

**Statement by the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group**  
**Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 14-18 March 2015, Sendai**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues,

This statement is made on behalf of the Science and Technology Major Group, which brings together in Sendai nearly 400 delegates from a wide range of organisations and networks active across all disciplines and sectors. Together we develop knowledge and solutions to address disaster risk and build resilience.

The post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction makes a strong call for science to support the understanding of disaster risk and promote risk-informed decisions and risk sensitive planning from the local to the global levels. It also calls for the coordination of existing networks and scientific research institutions at all levels and all regions with the support of the ISDR Science and Technology Advisory Group. The goal is to strengthen the evidence base to support of the implementation of the new framework.

If we want to continue to deepen our understanding of evolving risks, the root causes of disasters and their impact on development, we need actionable research that is useful, usable and used. Scientists and researchers must work with policy-makers and practitioners to co-design and co-produce research that can be used effectively. The science and technology community can support better monitoring and forecasting, help develop scenarios, and identify options to manage risk, including related to climate change, propose resilient and sustainable development pathways, and test potential solutions to assess their effectiveness and viability.

The scientific and technological community is committed to supporting the implementation and monitoring of the Framework in multiple ways. These include:

- **Assessment.** Science can provide analytical tools to assess and advance our knowledge of hazard, risk, and underlying risk drivers. It can also evaluate the need for a regular, independent, policy-relevant international assessment of available science on disaster risk reduction, resilience and transformation to generate a more comprehensive view of disaster risk.
- **Synthesis.** To facilitate the uptake of scientific evidence in policy-making, we need to synthesize it in a timely, accessible and policy-relevant manner.
- **Scientific advice.** To translate knowledge into solutions, the science community can provide advisory capabilities integrating all fields of science, technology and innovation in collaboration with practitioners and policy-makers.

- Monitoring and review. The science and technology community is ready to support the development of science-based indicators, common methodologies and processes to harness data and information to promote their availability and use at different scales.
- Communication and engagement. We need to build closer partnerships between policy and research and between researchers themselves. We need to improve the communication of scientific knowledge to facilitate evidence-based decision-making at all levels of government and across society.
- And finally, capacity building. Risk literacy needs to be promoted through curricular reform, professional training and life-long learning across all sectors of society.

A wealth of scientific and technological initiatives supporting disaster risk reduction around the world are presented here in Sendai. For example, the Global Earthquake Model provides visual tools to better communicate earthquake risk. The Peri-Peri U initiative builds partnerships across African universities to build capacity and support locally relevant research. The DATA project of the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) programme works to harmonise disaster loss data. Finally, the International Council for Science and the International Social Science Council are conducting a review of scientific knowledge available to date to support disaster risk reduction and management.

We have learned from the Hyogo Framework for Action that in order to stop the increasing rate of loss of lives and livelihoods, we, the science and technology community, must break down the isolation of scientific knowledge. We need to actively assist governments and others in the uptake and use of this knowledge. This requires fostering deeper and wider partnerships across existing institutions and networks to scale up the application of science to decision-making at all levels.

The success of the post-2015 framework hinges on creating and implementing policies that are built on the best available knowledge. The scientific community stands ready to provide that knowledge and to play its part beyond Sendai, and beyond 2015.