

NGO Major Group Formal Statement 1st Prep Comm 14-15 July 2014

FINAL DRAFT 12 July 2014 [3 mins time slot – approximately 700 words]

Dear Members of the Bureau, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The following statement draws from extensive consultations with civil society organisations and networks around the world, including *a joint civil society position** paper endorsed by over 2,300 civil society organisations across 120 countries. The issues raised resonate strongly with views recorded in the multi-stakeholder *Compilation Report* and regional platform *Summary Statements*, although civil society is concerned the revised “*Elements* “ paper (dated 16th June 2014) does not adequately represent the critical issues and priority actions as identified in the multi-stakeholder consultation process to date.

The NGO Major Group welcomes calls for a forward-looking, action-orientated post-2015 framework to reduce disaster risk by strengthening the resilience of communities and nations to extreme hazards, shocks and disturbances of both natural and man-made origins. Such a framework must build on the successes, gaps and challenges identified in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action, notably:

1. The need for substantially greater progress in tackling *underlying risk drivers* to reduce the creation of new risks to acceptable levels
2. The need for stronger *policy coherence* with related poverty alleviation, climate change and sustainable development frameworks and actors
3. The urgent need to close the widening *implementation gap* between national policy and local action by strengthening community resilience as the foundation for disaster-resilient societies and nations.
4. The need for stronger *accountability*, in part related to weak monitoring and compliance mechanisms

The NGO Major Group believes the ability of a post-2015 framework to bring about a substantial reduction in disaster losses fundamentally depends on a *people-centred approach* that places the perspectives, needs, priorities and capacities *of high-risk people and populations* (as the primary bearers of risk) central to the formulation and subsequent implementation of DRR policies. This requires *inclusive* processes and *governance arrangements* that empower and give voice to those who are disproportionately affected by disasters, including women, children and youth, older persons, people with disabilities, ethnic and religious minorities, socially-excluded groups, displaced, the economically poor and people with high-risk livelihoods

Like other stakeholders the NGO major group believes the post-2015 DRR framework should be an integral part of a comprehensive risk management approach aimed at strengthening disaster resilience to a dynamic, complex interconnected array of extreme shocks and disturbances, whether these are due to natural, political, social, economic or technological hazards (e.g. nuclear power). Moreover, an action-orientated framework must be conflict-sensitive and relevant within areas affected by *fragility and insecurity* where an estimated one in four people on the planet live, many of whom are the most vulnerable to disasters.

To be effective the post-2015 framework must be appropriate to different scales of risks, with strategic emphasis given to tackling the causes and effects of **low-severity high-frequency “everyday” disasters** that account for the majority of disaster losses around the world. The impact of recurrent smaller scale disasters go largely unaccounted for, are uninsured, do not receive external assistance and have to be managed locally. This will require sustained investment to support and scale up **gender-sensitive community-driven interventions**, foster local partnerships and strengthen **local leadership**, including **grassroots women** who can play a vital role as change agents within their communities.

All these actions requires government, intergovernmental and partner organisations at national, sub-national and local levels to develop **an integrated disaster risk management approach** that reflect the complex, uncertain and dynamic risk realities that people and societies face. It will require connecting private and public, formal and informal structures across boundaries and institutional scales with **strong accountability and transparency mechanisms**. This will need clarity of **roles and responsibilities**, the establishment of relevant **performance standards, baselines, targets and indicators**, supported by **impartial monitoring and redress mechanisms** that provide **disaggregated information** to inform and measure progress at national, sub-national and community levels.

Importantly, to foster **political leadership** and mobilise sufficient resources to implement the post-2015 framework we believe that all men and women have a right to a **basic level of protection from disasters** that must be explicitly linked to **domestic legal frameworks**, underpinned by internationally recognised **human rights obligations** which form the non-negotiable normative basis of a post-2015 DRR framework. Accordingly, in line with other stakeholders, we call for the successor framework to be underpinned by a clear set of **guiding principles** encompassing notions of **human-rights, equity, justice** and **environmental integrity** that can inform actions and provide a basis for meaningful cooperation over the longer term.

In closing we believe the elements and issues highlighted above form an integral part of a post-2015 DRR framework designed to have a positive impact on communities and households affected by disasters. We call on the Preparatory Committee, government and intergovernmental bodies to continue to engage civil society in the drafting process leading up to the WCDRR 2015 to ensure the post-2015 DRR framework fully reflects the richness of perspectives, critical elements and priority actions highlighted in the multi-stakeholder consultation process. In so doing, this should help secure **strong commitment and full engagement of civil society** in the promotion, implementation and monitoring of the successor framework. Thank you for your time and attention. [Approximately 750 words]