



Federal Foreign Office

**Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
Preparatory Committee – Geneva, 17-18 November 2014**

Statement of the Federal Republic of Germany

**delivered by
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Honorable Co-Chairs,
Distinguished colleagues,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the German delegation which consists of members of the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, the Federal Foreign Office and our National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Germany **welcomes the zero draft of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction**. We think the draft is a good and comprehensive document for further negotiations and builds on the informal discussions held in Geneva during September and October.

In order to strengthen the framework further, the Federal Republic of **Germany recommends taking the following ten points into consideration when revising the document:**

- 1. Germany strongly suggests to provide clear definitions and a more stringent use of terminology in the draft in particular with regard to Resilience and Disaster Risk Management.** We propose to refer to the term "Disaster Risk Management" instead of "Disaster Risk Reduction" throughout the document. Disaster Risk Management reflects better the comprehensive goal of the new framework to reduce existing risks, to prevent the creation of new risks and to strengthen resilience for sustainable development. We would like to welcome again that UNISDR will lead and coordinate the update of the 2009 Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction.
- 2. Germany would welcome to better link the HFA2 with the SDG and climate change agenda in the framework. Stronger emphasis should be directed towards addressing the interactions and interdependencies as well as need for coherence between all post 2015 agendas.** It should be explicitly mentioned in the Preamble of the document that the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction **serves as a toolbox and a reference** on which the other post-2015 documents can build on

in striving for sustainable development. We propose to further interlink the three key international frameworks through:

- a. Use of coherent terminology and concepts.
 - b. Clear reference in each framework on how it relates to the other two.
 - c. Aligning reporting cycles, review mechanisms and other administrative arrangements, minimizing the effort required for monitoring, reporting and potential revision of the frameworks, as appropriate.
3. **Thirdly** – and in the same context, we strongly propose that the zero draft mentions in the Preamble that **successful DRM – leading to increased resilience - provides a real opportunity in reducing humanitarian needs**. While **DRM should be at the center of risk-informed development activities**, we would like to see that the document highlights the need to enhance a more comprehensive approach to risk management between the development and the humanitarian community. We must use the new framework as an opportunity to place **the needs of people** at the center and request that this forms the basis **for joint action between humanitarian and development communities in order to foster linkages between relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD)**.
4. In the same context, Germany **calls for a comprehensive preparedness approach to risk management and proposes to further strengthening the language on preparedness**. While preparedness is a priority of action in the document, **it should also be mentioned as a goal** in the new framework (and we suggest to do so under paragraph 12). Effective preparedness requires the existence of institutionalized structures and capacity.
5. **Fifth, we call for the explicit inclusion and mentioning of conflict, fragility and insecurity as fundamental underlying risk drivers**. Approximately more than 50% of people affected by disaster between 2005 and 2009 lived in fragile and or conflict-affected states. Conflict, fragility and insecurity are conditions which call for a tailored Disaster Risk Management approach.
6. **Sixth**, Germany proposes that the document mentions that **highly industrialized nations are increasingly exposed to disaster risk**. Due to the increased exposure of - and dependency on high-technology infrastructure, industrialized nations are facing an increased vulnerability towards natural and technological hazards and the cascading effects thereof as well for critical infrastructures.
7. Seventh, when it comes to the role of stakeholders, **we strongly propose to define and emphasize the role of National Platforms**: National Platforms have played a crucial role in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. Regardless of their different legal and institutional status in different countries, the document should further highlight the specific role National Platforms should play in the new framework (in particular under paragraph 25).
8. **In the same context, we welcome the emphasized role of civil society in the document and suggest highlighting it further by outlining in more detail the role which each civil society actor should play under the different priorities**. Moreover, we propose to mention that **institutionalized voluntary work** can play an important and effective role in DRM. (The German Federal Agency for Technical Relief for example is a government structure while 99% of its staff – more than 80.000 people - are volunteers). We are convinced that DRM will only be effective if it is anchored in society and institutionalized voluntarism must play an important function in this regard.

9. **Ninth**, an inclusive approach to DRM is therefore more than necessary and the Federal Republic of Germany welcomes and supports the recognition in the framework of the special vulnerabilities of people with disabilities, children, women and the elderly.

10. Finally, Germany would welcome the **inclusion of a clear review mechanism of the framework**. We suggest amending the Terms of Reference of the informal working group on targets and indicators in order to come up with a possible review mechanism, which keeps in mind the interlinkages with other post-2015 frameworks that also envision measurable targets and indicators in their respective areas.

Dear Co-Chairs, distinguished colleagues – we have the responsibility and opportunity to provide a framework for effective Disaster Risk Management. The Federal Republic of Germany is looking forward to continue to actively engage in the drafting of a focused, coherent and practically operational post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

We will provide you with specific text proposals during the negotiations.

We would also like to take the opportunity to warmly thank Japan for the proposed Political Declaration, as well as the Co-Chairs, the ISDR Secretariat, the Bureau, but as well all other stakeholders and major groups who have contributed to the development of the zero draft.

I thank you Co-Chairs.