



UN Major Group for
Children and Youth
childrenyouth.org

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Geneva, Switzerland

Open-ended Informal Consultative Meeting

Structure

Section A: Preamble

Section B: Purpose, Scope, Outcome and Goals

Section C : Guiding principles

Thank you, distinguished Co-chairs.

Delegates, colleagues and friends. First and foremost, our thoughts and prayers are with our brothers and sisters facing devastating flooding in South Asia.

We, the Major Group for Children and Youth, would like to thank the co-chairs for their patience and enthusiasm to engage with us. We are grateful for the support and opportunity to contribute to the process towards the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. We take our role and mandate seriously.

Together, we have all embarked on a journey towards a transformative agenda that will usher our joint and individual actions of disaster risk reduction into the coming era, and aiming to reach our shared vision of a resilient society, tackling drivers of risks and addressing the root causes of vulnerability. This new framework of disaster risk reduction (DRR) action needs to create harmony-with nature, and needs to be rights-based to ensure no-one is left behind.

Collectively, we have made some progress. We, children and youth worldwide, gladly support the call on States to develop and implement disaster risk plans and priorities, giving the space and modalities for children and youth to fully engage and further contribute their unique perspectives, knowledge, skills and needs.

We recognize the inclusion of sex, age and disability disaggregated data along with the call for an approach that is gender sensitive in the Pre-Zero Draft of the Post-2015 Framework for DRR. We are also pleased to see an increase in substance and indicators included, but we wish to see even more, especially children and youth specific indicators, as they are crucial to ensuring any impact delivered by the Post-2015 Framework for DRR is measurable and progress towards achieving those goals are accounted for in national reporting and reviews.

Proposal from MGCY of an additional targets are:

- Allocation of funding with XX to prevention, XX to preparedness, XX to respond, and XX to recovery by 20(XX), as well as



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- Not just addressing educational and health facilities-both mental and physical but also maintaining of accessibility and quality despite striking hazards.

The Pre-Zero Draft highlights taking consideration of deliberations and consultations both of global and regional nature in the Explanation Note. Despite this, the Pre-Zero Draft seems remiss of some the key outcomes of those consultations concerning children and youth and deliberations the Major Group for Children & Youth have contributed to including up to now in regional and global consultations as well as the Report from 2013 Global Platform Consultations on the Post-2015 Framework for DRR highlights clearly under “*Section III: Children and Youth: New Generation of Opportunity*”, children and youth must each have its place in HFA2 and recognizing them as the pathway to the future of DRR, these elements have neither been captured in the Suggested Elements to the Post-2015 Framework for DRR nor Preambular Paragraph 5 of the Pre-Zero Draft concerning consultations. There is still much work to be done.

We want to congratulate the Bureau on the work so far, implementing the consultation outcomes within the Pre-Zero Draft. The current status of the

Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, however, is far from being in line with what the Major Group for Children and Youth would like to see and are aiming for.

We are dedicated in our role to communicate and bring attention to the important need for the cross-cutting inclusion of children and youth of all diversities in Disaster Risk Reduction at all levels; from local to international community, from planning to implementation, and from climate change adaptation to peace building. Young people’s rights are not just about education and addressing vulnerability. Young people are partners for change, and action by the future generation should not just be promoted, it also should be supported and incentivized. We wish to see stronger wording to encourage States to provide necessary and sufficient support for all parts of society to contribute and communicate the role everyday people have in taking action on disaster risk reduction. The Post-2015 Framework should not overlook the impact of social networking, spontaneous responses and certain technological advances, which can be incorporated through the term “shared responsibility” rather than “aligned responsibility.” Disaster Risk Reduction is a problem to be shared, and mutually progressed across all sectors, including the society, not “aligned” to a particular department, ministry or person.

We know we will have to continue to work hard to ensure young people and children, in all their diversity, are represented within the process up to Sendai and beyond, and are sufficiently reflected within the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as well as in the following implementation. We wholly embrace and take ownership of this mandate with honor and commitment and trust that we have your support to ensuring our full and inclusive participation in all deliberations about disaster risk reduction.

Finally, we wish to bring attention to the aspects we believe that we all need to pay greater attention to, both by implementation in the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as, by our direct and indirect actions leading up to Sendai and beyond:

Firstly, we would like to see more clarity on how the implementation of the new DRR framework will align with the



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work of other UN agencies engaged in resilience work. We wish to see increased coherence between Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Change, SIDS, Urbanization, World Humanitarian Summit and Biodiversity, with mutual reporting, goals and targets.

Secondly, in the shadow of last months' extensive number of human-induced disasters and the unfortunate number of civilians being affected – enhanced conflict in Palestine-Israel, Central-African Republic, Iraq; as well as the Ebola outbreak in Africa – we wish to emphasize the importance of the Post-2015 Framework on DRR to consider the devastating nature of conflict and biological disasters, which needs further attention.

Thirdly, we're missing reference to rights under guiding principles. Managing the risk of disasters should also be aimed at protecting persons, their livelihoods and property, while respecting their human rights.

In today's world, we are crossing planetary boundaries; we are compromising needs of future generations due to short sighted decision-making and investments; and in the face of life-threatening climate change, we are already witnessing the first victims. We understand and recognize that these are complex issues. But we all need to do better, much better, in order to deliver on the greatest challenges of our time and to secure a resilient world for future generations.

Children and youth are here, ready and willing to continue to take our responsibilities of reducing the risk we face to disasters. We want to move from aspirational policy development to on-the-ground practices, and to enhance the actions of disaster risk reduction based best on knowledge of best practice. The time has come for us to work together strongly, between countries, and between generations to look beyond disasters. We, the children and youth, do not only commit to action, we are already acting.