



Statement of Children, Youth and Child-Centered Organizations

**Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction First Preparatory Meeting
Delivered on 15 July 2014, Geneva, Switzerland**

Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

We, children and youth are deeply concerned at the lack of our inclusion in the *Suggested Elements for the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*.

As young people, we are capable of being systematically engaged to advocate, design, lead, promote, identify and demonstrate ways to better reduce disaster risk. We not only commit to action, we are already acting; but need support to continue.

Children and youth are integral partners in reducing disaster risk and building resilience. Our unique interests, needs and capacities in leading behavioural change, generating innovative ideas and being resourceful, require us a special place in the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Outcomes from Regional Platform consultations:

Our peers in Central Asia and South Caucasus, Americas, Africa, Pacific and Asia emphasized the importance of the following:

- empowerment of young people with the necessary skills, confidence and knowledge that will enable them to better apply their creativity and innovation to reducing disaster risk;
- involvement of young people as equal partners in all levels of disaster risk reduction because of their unique abilities to network, self organize and make change using limited resources;
- establishment of safe community infrastructures and relief and reconstruction to reduce future risk;
- good governance on disaster risk management;
- the abilities of young people in the 15-30 year old age bracket are an especially untapped resource;
- investment in increased commitments and resources to potential disaster risks exacerbated by conflicts, and thereby assure that the rights of young people in conflicts settings are maintained;
- a high level intergenerational forum on disaster risk reduction.



The Way Forward:

Recognizing the Colombo Declaration on Youth and the Children's Charter on DRR, representing the voice of 600 youth from 148 countries and 600 children, we call for the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction to include clear targets and indicators focused on youth and children of all diversities as a cross-cutting issue.

We Propose the Following Targets and Indicators for the Post 2015 Framework. These have been supported by the three Ministerial Declarations in Abuja, Bangkok, and Guayaquil.

- 1) **Participation:** Children and youth are supported to meaningfully participate in local level DRR, development planning, problem solving and implementation processes.
- 2) **Equity & Accountability:** Government must ensure that all targets under the HFA2 are to be achieved for all children and youth of different age groups, ethnicity and abilities.
- 3) **Access to Basic Services & Assets:** At the end of the implementation of the Post-2015 Framework, the number of children and youth (C&Y) that do not have access to quality services related to health, education, water supply and sanitation, protection and security, will have been reduced by 75%.
- 4) **Education:** States must adopt the School Safety framework to ensure uninterrupted safe education, integrated DRR into curriculum. States must ensure that no child dies due to disaster in a school built/modified after 2015 and school days missed as a result of shock or stress reduced by 50%. By the end of the implementation of the Post-2015 Framework, all educational spaces promote a culture of resilience and protection of the environment, and implement DRR plans.
- 5) **Life Skills:** The need to empower children/youth with specific life skills that will enable them to better apply their creativity and innovation for DRR. Increase in scores from self-monitoring for C&Y and adults in different like skills areas.
- 6) **Child protection:** The number of children living outside family care as a result of shocks and stresses is reduced by 50%. Child and youth protection all time regardless of their background or family situation.
- 7) **Environmental Protection:** Explore and address the effects of urbanization, climate change, disasters and environmental degradation on young people.
- 8) **Access to Health Care:** Implement emergency preparedness and safe hospital policies in order to protect and guarantee access to health services before, during and after disasters.

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 evaluation of the shared practices that work and to promote proven disaster outcomes. As partners for change, this is our next step in the Post-2015 dialogue.