

**Statement of the Science and Technology Stakeholder Group
On the Fourth Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
Cancun Mexico, 22-26 May 2017**

1. Reaffirming the call for disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters to be addressed with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication (A/RES/66/288 - The Future We Want, para 186)
2. Recognizing the need to facilitate informed policy decision-making on sustainable development issues and, in this regard, to strengthen the science-policy interface (A/RES/66/288 - The Future We Want, para 276)
3. Acknowledging the continued importance of promoting and improving dialogue and cooperation among scientific and technological communities, other relevant stakeholders and policymakers in order to facilitate a science policy interface for effective decision-making in disaster risk management (Sendai Framework, para 24h)
4. Noting UNISDR's membership in the UN interagency task team on Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) for the SDGs, as part of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism established by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda
5. Recognizing that through decades of science and technology development, there are still underlying gaps of use of science, including interface between science and policy in disaster risk reduction
6. Noting that there are documented progresses and challenges met after Geneva Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, May 2011
7. Acknowledging the Target E of the Sendai Framework of Action to substantially increase number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020
 - a. Encourage and improve accessibility to credible and robust multi hazard risk assessments, risk analysis, evident-based information provided not only by science and technology communities, but also through stronger role of community participations (women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, indigenous people) in science and technology.
8. Taking instrumental notes from the International Science and Technology Conference held in Geneva, January 2016
9. Noting on the establishments of the Science and Technology Road Map, and the composition of Science and Technology Partnership, as well as the Science and Technology Advisory Group to support the implementation, follow-up, and review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction at global, regional, national, and sub national levels.

The Science and Technology Session Recommends:

1. Urge the focus of science and technology services on the needs of communities at risk
2. Use best practices in collecting disaster risk information, and assessing risk, vulnerability, capacity, exposure, hazard characteristics and their possible sequential and temporal effects at the relevant social and spatial scale

(Sendai Framework, para 24b), including technological and cascading disasters.

3. Promote the importance of learning lessons from past disasters including their implementation into disaster risk reduction and the monitoring of their adequacy.
4. Bridge the gap between natural and technological risk reduction and promote an integrated and multidisciplinary perspective as part of national disaster risk reduction frameworks and programs.
5. Promote a culture of context-appropriate, people-centered, and planet sensitive application of science and technology for disaster risk management
6. Ensure the use of traditional, indigenous and local knowledge and practices, as appropriate, to complement scientific knowledge in disaster risk assessment (Sendai Framework, para 24i)
7. Moving away from a “one size fit all” mentality, national frameworks should promote science and technology that is most appropriate of local contexts and communities
8. Conduct horizon scanning of emerging technologies for disaster risk management and establishing frameworks to track their positive and negative, primary and secondary, short-term and long-term, intended and unintended effects on the three dimensions of sustainable development
9. Guarantee transparency to assess the saliency, legitimacy, and credibility of processes and tools used for collecting data, as well as designing technically-informed policy recommendations
10. Enhance appropriate use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for risk and infrastructure assessments by providing technical assistance and knowledge to overcome the digital divide and other structural barriers to inclusive access
11. Promote coherence between the science-policy and science, technology, and innovation (STI) dimensions of different sustainable development agendas to promote effective resource use and knowledge sharing
12. Ensure better and more effective science communication between the science and policy communities, as well interfacing with the public
13. Provide feedback into the Guidelines for strengthening DRR national platforms and coordination mechanisms through enhanced contribution of Science and Technology
14. Engage members of the Science and Technology Partnership towards developing a periodic synthesis report on the state of the Science and Technology for comprehensive disaster risk management
15. Align national development plans with the recommendations outlined by the Science and Technology Roadmap, as well as coherence with other science-policy mechanisms of related frameworks (e.g. 2030 Agenda, Paris Climate Change Agreement, New Urban Agenda.)
16. Bridge gaps in knowledge and practice by urging stronger interdisciplinary/trans-disciplinary collaborations in the education sector and programs, as well as engineering
17. Address the following needs to overcome gaps in leveraging Science and Technology for the Sendai Framework: promoting research, increase

- appropriate technology transfer mechanisms, enabling open and citizen data, enhanced communication of usable evidence and user's needs, education and training, investment in science and technology, and international cooperation contributing to national capacity building
18. Strengthen roles of Regional Science and Technology Advisory Group, to propel more concrete implementation of the Science and Technology Roadmap, and link people at national and regional levels to global level.
 19. Support the commitments presented at the Global Platform to support the implementation of the Science and Technology Roadmap:
 - a. The establishment of Regional Fire Management Resource Center to serve good practices on science-policy and science-application interfaces,
 - b. The Global Science Forum to be held in Japan in November 2017 (co organized by Science Council Japan, ICSU, and UNISDR).
 - c. The International Flood Initiative with its renewed strategy to establish platform on waters and disasters, and facilitate dialogue and scale up of investments in disaster risk reduction
 - d. The UN Major Group for Children Youth (UN MGCY) Young Scientist Platform on DRR, as well as the Young Scientist Roadmap with enhanced objectives for the period of 2017-2019, including capacity building, knowledge sharing, and mapping of youth initiatives towards the Sendai Framework.