

FINAL VERSION

**Major Group on Science and Technology – 2nd Preparatory
Committee Meeting**
Plenary Statement Science and Technology Major Group
**(PREPCOM) for the Third UN World Conference on Disaster
Risk Reduction, 17-18 November 2014, Geneva**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues,

This statement is given on behalf of the Science and Technology Major Group who are working in support of regions, countries, and communities to reduce disaster risk and build resilience.

The Scientific and Technological Community Major Group (STMG) is pleased to see that the value of scientific knowledge and information for reducing disaster risk and for building resilience – recognised in earlier country, national and regional platform and Major Group statements - is reflected in the Zero Draft.

A detailed review is needed of achievements made and obstacles encountered under HFA, but we wish to signal that as the Science and Technology Community we are able and ready to implement the following voluntary commitments, made already by key actors from across the world of sciences and technology, professional training and higher education:

- Communication and engagement - Build closer partnerships and better communication to enhance the use of scientific knowledge –for evidence-based decision-making at all levels of government; for example by operationalising the concept of resilience and by better defining indirect losses, including threats to cultural heritage
- Building capacity - —to advance risk literacy through curricular reform, in professional training and by life-long learning across all sectors of society, especially with the help of local universities;
- Assessment, monitoring and review - Provide analytical tools to assess and advance our knowledge of underlying risk drivers for more effective monitoring and review;
- Science advice - Provide advisory capabilities integrating all fields of science, technology and innovation jointly with practitioners and policy-makers, to translate knowledge into solutions;
- Actionable research -Develop models for co-design of research that will involve all relevant actors (but which will also require new forms of funding and reward impact on the ground) to understand evolving emergencies, as demanded by the draft Sendai Declaration, but also to identify root causes of disasters.

We have learned from HFA that in order to stop the increasing rate of loss of lives and livelihoods we, the Science and Technology Community, must break down the isolation of scientific knowledge and actively assist governments and others in the uptake and use of this knowledge. This requires fostering deeper and wider partnerships across existing institutions and networks working on DRR

science to scale up the application of science to decision-making at all levels, including at national and local levels.

Practical steps are needed: as we approach 2015, we have been working with major groups, and intergovernmental organisations to intensify efforts for the implementation agenda for science.

We now urge governments to embed science in the implementation of the post-2015 framework for DRR. Governments should partner with the Science and Technology Community in order to improve the flow of information, data and knowledge across sectors. The Science and Technology Community proposes that countries establish a process to operationalise the partnership between governments and the scientific community.

We need to integrate DRR into the post-2015 Development Agenda. Special attention must be paid to supporting SIDS and LDCs as well as vulnerable communities everywhere. International cooperation must support capacity building, peer learning and knowledge exchange across the many networks, institutes and initiatives in the domain of DRR science. We must ensure that we learn lessons from the full spectrum of knowledge producers in order to incorporate them into monitoring and review processes, as called for by the zero draft of the Post-2015 Disaster Risk Reduction Framework.

