

Disability Stakeholder Group

Statement on the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

Sendai

March 2015

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The Disability Stakeholder Group would like to begin by thanking the Chair, the co-Chairs and the member states for facilitating the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. We also commend the great efforts made to make this conference accessible and recognize this as a milestone for UN conferences.

Meeting here in Sendai, disability stakeholders reflect that in the Great East Japan earthquake the fatality rate among persons with disabilities was at least double that of persons without disabilities. The HFA2 responds to such concerns and emphasizes an inclusive and equitable whole-of-society understanding of DRR. In order to realise these landmark commitments, we respectfully request Member States to consider the following 3 issues:

1. Putting HFA2 commitments into action
2. Equal access
3. The active participation of persons with disabilities

Firstly, putting HFA2 commitments into action:

Building inclusive resilience is integral to reducing poverty and exclusion and in securing sustainable development for all by all. Greater focus on the reduction of

underlying risk factors for those at disproportionate risk is essential in promoting equity and security within the post-2015 DRR and development frameworks. We urge all DRR actors to actively protect, promote and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of human rights by persons with disabilities. Delivering on these commitments under HFA2 will ensure alignment with the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. Disability stakeholders respectfully remind Member States that to inform, plan and deliver on inclusion it is essential to have data disaggregated by disability, gender and age.

Secondly, ensuring equal access:

It is essential that all persons have access to all DRR related information, services and facilities on an equal basis. For example, DRR information must be delivered simply, clearly and in appropriate formats. Accessibility to evacuation routes and shelters needs to be ensured. The design of early warning systems requires due consideration that life-saving messages will reach all. Accessibility, in line with the principles of Universal Design, not only benefit persons with disabilities, but all people in all communities and societies. Ensuring access for all will ensure the safety and resilience of all.

Finally, there is a need to ensure the active participation of persons with disabilities.

Persons with disabilities, and their representative organizations, must be actively engaged in, and contribute to, all aspects of DRR if we are to reduce risk for the whole-of-society. The positive contribution of persons with disabilities has been demonstrated in recent years and is evident. It is essential that persons with disabilities, and their representative organisations, are actively engaged in all aspects of DRR policy, planning and implementation. Active engagement includes participation in reviewing and reporting within the post-Sendai process. Towards this end, and to promote accountability, disability stakeholders urge Member States to ensure that HFA2 and broader post-2015 indicator frameworks are linked and include indicators specific to disability.

In closing, we thank and commend Member States on the commitments made to disability-inclusion within HFA2 and ensuring that in the future no one is left behind.