

NGO Group Statement to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Cancun, Mexico, 22-26 May 2017

The role of civil society as a partner in resilience is mentioned 82 times across the post-2015 frameworks. We hoped to finally see risk reduction designed by those bearing that risk, those with the knowledge and capacities to ensure local realities are taken into account. But it has now been two years since the Sendai Framework was adopted, and we are still seeing local people excluded from decision-making processes. The result is DRR policies and activities that are maladaptive, ineffective, and an inefficient use of resources. This needs to change in the design of the national and local DRR strategies mandated to be developed by 2020 under Target E of the Sendai Framework.

CSOs attending the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction want to work with others towards the success of these DRR strategies, as well as the interrelated agendas of the Paris Agreement, Agenda 2030 the World Humanitarian Summit, and the Urban agenda.

CSO Commitments

Using these particular skills and connections, we CSOs have committed to the following actions in support of the design, implementation and monitoring of effective national and local DRR strategies before 2020:

- Support the building of overall resilience of communities, establishing community-based early warning and communication systems, and by implementing projects to reduce the underlying drivers of risk, small and everyday disasters, including livelihood diversification and health initiatives.
- Support to local participatory disaster risk analysis and monitoring, integration of risk reduction into development measures, and the inclusion of people's inputs in disaster risk governance at regional, national, local and global level.
- Support the inclusion of most at risk
- groups such as women, youth and children, indigenous communities, those living with disabilities and the elderly are included in early warning and communication processes
- Support governments to define national and local targets and monitoring processes by collecting and analyse local data on risk, disaggregated by location, sex, age, ethnicity, and disability.
- Support multi-sectoral and cross-border coordination, including through collaborative workshops and best practice sharing.

Asks to governments and donors

In order to deliver these commitments, we ask all governments and partners to create and maintain a supportive institutional and political environment to facilitate the engagement of local people and actors, together with access to adequate means of implementation for local actions.

We outline 10 specific ways that governments and donors can support this enabling environment by 2020 in relation to their institutional structures, capacities, regulatory framework, and financial arrangements.

Institutional structures

1. Collaborate with, and promote leadership of local actors, especially those group disproportionately at risk, in the design of policies and actions.
2. Establish systematic partnerships with civil society organisations
3. Establish inclusive platforms for meaningful multi-stakeholder dialogue at all levels
4. Invest in CSO networks to enhance south-south cooperation
5. Align sectoral activities, targets and budgets, for coherence between DRR, disaster response, climate change adaptation (CCA) and other development processes.
6. Establish a Global UNISDR Civil Society Advisory Group to be systematically consulted in the development of priorities and actions, and can be tasked to develop collaborative capacity building programmes and guides.

Capacities

7. Promote and build local leadership, including the delegation of financial and monitoring responsibilities
8. Utilise local information and local knowledge to underpin decision-making and inform actions within DRR strategies.

Resource and financial arrangements

9. Localise DRR funding for more equitable implementation of the Sendai Framework at all levels.

Legal and regulatory framework

10. Create transparent and institutionalised accountability mechanisms that ensure effective citizen participation and civil society collaboration