



Chapter 6.

Closing remarks

As can be concluded from the information summarized in the previous chapters of this IRDR Compilation, as well as from the views expressed by the members of IRDR community throughout, the calls from ISC and UNDRR through IRDR have truly stimulated the DRR research community over the past 10 years, producing important and tangible research results. Indeed, IRDR's broad range of actions toward the overall IRDR objectives are well aligned with the priorities and targets of the Sendai Framework.

Despite not being in itself a research-intensive programme, some work of IRDR through its own leadership or in cooperation with its partners has had global significance. These include for example the development of the 2014 Peril Classifications and Definitions, one of the bases for new work of the Sendai Hazard categories and terminologies, and FORIN, a broadly adopted methodology to look at the integrated underlying courses of disasters. It also includes the re-contextualized ST DRR Roadmap developed together with STAG in 2018-2019 to help DRR research institutions to further align their efforts with the Sendai Framework and facilitate their respective reporting thereunder. Finally, a series of policy papers and recommendations by IRDR have addressed important subjects related to climate change, urban resilience, social impacts, science policy and support toward risk science, and made technical contributions in the inception and development of regional multi-hazard early warning systems.

The Compilation further demonstrated that IRDR has been a programme with research and knowledge actions components, with concrete activities at regional, national and community

levels and cross a range of thematic risk domains. This aspect of action was not often reported on in the past, but are made obvious by the Compilation, with IRDR NCs and ICoEs clearly playing strong roles in connecting global agenda to national and regional needs and contexts. Among their many roles, NCs are best placed in assisting prioritizing national DRR actions and in reporting toward the implementation of Sendai Framework, and ICoEs are robust leaders both in producing knowledge in different research domains and in capacity building in their respective regions. A strong sign of youth engagement in DRR and in building safe and resilient societies has been demonstrated through the IRDR Young Scientists scheme and the U-Inspire network, an initiative of DRR young practitioners that IRDR has co-sponsored with UNESCO and others institutions. As IRDR looks back on its 10-year implementation, it has clearly demonstrated the goals of putting science knowledge in action and building DRR institutional capacity.

As a relatively 'new' science endeavour on integrated DRR research, there were also important lessons learnt over the duration of the programme, in particular in terms of programme governance and operation coordination, resource mobilization and associated mechanisms, science communication with societies, and the development of partnerships. The international scientific communities, including IRDR members, must take these lessons into account in their planning for better future cooperation.

We note that, in parallel to the process of preparing this Compilation through 2020, IRDR was further charged by its co-sponsors, using the IRDR mission as its base, to lead the

development of a new DRR research agenda toward 2030 and beyond. The new mission was intended to look at from much broader contexts in global development and to address the growing demands for understanding systemic, cascading and transboundary hazards and disaster risks.

Then came COVID-19.

In 2020 the world witnessed the sweeping impact of the pandemic, from the massive infections of populations and a record-high loss of human life, to the dramatic erosion in employment, from the collapse of international transportation services to the interruption of school education at all levels to name but a few, costing economies trillions of dollars (or really any other main currency) worth of damage. Perhaps worst of all, the deep and profound social stress and damages the pandemic has caused will take a very long time to heal and to repair. All of a sudden, and unfortunately for all because of its immense impact, the pandemic clearly confirmed the underlying vulnerabilities ingrained in our social, economic and financial

systems, providing stark evidence to support the Sendai Framework's call for a new, more comprehensive, multi-hazard and systemic approach to disaster risk reduction and resilience.

The work and efforts reported in the Compilation will thus serve as building blocks toward a future stage of international cooperation in DRR and risk science, as well as in the science effort post Covid-19 recovery. To the editing team of this Compilation, the mission started in 2010 in IRDR is not yet accomplished in 2020, and indeed it could not be so by its very nature. IRDR 2010-2020 is not the conclusion but rather only the initial part of a long journey for sciences in a world that is becoming increasingly uncertain. There is no doubt that integrated research on disasters and risks needs to be continued with new designs, energized with new resources, and mainstreamed with better synergy with other global frameworks in order to respond to the aspirations of people to build future societies that are more inclusive, safer and more sustainable.