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Voluntary commitment

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE ON BEHALF OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES MAJOR GROUP

International partnership to mobilize science for action on DRR and resilience building

GOAL: GOAL 3 - STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE: MEASURES THAT ENABLE NATIONS AND COMMUNITIES TO ABSORB LOSS AND DAMAGE, MINIMIZE IMPACTS AND RECOVER

SCOPE: GLOBAL

COUNTRY(IES)/TERRITORY(IES): NOT APPLICABLE

Description

Scientific data and information and tangible application of technology are critical to underpin well-informed policies and decisions, across the public, private and voluntary sectors. Much scientific evidence exists but better links to policy- and decision-making are needed to continuously enhance our ability to forecast, reduce and respond to disaster risks thereby building resilience.

S&T communities wish to strengthen the dialogue and collaboration with policy-makers and DRR practitioners at local, national, regional and global levels to identify needs and knowledge gaps, co-design, co-produce and co-deliver new knowledge, and make science more readily available and accessible. To this end, S&T communities and networks will mobilise and strengthen existing capacities and initiatives to support the implementation of the post-2015 framework for DRR from the local to the global scale, and in particular deliver outputs in the following six areas:

- (1) Assessment of current state of data availability and scientific knowledge on disaster risks and resilience (what is known, what is needed, what are the uncertainties, etc.);
- (2) Synthesis of scientific evidence in a timely, accessible and policy-relevant manner;

- (3) Scientific advice to decision-makers through close collaboration and dialogue to identify knowledge needs including at national and local levels, and review policy options based on scientific evidence; and
- (4) Monitoring and review to ensure that new and up-to-date scientific information is used in data collection and monitoring progress towards disaster risk reduction and resilience building.

In addition, two cross-cutting capabilities need to be strengthened:

- (5) Communication and engagement among policy-makers, stakeholders in all sectors and in the S&T domains themselves to ensure useful knowledge is identified, needs are met, and scientists are better equipped to provide evidence and advice.
- (6) Capacity development to ensure that all countries can produce, have access to and use effectively scientific information

Targets

Partnership development

1. Mobilise relevant institutions, networks and initiatives to join-up efforts and support a successful implementation of the Post-2015 framework for DRR at national, regional and global levels: the International Council for Science (ICSU), as a global scientific organization, will reinforce its ongoing international coordination and assessment work. The Tokyo Conference co-organised by the Science Council of Japan, UNISDR, IRDR and University of Tokyo (January 2015) will be an important milestone.
2. Work with UNISDR, UN agencies, countries, scientific organisations, donors and stakeholders (including through consultative forum) to identify S&T input for the implementation and monitoring of the post-2015 framework, notably by assessing the landscape of existing institutions, networks and groups that produce integrated research on disaster risk, resilience and transformation, that provide scientific advice and evidence on DRR, in order to identify gaps, synergies and overlaps (mapping and gap analysis) (starting 2015).
3. Work with these partners, and in particular with STAG to be empowered, on modalities to develop an international partnership to implement the enhanced contribution of science around the six functions highlighted above.
4. Work with these partners for activating regional cooperation framework bridging between national and global levels.
5. Work with partners on related research and action topics (e.g.: science education; disasters and cultural heritage; earth observation and space technology) (starting in 2015);
6. Deliver concrete outputs in relation to the six areas in collaboration with

governments, UN agencies, donors, stakeholders as appropriate, for instance (all starting in 2015):

Assessment

- Support national platforms to assess current and future disaster risks on economic growth, public health and social equality and demonstrate effects of investment in collaboration with donors.
- Identify need for and propose to member states and UN agencies the creation of a regular, independent, authoritative, policy-relevant international assessment of science on disaster risks, resilience and transformation;
- Review ongoing initiatives and networks on disaster risk research (e.g. IRDR which is co-sponsored by ICSU, ISSC, UNISDR); and
- Provide substantial contributions on science-related aspects to the envisaged handbook on the implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

Synthesis

- Prepare and regular reviews of integrated research into disaster risk, resilience and transformation (ICSU, ISSC) with syntheses provided for international policy use;
- Contribute to the UNISDR STAG publication of case studies;
- Contribute to regular reviews of the UNISDR Terminology.

Advice

- Work with UNISDR and other partners, as appropriate, to develop scientific advisory functions in key policy arenas, such as the global, regional and national platforms;
- Support scientists at national level to be better able to effectively support evidence-based decision-making (e.g.: IRDR National Committees and ISDR National Platforms with S&T body, on scientific planning, policy needs);
- Use ICSU global and regional network of science advisors to governments to recognize and promote synergies between DRR – SDG – Climate change risk/resilience/transformation.

Monitoring

- Support national platforms to collect and archive disaster damage data, maintain disaster damage statistics and monitor disaster risk changes;
- Deliver scientific input on targets and indicators for monitoring progress on risk prevention, risk reduction, resilience building, ensuring compatibility with policy-processes such as the Post-2015 Development Agenda and its associated Sustainable Development Goals (STAG; IRDR partners);
- IRDR-DATA project, with support from Group on Earth Observations (GEO), IRDR Japan, ICSU CODATA and World Data System (Tokyo secretariat) will work on disaster loss databases across sectors (public, private, NGOs) and on open linked data systems (white paper) for DRR.

Communication and engagement

- Conduct co-designed and policy-relevant integrated research on all aspects of disaster risk, prevention, response, and resilience (IRDR, Future Earth, GEO, national research institutes, universities, academies, etc.);
- Use consultative fora (IRDR) and platforms (ISDR) for regular exchanges with all stakeholders.

Capacity building

- Use existing structures to conduct capacity building activities at regional and national level to support data collection and statistics maintenance, monitoring and pre-assessment of risks, risk communication, uptake of science, understanding of risk drivers and root causes, and collaboration between scientists and policy-makers and other non-academic stakeholders.
- Promote the engagement of young scientists in DRR work (Advanced institutes, ISSC fellows, etc.)

Indicators

Geographical and sectoral inclusiveness of the groups of partners involved in the activities under the six areas.

Evidence for presence of advanced science and technology in the development and implementation of policies for DRR and in the design of research and data information programs.

Opportunities of dialogue and communications between science and technology communities and the other stakeholders including policy makers, practitioners, citizen societies, donors and private sectors.

Means of verification

Annual STMG progress report developed on behalf of the International Council for Science as the STMG Organising Partner

Timeframe

Annual STMG progress report developed on behalf of the International Council for Science as the STMG Organising Partner

Attachments

Project description:

Non-paper: strengthening Science and Technology for the implementation of the post-2015 framework for DRR (/preparatory/commitmentdownload/?file=1 Post2015-STDRR-non-paper_24102014.pdf) Doc. 3.4

Other:

Tokyo Conference on International Study for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience - draft statement (/preparatory/commitmentdownload/?file=final_Tokyo_recommendation_bullet_20140528clear_1page_with_logo.pdf)

Tokyo Conference on International Study for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience - website (<http://monsoon.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp/AWCI/TokyoConf/en/>)

Integrated Research on Disaster Risk Programme
(<http://www.irdrinternational.org/>)

International Council for Science - website (<http://www.icsu.org/>)

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