

## **Outcomes of first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Third World Conference on disaster risk reduction**

**14-15 July 2014, Geneva**

### **Key outcomes for Science and Technology**

The first Preparatory Committee meeting on the post-2015 Framework for disaster risk reduction took place in Geneva on 14-15 July 2014. This two-day meeting is part of the preparatory process leading up to the Third World Conference on disaster risk reduction that will take place on 14-18 March 2015 in Sendai, Japan, where governments are expected to adopt a successor framework to the current Hyogo Framework. The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 sought to build the resilience of nations and communities to disasters.

#### ***1. The Science and Technology Major Group***

The International Council for Science, as organising partner of the Science and Technology Major Group (STMG), put together a delegation comprising of 15 delegates<sup>1</sup> from a range of science organisations including the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk programme (IRDR), International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), UK Collaborative Development Sciences, UNISDR STAG, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), the Global Young Academy, the Inter Academy Partnership, and experts from Latin America, Africa and the Asia-Pacific region. A list of the STMG delegation at this meeting is available as an annex to this report.



The STMG participated in a variety of ways to the formal and informal discussions at the meeting, including through one joint plenary statement, three joint statements to the chairs' dialogues, and contributions in technical workshops.

#### ***2. Common messages of the Science & Technology Major Group***

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<sup>1</sup> See news item: <http://www.icsu.org/news-centre/news/top-news/un-supports-call-for-an-international-science-advisory-mechanism-on-disaster-risk-reduction>



Members of the STMG focused their interventions on the need for an international science advisory mechanism for disaster risk reduction to strengthen resilience based on a statement issued in March 2014 by UKCDS, the Wellcome Trust, UNISDR, ICSU and UNESCO.

Rudiger Klein, Executive Director of Integrated Research on Disaster Risk programme and lead of the STMG at the Prep Com 1 delivered a statement to the plenary on behalf of the Major Group highlighting also the importance of mutual reinforcement of strategies for disaster risk reduction and sustainable development, as well as the critical need for capacity building in Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries, without, neglecting the exposure of middle and high income countries.

Three additional statements were delivered on behalf of the STMG. Virginia Murray delivered a statement in the first Chair's dialogue with the Major Groups stressing the many contributions that science has been making towards disaster risk reduction and the need for strengthening and scaling up science in HFA-2, including through an international science advisory mechanism to support evidence-based decision-making and access to scientific information at different scales. In the second Chair's dialogue with Major Groups, Irasema Alcántara-Ayala identified the role that science can play in promoting a holistic and integrated approach to sustainable development, climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction. Alik Ismail-Zadeh emphasised the need for a science-driven approach to monitor, understand, and assess disaster risks at all levels. To this end, he called for an international science advisory mechanism, for strengthening integrated research on disaster risks, and for a periodic scientific assessment of disaster risks.

### ***3. Outcomes of Prep Com 1 related to Science & Technology***

Many countries, UN agencies and civil society groups stressed in their statements the importance of Science and Technology. In particular, strengthening education and capacity building, knowledge transfer and data accessibility, and innovation in HFA2 was highlighted, including at national and local levels.

A major outcome of Prep Com 1 is the joint statement by UN agencies, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the World Bank supporting explicitly the “establishment of an international science advisory mechanism to strengthen the evidence base for the implementation and monitoring of the new framework”. The statement also identifies areas where the science and technology community has an important role to play, including around “Assessing and communicating risk that informs national and local development policies, programming and actions across sectors, and that maximize information available from the development, climate change and disaster risk management communities.” See full statement here:

<http://www.preventionweb.net/files/globalplatform/jointunstatement%5B1%5D.pdf>

Besides, many countries and regional groups in their statement<sup>2</sup> referred to Science & Technology. They include: League of Arab States, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Caribbean Community, Central Africa, Central American Integration System, China, Colombia, Costa Rica-CELAC, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, EU, Finland, Germany,

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<sup>2</sup> Based on Julie Calkins' review of country statements posted on WCDRR's website

International Federation of the Red Cross, India, Indian Ocean Commission, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar-ASEAN, Nauru, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, OECD, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Russia, South Korea, Senegal, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, USA, West African states.

The **Business and Industry** Major Group (with whom a dedicated dialogue aimed at producing a joint statement was initiated) expressed an interest in collaborating with the STMG around a five-point agenda:

- Developing simple disaster risk metrics easily understood by businesses and policy-makers
- Mainstreaming DRR in business and policy planning, ensuring a systemic approach to DRR and resilient investments
- Ensuring that laws, rules, norms and regulations are in place and conducive to resilient investments
- Sharing data and enhancing risk modelling, through a close collaboration with the Science & Technology community
- Ensuring that HFA-2 provide a transformational and catalytic agenda

The B&I delegation also signalled that they would be able to contribute to all five elements underpinning the notion of an International Science Advisory Mechanism.

In addition the following points of direct relevance to Science & Technology were highlighted during the two days of the meeting:

- The need to ensure that linkages are identified between international agreements on the Post-2015 Development Agenda - the SDGs, the climate change agreement (CCA) and the Post-2015 HFA II framework on DRR – and that they be coherent and mutually reinforcing. This includes linking monitoring of disaster risk with that of climate change, vulnerabilities, etc. Science has an important role to play to elucidate interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs between these areas.
- Risk prevention, risk reduction and disaster preparedness should be given stronger emphasis under HFA2, compared to the earlier period, when attention and resources were concentrated on disaster relief. Many called for increased investments in disaster resilience as the safest path towards recovery.
- Stronger emphasis should be placed in HFA2 on community, national and regional levels
- A lot of knowledge, data and information is produced but remain under-utilised. This calls for addressing the challenge of data availability and access, and for science to become more actionable and effective in providing the evidence-base for decision-making
- More attention should be paid to slow onset, long-term disaster events, such as desertification, ocean acidification, climate change
- Enhancing DRR will require specific contributions and tools for policy-makers to take up scientific evidence
- Targets and indicators are needed to provide a focused agenda for action, as well as a clear accountability framework to review and monitor progress. Indicators should capture national and local context and allow for comparison across countries. An index on risk and



vulnerability was presented; its development involves the European Commission Joint Research Centre.

The co-chairs committed to developing a pre-zero draft for consultation with Major Groups and member states prior to the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee (17-18 November 2014, Geneva). It is available on the Conference website: <http://www.wcdrr.org/home>

**Prep Com 1, Geneva, 14-15 July 2014**  
**Science & Technology delegation**

<b>Delegate</b>	<b>Name of organization</b>	<b>Position</b>
Alcántara-Ayala, Irasema	National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)	Professor at the Geography Institute
Calkins, Julie	UK collaborative for development sciences (UKCDS)	Research consultant
Carby, Barbara	University of West Indies	Director DRR Centre
El Kharraz, Jauad	Global Young Academy Arab World Association of Young Scientists	Information Manager
Ismail-Zadeh, Alik	International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG)	Secretary-General
Klein, Rudiger, (head of delegation)	Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) -ICSU	Director
McGrath, Peter Francis	Inter Academy Partnership	Director
Mechler, Reinhard	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis	
Mulugeta, Guenene	ICSU-ROA/SAUNET	Coordinator/Project-leader
Murray, Virginia	Public Health England UNISDR Science and Technical Advisory Group (STAG)	Consultant in Global Disaster Risk Reduction Vice chair
Papp, Nora	International Council for Science (OP)	Administrative officer
Rees, John	Natural Environment Research Council	Leader Natural Hazards Theme



Ronan, Kevin	School of Human, Health and Social Sciences Faculty of Sciences, Engineering & Health CQUniversity Australia	Professor of Psychology
Stevance, Anne-Sophie	International Council for Science (OP)	Science officer
Towashiraporn, Peeranan	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center	Director
Young, Denise	International Council for Science (OP)	Communications manager
Zakari, Aminu	Centre For Climate Change & Environmental Study	