

# Terms of Reference of the Scientific Committee of Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR)

## 1. Background and purpose

- 1.1 The Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) is an international scientific programme cosponsored by the International Science Council (ISC) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and supported by China Association of Science and Technology (CAST). The International Programme Office of IRDR (IRDR IPO) is hosted by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Aerospace Information Research Institute (AIR) of CAS.
- 1.2 The mission of IRDR is to mobilize science for the reduction of all types of disaster risk, building resilience and reducing vulnerability by integrating risk science with climate change adaptation and mitigation and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). IRDR aims to usher in an inclusive, safe and sustainable world by promoting a better understanding of disaster risk and the effective use of risk science in decision-making.
- 1.3 The first phase of IRDR lasted from 2010 to 2020. With the completion of the first phase and a transition in 2021-2022, the IRDR Phase II officially commenced in May 2023. This new phase of IRDR will continue for ten years.
- 1.4 The Scientific Committee (hereafter referred to as SC) is established to guide IRDR as an international scientific programme and ensure that IRDR is strategic, open, inclusive, productive and impactful through the entire period of implementation.

## 2. The mandate

- 2.1 The first and foremost mandate of the SC is to provide scientific and policy guidance to the IRDR community and the IRDR IPO in programme planning, implementation, development and evaluation. This scientific and policy guidance is based on the collective expertise and deliberations of SC members and shall take the form of SC decisions and recommendations.
- 2.2 The SC is further mandated to provide advice from a science-policy nexus to the co-sponsors on the overall alignment of IRDR's work with the global implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and other related UN Agreements such as Agenda 2030, paying particular attention to new and emerging risks, compound and cascading risks, and the international scientific response required thereto.
- 2.3 The *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* and its related UN documents, the *High-Level Strategy of the International Science Council*, and *A Framework for Global Science in Support of Risk-informed Sustainable Development and Planetary Health* (Referred hereafter as the Research Framework) will be used as overall guiding documents for the work of IRDR and its SC.

2.4 The IRDR IPO shall provide all technical support required by the SC to perform its duties, in its function as the Secretariat of IRDR.

### **3. The specific tasks**

3.1 The SC is tasked with the following:

- (a) To advance interdisciplinary science in DRR building on the Research Framework and on needs from the IRDR Co-Sponsors. This will involve thought leadership and scoping new areas for scientific collaboration, broad-based consultations on current and emerging issues, the continued monitoring of developments in the DRR field and, where appropriate, the conclusion of agreements as to how projects or networks might become components of IRDR;
- (b) To guide the implementation of the IRDR action plans with the support of the IRDR IPO, regularly review the progress thereof and make decisions for necessary adjustments and improvements, and ensure the optimal use of available resources;
- (c) To examine and approve the new proposals of IRDR National Committees (NCs), IRDR International Centres of Excellence (ICoEs), and to review the performance of these IRDR entities and make decisions and recommendations accordingly;
- (d) To call and examine the proposals for IRDR activities and working groups, and to review their performance and contributions to the programme's overall mission and objectives and make decisions and recommendations accordingly; SC members are expected to provide their scientific leadership in the IRDR activities and working groups that are under their respective expertise;
- (e) To promote the mission, goals and objectives of IRDR and IRDR deliberations and achievements to the broader communities, and to represent IRDR at conferences and outreach programmes and platforms, in order to attract and form a new generation of individuals at all levels and to capture the interest of the general public and decision-makers on the importance of risk reduction for human well-being and sustainable development;
- (f) To advise the IRDR Executive Director and co-sponsors on key areas that require attention and on the development of partnerships with particular attention to ISC members and affiliated bodies, UNDRR multi-stakeholder groups and regional groups, international organisations and private sectors working in the field of DRR; and,
- (g) To lead the design and implementation of IRDR related scientific meetings especially triennial IRDR Scientific Conference; to facilitate the exchange of information among the scientists and institutions committed to advance and apply risk science globally.

### **4. SC Composition**

4.1 The SC will have up to fifteen regular members. Among them, eight member positions are expected for individual experts, and seven positions are expected for experts from the IRDR National Committees (NCs), International Centers of Excellence (ICoEs) and Young Scientists. Each SC Member shall have one vote. The representation of relevant

disciplines from the natural, social, behavioural sciences, economics, health, technology and engineering sciences, as well as regional and gender balance will be ensured to the extent possible.

4.2 The Co-sponsors each and the host of the IPO shall have an *ex-officio* position respectively in SC.

4.3 The SC shall have a Chair and two Vice Chairs among the fifteen members. The chairpersonship shall be confirmed and officially announced by the ISC.

## **5. Appointment and terms**

5.1 The call for SC members shall be announced by the ISC and UNDRR.

5.2 The appointment of SC members will be made by the ISC in consultation with UNDRR and the Executive Director (ED). The formal appointment letters will be issued by the ISC.

5.3 Each SC member shall serve for a term of three years and is eligible for a second term.

5.4 In the event of resignation of a SC member, the ISC in consultation with the SC Chair and Executive Director shall appoint a replacement for the remainder of that member's term.

## **6. SC meetings**

6.1 SC shall have at least one annual session each year (SC Annual Session), which shall be called by the SC Chair. One additional session may be called by the Chair upon the joint decision of the Co-sponsors and the Executive Director.

6.2 The IPO will be responsible for the preparation of the SC Annual Session and any additional SC meetings as may be called, including the preparation of the technical documents and draft decisions, reporting, and logistic arrangements required. The agenda of the SC sessions shall be drawn up by IPO in prior consultation with the Chair, Vice Chairs and Co-sponsors.

6.3 SC sessions are in principle open to the entire IRDR Community, except for meeting items that are close door by nature.

6.4 After each session, the SC shall present a report to the IRDR governance body on its work including its decisions and recommendations, and share the report with the IRDR Community.

6.5 The travel of SC members to the SC sessions will be covered by IPO in accordance with the established travel and financial rules for the operations of the IPO.

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