

## **NGO's Major Group Oral Statement for Plenary, PrepCom II**

My name is Maite Rodríguez Blandon from Guatemala representing the Community Practitioners Platforms for Resilience from Huairou Commission and Groots International, we are one of the four Groups co leading the NGOs Major group.

We would like to affirm the inclusivity of this process that we have seen as evidenced preamble and guiding principles which take strides to capture the discussions had at the regional platforms and preparatory and informal consultations prior to this draft.

We urge the co-chairs & Bureau on three points which we feel represent the most critical sections:

1. INCLUDE LOCAL "AT-RISK COMMUNITIES", LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND FACILITATING NGO'S AS THE KEY STAKEHOLDERS FOR LOCALIZING HFA2

THIS WILL ENSURE LOCALLY APPROPRIATE RISK GOVERNANCE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL AND IT WILL SUPPORT INCLUSIVE URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING IN ORDER TO "BUILD BETTER FROM THE START" TO BUILD COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUG LOCAL, INDIGENOUS AND SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE (which are important values we share with the local authorities, private sector, labor unions, science and technology and indigenous major groups)

Missing from the priorities for action and the role of key stakeholders are specific mentions of the relationship among Community Practitioners, Local Authorities and facilitating NGO's that has been largely responsible for the local implementation of HFA1, and whose contributions to building community resilience must be recognized and built upon to ensure the effective local implementation of the HFA2.

Local perspectives of risk realities need to inform design, implementation and monitoring of DRR, particularly those of people most at risk, including but not limited to women, children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous groups. Organized At-risk communities, in partnership with their local authorities and facilitating NGO's are best positioned to develop strategies that can address the diversity and complexity.

As we move from policy to practice, the framework needs to build on the existing capacities of local communities. The regional platform for the Americas highlighted the 'need to place community participation at the centre of risk management in order for the framework to reflect realities on the ground and to build on the unique knowledge and capacities that communities have to offer'. The 5th Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Nigeria, the Regional Consultation for Central Asia and South Caucasus and the 2nd Arab Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Egypt, all highlighted the need to build local governance capacities and institutionalise inclusion of civil society in programme design, implementation, and monitoring. However, the zero draft is concentrated heavily on policy action and less on community-based action. While sections A and C of the zero draft reference the need for a people centred framework and reference the contributions of communities, local authorities and facilitating NGO's, this needs to be reflected in the priorities for action, including in the form of actions around strengthening local level leadership and

empowerment, and establishing participatory local level monitoring mechanisms. It also needs to be reflected in the Stakeholders section, which should present local communities in partnership with local authorities, CSOs as the primary stakeholders, contributors and leaders to building resilient communities as the foundation of resilient nations. We are proposing the inclusion of a tripartite partnership to localise the implementation of HFA2.

2. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A GREATER EMPHASIS ON THE UNDERLYING RISK FACTORS SUCH AS DEVELOPMENT and CLIMATE CHANGE. Resilience needs to be mentioned in the preamble, priorities for action and targets section. There is a need for the framework to build capacities not just of response, but also of preparedness, recovery, whole cycle together - cannot be separated. IN ADDITION TO THIS, WE NEED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE INTEGRATED NATURE OF RISKS--SUCH AS CASCADING RISK.

3. THERE IS NEED FOR POLICY & IMPLEMENTATION COHERENCE BETWEEN THE EMERGING POST 2015 PROCESSES WHICH ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. We live in an increasingly interconnected world where social, economic, environmental and technological risks interact and do not fit neatly into separate conceptual frameworks. Climate change and poor development are exacerbating existing risks and creating new ones, and these risks materialise as disasters. Only when the frameworks dealing with disasters, development, and climate change are connected in a strategic manner can they be effective in reducing the underlying drivers of risk.