

Beijing, China, 31 October 2014

**Subject: Support from the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR)
Programme for the Nomination of Prof Allan Michael Lavell for the 2015
UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction**

Dear Sasakawa Award Committee,

On behalf of the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) Science Committee, it is my great pleasure to write in support of Prof Allan Lavell's nomination for the 2015 United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction.

We are aware that Prof Lavell has been nominated by a number of very eminent colleagues in the field, in a letter signed by Prof Omar Darío Cardona, and we are writing to fully endorse the submission of his candidature.

Prof Lavell has contributed in a peerless fashion to the development of what some consider one of the most innovative research programmes on disaster risk science: he played a critical role on the global High-Level Expert Group that, on behalf of the International Council for Science (ICSU) – an umbrella organisation of some 150 national science delegations and global scientific unions. The Group identified that there is a shortfall in current research on how science is used to shape social and political decision-making in the context of hazards and disasters. They noted that addressing this problem required an approach that would integrate expertise in research and policy-making across all hazards, disciplines, geographic regions and political institutional frameworks.

As a consequence he was among the designers of the Science Plan for IRDR (“Integrated Research on Disaster Risk”), an innovative research and action programme that is now co-sponsored by ICSU, the International Social Science Council and UNISDR, and has been playing an important part in preparing the scientific community for the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

At the global level, he remained committed to IRDR, offering his leadership and vision as a member of the Science Committee that oversees the programme, providing his insights first to FORIN (the core project on Forensic Investigations on Disasters (FORIN) – a multidisciplinary research efforts looking at root causes of disasters), and is currently involved in the reformulation of the FORIN methodology in light of the disaster risk reduction (DRR) community's initial use of FORIN for concrete case studies and its applicability in the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. He has also been sharing his expertise and networks with the IRDR synthesis effort required under the Assessment of Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (AIRDR) on a global level.

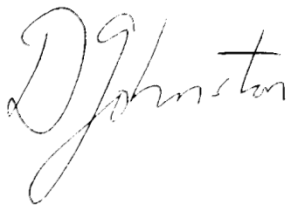
In the Latin American and the Caribbean region, he was co-author in the seminal report on “Understanding and Managing Risk Associated with Natural Hazards” that prepared the ground for the continent-wide efforts to connect, map and catalyse disaster risk science across all hazard types. Institutionally, this has led to the establishment of a dedicated Working Group, spanning the entire continent, under the umbrella of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of ICSU.

As the author of more than 100 texts, books, chapters and articles, of which more than 50 are on environmental risk and disaster themes, he has led the movement that seeks to connect sustainable development goals, climate change adaptation research and disaster risk reduction efforts in a scientifically pioneering, convincing and a politically astute and compelling way.

The emerging field of global integrated disaster risk science has significantly benefited from his knowledge in our mission to develop trans-disciplinary, multi-sectorial alliances for in-depth, practical disaster risk reduction research.

It is for this reason, also, that IRDR wholeheartedly support the candidature submitted and endorsed by many eminent colleagues in the field.

Sincerely,



Prof. David Johnston
Chair of the IRDR Science Committee

On behalf of the IRDR Science Committee, composed of:

- Irasema Alcántara-Ayala (Vice-Chair) (Mexico)
- Djillali Benouar (Algeria)
- Jörn Birkmann (Germany)
- Ann Bostrom (USA)
- Sálvano Briceño (Switzerland)
- Omar Darío Cardona (Colombia)
- Susan L. Cutter (Vice-Chair) (USA)
- S.H.M. Fakhruddin (Thailand)
- Virginia Jiménez Díaz (Venezuela)
- Shuaib Lwasa (Uganda)
- Anthony Oliver-Smith (USA)
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- Kuniyoshi Takeuchi (Vice-Chair)
- Sisi Zlatanova (The Netherlands)