

DRAFT Global Platform Statement from Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction

13 May 2011

We are returning to our work with people living at the frontline of disasters with anticipation, hope and also frustration and many concerns.

- The situation is getting worse not better. 57% of local authorities and communities at most risk report that disaster losses are increasing¹.
- Local action is not taking place at anywhere near the levels required to achieve the HFA goal of a substantial reduction in disaster losses by 2015. Progress reported at national level is not being matched by progress at local level.
- Inadequate resource and capacity is preventing implementation of legislation, policies and plans at the local level.

We request international institutions to set targets that provide direct investment to accelerate the building of local risk governance capacities – for local government and local community organisations.

- We anticipate increased commitment and support for a risk-reduction monitoring and reporting framework focussed on lives and livelihoods with multi-stakeholder involvement at the local-level.
- We call for shared resilience frameworks that break down institutional silos and reflect the way communities understand climate and disaster-risk

We request national governments to accept the invitations by *Views from the Frontline* teams in 69 countries to listen and act on the views of people in their country by bringing together government – national and local – and civil society and communities to assess and tackle risks threatening people at the local level.

We request local governments to take quantifiable action and to receive support from national government, other institutions and also local communities to increase knowledge – combining local indigenous expertise with external knowledge, build capacity – skills and structures, and increase measurable impact.

We are hopeful that private enterprise will demonstrate commitment to social responsibility and the welfare of communities by setting targets for direct investment and action in community-level activities.

We will support community organisations to create and maximise opportunities to work in partnerships with government and other organisations to help them build understanding, ensure greater accountability and transparency and develop local capacity and capability.

Yet, we are frustrated that again, again and again – from Yokohama to Kobe to Geneva, a recognition of the importance of inclusion and participation of those people most at-risk in planning and implementation is emphasised and yet words are not matched by actions at the local level. In this 3rd Global Platform the theme was ‘increase investment in local action.’ However, in the 14 critical steps identified in the Draft Chair’s summary, opportunities are missed to emphasise the need to focus on clear outcomes at the local level. This must not be allowed to continue.

We recognise that civil society has a role to play in supporting governments and communities to not only develop a greater understanding of risks that are faced and work together in reducing those risks, but also to secure and protect their rights as human beings and citizens.

The next Global Platform in 2013 must contain more stories of local progress, local investment, raised capacity and greater resilience if a substantial reduction in disaster losses is to be achieved.

Thank you.

Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction

¹ Views from the Frontline 2011, GNDR, www.globalnetwork-dr.org