



UN Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
Sendai, Japan
14th – 18th March 2015

Plenary Statement
Major Group for Children and Youth

Thank you for giving the floor to the Major Group for Children and Youth. We have been with you at every step throughout the process - all the regional consultations, late night negotiations and actions on the ground. In this statement, we wish for you to be mindful that while we don't represent 50% of this room, we stand here today representing 50% of this world.

We are here to show that children and youth are not just vulnerable; we are part of the solution. Just as we hold ourselves accountable for the decisions we make today, we also hold you accountable to the same standards.

The Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction states ad ref that "*children and youth are agents of change*". Representing more than half of the world's population, our engagement is critical to the success of this Framework. As inheritors and implementers, it is absolutely imperative that well resourced and legally mandated spaces be created for children and youth in policy design, implementation, monitoring and accountability at all levels.

As agents of change, we therefore call for the following three points in the next crucial phase of the process:

1. Inclusion in the Indicators and Terminology Working Group

Given the relevant perspectives of children and youth, our contribution in formulating, developing and implementing the targets and indicators is essential. We call for our continued participation in this process by including our expertise in the working group on indicators and terminology to ensure the relevance of the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

2. All-hazard Approach

In the last year, human-induced disasters resulted in more human loss than all natural disasters combined. Conflict is a cause, consequence and an underlying driver for risk for disasters; its exclusion from this supposedly transformative agenda defies logic.

Moving forward, human induced disasters must be included in the means of implementation and indicators at the international level - with a plan to integrate this enhanced scope in the national context.

3. Appropriate Financing

It is unfortunate that the conversation about financing the agenda has been so controversial. Without appropriate financing, the framework is meaningless and will have a negligible impact. Additionally, it is imperative to create an economic environment, which discourages activities that promote underlying risk factors.

In conclusion, we have already witnessed a multitude of perceptions throughout this process. It is clear that those that meaningfully engage young people are the *most* effective. Children and youth are dynamic, resourceful, innovative and resilient. We are fast learners, powerful teachers and creative thinkers. We are capable of facilitating knowledge sharing and we have the ability to access and mobilize large networks with the click of a button. We offer a fresh perspective and have proven to be effective agents of change.

We call on you, the leaders we have entrusted with our today, to form conflict-sensitive policy, to take well resourced action that reduces disaster losses and to create an inclusive culture of disaster prevention through engagement with us across all facets of your strategy - here and at home.

The future is ours together, and because of that, we are here - to be the change we want to see, for our future and those of future generations.

We call on you, to call on us.

