

Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
Preparatory Committee
Second session
Geneva, 17-18 November 2014

Summary report

Chair's Dialogue with Major Groups

Co-Chairs:

H.E. Ambassador Päivi Kairamo, Permanent Representative of Finland to UN, Geneva
H.E. Ambassador Thani Thongphakdi, Permanent Representative of Thailand to UN, Geneva

Session A:

Date, time: Monday, 17 November 2014. 13h15-14h45
Venue: Geneva, Palais des Nations, building E, room XIX

Session B:

Date, time: Tuesday, 18 November 2014. 13h15-14h45
Venue: Geneva, Palais des Nations, building E, room XIX

Summary Report

to closing plenary of the Preparatory Committee, second session on 18 November 2014

By H.E. Ambassador Thani Thongphakdi, Thailand.

I have the privilege of reporting the outcomes of the Chair's Dialogue with Major Groups. The Dialogue was convened in two sessions – one yesterday and the second this afternoon.

The sessions were well attended by major groups and Member States. The consultative process has been enriched by this very inclusive approach and we are grateful for the action-oriented proposals put forward.

Each group clarified their role in implementation and I noted the distinct shift from talking about vulnerable groups to talking about at-risk groups and the leadership that each group brings.

Let me summarize a few common themes:

- Opportunities to reinforce local action and a people-centered approach were emphasized throughout.
- Ecosystem-based urban and regional planning was noted as an important area for action repeatedly.
- Rural livelihoods in indigenous and farming communities, the informal sector and the role of social protection.
- Several specific proposals reinforced the accountability framework and promoted holistic reporting processes.
- Proposals were introduced to ensure that science enables action and supports decision-making.

I noted as well suggestions for a handbook for implementation to capture some of these more detailed aspects of how to deliver on the new framework.

The subject of promoting coherence among the international agendas – including climate agreements and SDG’s drew out a number of concrete suggestions.

Major Groups active in all the 2015 processes offered to support governments through explaining the interconnectedness of these agendas, particularly at the local level, where the links between development choices and vulnerability are most evident.

We heard tangible voluntary commitments and encouraged all to post these online – and of course we will work to promote mechanisms to track progress in these as well.
