Joint Position Paper of Major Groups and Other Stakeholders for Policymakers Ahead of the Europe and Central Asia Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction 2024

This joint position paper, developed by representatives of eight stakeholder groups¹, outlines key actions for policymakers and DRR stakeholders to consider for strengthening effective, inclusive, and resilient disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies across all levels and sectors ahead of the Regional Platform for DRR in 2024. It was developed following the four Action Oriented Dialogues organized as part of the EFDRR Roadmap 2021-2030 and the Stakeholder Groups’ Roundtable organized by the Ministry of Interior of the Government of Finland and the UNDRR Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia on 14 December 2023 in Vantaa, Finland.

Recognizing the unique perspectives of diverse stakeholders in Europe and Central Asia, the position paper emphasizes the need to further improve the intersectional, multi-stakeholder, and multi-hazard approach to resilience building, in alignment with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction Roadmap 2021-2030.

The key recommendations and actions identified for enhancing inclusion of diverse stakeholder groups in DRR decision-making include:

1. **Allocate financial and human resources to drive meaningful stakeholder engagement in policies, projects, and programs** from the outset of planning and through every stage of the disaster risk management cycle, accommodating individual and collective needs.

2. **Strengthen capacities of diverse stakeholder groups to engage in policymaking processes** by providing tailored tools and training that is accessible to all individuals. This includes engagement to infrastructure design and the digital transformation.

3. **Harness the expertise and best practices of diverse stakeholder groups**, actively engaging them in policy fora, and ensuring their knowledge is appropriately compiled, packaged, and disseminated to ensure widespread accessibility and utility for all.

4. **Enhance risk knowledge by utilizing innovation, technologies, and disaggregated data by sex, disability, and age**, to enable targeted interventions, effectively building resilience among diverse communities.

5. **Localize solutions by working closely with communities and residents**, building resilience for them, and by them. This includes supporting civil society and other non-state stakeholders to engage with local authorities and decision-makers.

6. **Communicate risk information in accessible formats for diverse audiences**, encompassing both digital and analogue technologies, given the importance of the radio spectrum for communication in times of crisis, and encourage scientific, media, policy actors, as well as the private sector and community influencers to integrate them into their communications.

7. **Recognize climate change as a transformative and overarching process** requiring robust stakeholder engagement, including through the mobilization of financial and human resources for jointly addressing climate change and DRR in an inclusive manner.

¹ Persons with Disabilities; Gender; Volunteers; Local Authorities; Media; NGOs; Science; Youth