. We also suggest the additional point to invest in capacity building, technology

transfer mechanisms and in co-design and co-production mechanisms with communities and local level actors.

We wish to reiterate that the Science Community is committed to, and is already discussing practical steps to support the new framework.

In support of this consultation and drafting process of the post-2015 DRR framework, the Science and Technology Major Group in partnership with representatives from UNISDR and UNESCO have been discussing the contribution of science.

**The Major Group (MGST) calls upon governments and other stakeholders to strengthen science in helping to inform decision-making on disaster risk reduction, including data collection and sharing, observations capacity, integrated research, and science advice to decisions-makers. In particular, the development of an international science advisory mechanism for disaster risk reduction to strengthen resilience will enable to better tackle the challenges of integration, communication, and application of scientific evidence to decision-making at all levels, addressing local level needs.**

The 'mechanism' will serve as an internationally recognised reference point to improve links between science, public policies and all societal stakeholders on DRR, to support the implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, in coordination with the UNISDR and other key stakeholders. Working with, and drawing on existing programmes and initiatives across scientific, including health, arts and humanities domains, the mechanism would seek to strengthen and support decision-making on DRR at all scales.

We intend to circulate a draft paper laying out the potential scope and functions of such a mechanism and hope to foster discussion with members states and major groups with a view to ensure that science can support in the most effective ways the implementation of the post-2015 framework for action on disaster risk reduction.

Thank You.

***Additional comments from Mark Pelling***

1. To help explain the scope and direction of global science and its close fit to the discussion in the room, and indeed the opportunity this brings the HFA II to push a momentum in science. There is already well developed formal science acting on big questions - risk assessment, modelling etc; now coming through we have science on decision-making, working with local community at risk to help understand better the social and cultural institutions that constrain the movement of science to practice. This is something the HFA II can support and where science would be interested to build.

2. Reflecting on the historical moment of the HFA II and in particular the need to be clear on the linkages the HFA II can have between health and technological risks, perhaps also conflict. At a minimum - and very usefully - the HFA II could explicitly support better understanding and policy on integrated risk management that can focus on transmition and amplification of risk between health, disasters etc - a systemic risk approach and one that reflects the way local people experience and have to management risk.

3. Scale and loss, welcoming extensive risk as being important but also that we need reinvigourated attention on the coordination and regulation of reconstruction for large disasters.

***Additional comments made by Virginia Murray***

The Science and Technology would like to acknowledge the comments from the other major groups on NGOs (disabilities),industry, gender, children and youth, trade unions and others on the value of science and thank them for the collaboration suggested

The concept of the Ebola impact on workers described by the MGTU would point to the value of including the International Health Regulations into the zero draft of the DRR framework