

The Science and Technology Community for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

Terms of reference

Updated 20/05/2015

1. Background

- In adopting the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, 187 governments called for: *“The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries”* (para 16).
- The Sendai Framework indicates that *“to attain the expected outcome, the following goal must be pursued: Prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience”* (para 17).
- The Science and Technology community is critical to achieving the outcome and goal of the Sendai Framework in particular to identify disaster risk reduction needs and to provide expertise and credible evidence to assist decision makers to prioritize risk reduction activities. A major task is to promote relevant advances in science and technology, capitalise on existing knowledge and evidence, make it available, support policy formulation and its implementation.
- Currently, the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) is an advisory body reporting to UNISDR Secretariat that has accomplished the following tasks: collect and analyse successful practices on science and technology for DRR and publish case studies every two years, conduct a survey to identify existing platforms and networks for DRR geared to share information and coordinate activities. A sub-working group was established to identify the most common used terms on DRR in existing documents, publications and glossaries as the basis for further discussion and update of DRR terminology. Finally, the engagement of the Science and Technology community in the preparatory process of Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction where concrete commitments to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework were made, see Annex 3.

2. Science and Technology in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 recognises the important role of science and technology for disaster risk reduction.

Under Priority 1, Understanding disaster risk, science and technology is particularly acknowledged at national and local levels to *“Promote and improve 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”* (paragraph 24(h)); and to *“Strengthen technical and scientific capacity to capitalize on and consolidate existing knowledge, and to develop and apply methodologies and models to assess disaster risks, vulnerabilities and exposure to all hazards”* (paragraph 24(j));

At global and regional levels the call for science and technology support is particularly clear in paragraph 25(g), which will form the main tasks of STAG and the Science and Technology (S&T) Partnership, which are outlined under item 4.

Under priority 3: Investing in disasters risk reduction for resilience, the Sendai Framework also calls to *“ Promote cooperation between academic, scientific and research entities and networks and the private sector to develop new products and services to help reduce disaster risk, in particular those that would assist developing countries and their specific challenges”* (paragraph 31(c));

Under means for implementation, it states: to *“Enhance access of states, in particular developing countries to finance, environmentally sound technology, science and inclusive innovation, as well as knowledge and information-sharing through existing mechanisms, namely bilateral, regional and multilateral collaborative arrangements, including the United Nations and other relevant bodies; (paragraph 47(b); and to “Promote the use and expansion of thematic platforms of cooperation such as global technology pools and global systems to share know-how, innovation and research and to ensure access to technology and information in disaster risk reduction”* (paragraph 47(c)).

To meet the requests in the Sendai Framework and to serve their needs more directly, STAG needs to be enhanced in terms of its scope, resources and expand its work with the wider Science and Technology community interested to join efforts to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. This document presents an enhanced terms of reference for STAG.

3. The Guiding Principles for the work of the Scientific and Technical Community for DRR

1. The principal goal of the Scientific and Technical Partnership and the Advisory Group is to drive the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 through: 1) improving dialogue and cooperation of relevant Science and Technology communities and other stakeholders and coordination of existing networks and scientific research institutions; 2) ensuring scientific research and innovation goals are aligned with the Sendai Framework policy goal, outcome and scientific objectives, and 3) support policies both to develop and disseminate concrete research and technology informed solutions to reduce disaster risk as well as to point to gaps and opportunities in research to parallel the evolution of policy needs to address to reduce disaster risk.
2. The STAG as the guiding body for the S&T Partnership, will work to build a collaboration with existing and future institutions, organizations, academia and platforms with recognised expertise and experience in developing and/or applying science and technology to reduce disaster risk as members of the S&T Partnership.
3. The S&T Partnership will work to ensure the Sendai Framework is implemented to a high scientific and technical standards.
4. The S&T Partnership will operate within the terms of reference which enshrine the principles of transparency, impartiality, equity, accessibility and evidence-informed processes.
5. The S&T Partnership's work will focus on deliverables, capitalise and make available existing scientific and technical knowledge, practices and tools to reduce disaster risk.
6. The S&T Partnership will contribute to further develop international cooperation and capacity building to local, national, regional and global science communities to meet the objectives of the Sendai Framework.
7. The S&T Partnership will continuously use and apply learning from similar international systems, including relevant bodies at international and other levels for support where needed.¹

4. Purpose and objectives of the UNISDR Scientific and Technical Community for DRR

The purpose and objectives of the STAG and the Science and Technology Partnership will meet the call of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 outlined under priority 1, paragraph 24 g for science and technology role at global and regional levels to: *“Enhance the scientific and technical work on disaster risk reduction and its mobilization through the coordination of existing networks and scientific research institutions at all levels*

¹ Carabine E. Revitalising Evidence-based Policy for the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030: Lessons from Existing International Science Partnerships. PLOS Currents Disasters. 2015 Apr 23 . Edition 1. doi: 10.1371/currents.dis.aab45b2b4106307ae2168a485e03b8a.

and all regions with the support of the UNISDR Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) in order to:

- Strengthen the evidence-base in support of the implementation of this framework;
- Promote scientific research of disaster risk patterns, causes and effects;
- Disseminate risk information with the best use of geospatial information technology;
- Provide guidance on methodologies and standards for risk assessments, disaster risk modelling and the use of data;
- Identify research and technology gaps and set recommendations for research priority areas in disaster risk reduction;
- Promote and support the availability and application of science and technology to decision-making;
- Contribute to the update of the 2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction;
- Use post-disaster reviews as opportunities to enhance learning and public policy; and disseminate studies;”

5. Structure of the Scientific and Technical Community for DRR

1.1 The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for DRR

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of the UNISDR will oversee the activities of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group, the Partnership, and the Secretariat to ensure compliance with this Terms of Reference and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

1.2 The Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG)

The STAG will be constituted by up to 20 members representing their institutions. The STAG members will be identified via an open and transparent process, where following a call to relevant research and scientific institutions and organizations part of the UNISDR S&T Partnership for nominations and submission of detailed CVs, members are selected on the basis of their expertise and experience on developing and/or applying science and technology for disaster risk reduction; level of commitment to the Partnership’s activities and to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework. The composition of the Group will reflect the makeup of the technical institutes and disciplines needed for disaster risk reduction. See annex 2 for further details.

The STAG will meet face to face at least once a year and will hold telephone or video conferences once every month. Further meetings will be arranged as needed. Plenary proceedings and STAG meeting minutes and materials relating to decisions taken should be available online.

The functions of the STAG

The STAG provides direction and guides the work of the S&T Partnership by:

- Preparing and presenting the Partnership's work plan to the Partnership for approbation;
- Monitoring the implementation of the Partnership's work plan, once approved by the Partnership;
- Approving the terms of reference and monitoring the activities of Technical Working Groups;
- Providing technical expertise and support to the Secretariat in the Partnership's activities.

Chair and Vice-Chairs of STAG

- The STAG will have one Chair and two Vice-Chairs.
- The STAG shall vote in one person from among its members to serve as a -Chair for one term of two years. The STAG shall vote in two persons from among its members to serve as Vice-Chairperson for one term of two years.
- The Chair and Vice-Chairs shall lead the STAG during their term of office in working with the Secretariat to guide the work of the Partnership and the STAG.

Selection and function of Chair and Vice-Chairs of STAG

The Chair and Vice-Chairs will be selected from among members of STAG taking account of geographical balance of the regions, gender and age.

The main tasks of the Chair and Vice-Chairs will be to:

- Provide overarching compliance of the work of the Partnership with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.
- Oversee the planning, implementation and evaluation of the STAG business and activities, including to agree future work plans of the Partnership,
- Agree membership of the S&T Partnership and its working groups, including its chair/heads of working groups,
- Monitor the activities of the working groups and to engage with partners at a strategic level to ensure the STAG is a genuine platform for engagement at local, national, regional and global levels
- Identify and prioritise key scientific information needed for policymakers at appropriate scales and to catalyse new efforts to generate new knowledge by engaging with key scientific organisations, policymakers and funding organisations. Another area is building capacity for effective use of science in decision-making at all levels.

1.3 The Scientific and Technical Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction

A Scientific and Technical Partnership will be established of major research institutions, organizations and networks working on the different disciplines of advancing science and technology for disaster risk reduction.

Participation in the S&T Partnership will be opened to all scientific and technical institutes, organizations and networks worldwide and in any disciplines relevant to DRR and at all levels that have the capacity and the expertise to contribute to the evidence base for implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Interested institutions, organizations and networks will respond to a call for nomination. Selection will be made based on their expertise and capacity to develop and provide science, technology or tools for disaster risk reduction, as well as the level of commitment to the Partnership's activities and to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework. The number of Members of the Partnership will be kept manageable and expanding gradually. (Partnership membership details are available in Annex 3)

Recognition of membership to the Scientific and Technical Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction will be via a membership application process assessed by STAG representatives through a transparent process allowing UNISDR S&T Partnership for a two year term, renewable on demonstration of achievements of institutionally agreed outputs.

A General Assembly of all Members is convened every two years coinciding with the Global Platform.

1.4 The Scientific and Technical Working Groups for DRR

It is foreseen that a number of Working Groups will be established to complete one or more activities or products in the Partnership work plan. This work will include scientific and technical knowledge.

- The specific topics, TOR and work programme of the technical groups will be identified by the STAG, informed by the plenary discussions.
- Working Group procedures could include expert and practitioner, peer-review processes which aim to ensure technical information is provided in a credible, transparent and independent manner.
- Working Groups are likely to be hosted by an appropriate organisation, commonly also the same organisation that employs the Head of the Working Group. Membership of the Working Groups will be drawn from members of the Partnership and will be balanced geographically and by gender and age, while maintaining a focus on complementary expertise and involvement of existing initiatives.

- Further task groups may be established for a limited time to consider a specific topic or issue.
- As an example a working group will take forward the time limited task required by paragraph 50 of the Sendai Framework *“The conference also recommends that the Working Group considers the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group on the update of the 2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction by December 2016, and that the outcome of its work be submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration and adoption”*
- Other potential working groups could focus on DRR research agenda, risk identification, and early warning.

1.5 The Scientific and Technical Secretariat for DRR

The Secretariat will be hosted within UNISDR. The Secretariat will perform day-to-day management of the Partnership, and will provide ongoing technical and logistical support to STAG and the working groups to undertake their respective functions. The Secretariat will also help to ensure coordination across themes, projects, regions and committees, liaise with key stakeholders, assist with mobilisation of financial resources and assist in the facilitation of monitoring and evaluation of the STAG’s work. The Secretariat will maintain a list of members of the Science and Technology Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction and their recognition status. STAG, Members of the Partnership and working group members are encouraged to support secondments of appropriate technical experts to the Secretariat.

1.6 Associated members

Associate Members, where appropriate, will also be invited to join the working groups. Associate Members will not be expected to attend all the meetings or be involved in all aspect of the work of the Partnership, but will bring additional institutional or technical expertise in support of the work programme of the Partnership. The Chair, Vice –Chairs and Secretariat will seek to ensure rotation of associate members allowing Associate Members to join working groups as full members, and allow for the widest inclusion of institutions, technical disciplines, and geographic representations.

6. Resources

- Through the Secretariat, UNISDR will mobilize needed funds to carry out the activities of STAG and where relevant for the Partnership, from voluntary contributions from all sources including Governments, UN bodies, other intergovernmental organisations and stakeholders including the private sector, NGOs and foundations. Funding should be pooled and distributed amongst the needs of

STAG, the partnership and the Working Groups, as per the work plan and needs and priorities, to ensure a sense of collective ownership.

- Members of the Partnership, where possible and mutually agreed, shall financially assist the science and technology work through funding certain activities, undertake resource mobilisation and staff secondments, where appropriate.
- The Secretariat will prepare a biannual budget of the STAG, the Partnership and Working Groups work plan in consultation with the Chair, Vice-Chairs and STAG members.
- Any funding received by STAG, the Partnership and the Working Groups must remain transparent and details of the donor and projected outcome must be available publicly.

7. Collaboration between the STAG, the Science and Technology Partnership and the wider DRR community

- The Partnership will be guided by STAG and particularly by a core group consisting of the STAG Chair, Vice-chairs, Head of the Secretariat, Heads of Working Groups and representatives of key stakeholders with which the STAG interfaces. This core group will be supported by the Secretariat (based within the UNISDR) and a set of distributed working groups hosted by organisations. See diagram of the structure in Annex 1.
- An operating principle of the STAG will be to collaborate existing and future relevant initiatives, including the IPCC, IPBES, UNSDSN, ICSU, IRDR, IAP, GFCS, SAB,² Future Earth and other knowledge holders to fill gaps and avoid duplication, particularly given the clearly established links between some disasters and anthropogenic climate change. It will also collaborate with existing UN bodies currently identified in the UN Plan of Action and other relevant UN Organizations, Funds and Programmes

² IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

IPBES Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

UNSDSN United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network

SAB Science Advisory Board of the Secretary General of the United Nations

GFCS Global Framework for Climate Services

ICSU International Council of Science

IRDR Integrated Research on Disaster Risk

IAP Global Network of Science Academies

Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)

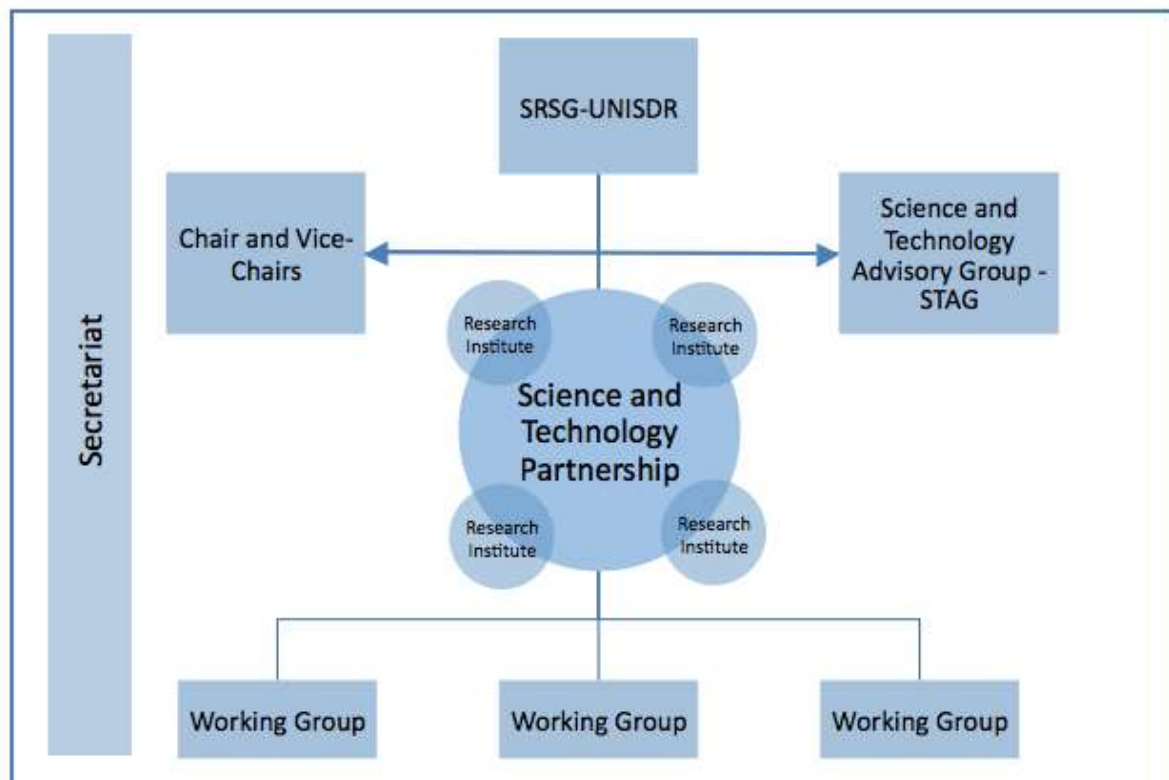
- The Global Platforms will provide a forum for democratic debate on policy and implementation issues relevant of the Sendai Framework and will have a prior science and technology meeting to bring together where possible, all STAG members, the partnership and working groups for biannual meetings. Regional meetings are likely to provide opportunities for further science and technology meetings as well as related science conferences.
- Focussing on national needs and based on priorities established by the UNISDR Secretariat, the STAG will respond to requests from local national regional and global science communities, including for capacity development, where possible.
- The STAG should also encourage and take into account, as appropriate, inputs and suggestions made by relevant stakeholders, such as other intergovernmental organisations, international and regional scientific organisations, non-governmental organisations, indigenous peoples and local communities, and the private sector.

Annex 1:

Structure of the STAG and the Science and Technology Partnership to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

As outlined in the TOR, members of the Partnership will nominate representatives to STAG, which who guide the work of the Partnership. It will rotate every two years. Therefore we suggest a structure (see below) where the Partnership is a network of institutes.

The Secretariat will provide support to the Partnership by maintaining list serve of its members, sharing information through dedicated webpage and newsletter. The Secretariat will also support the SRSR, STAG and the Working Groups. Hence the Secretariat was put in a vertical box to describe that it cuts across all of the Partnership entities. The SRSR will oversee the whole work.



Annex 2:

Nomination and Selection of STAG members

Nomination Process for the STAG membership

- a. Nominations for STAG candidates will be announced by the Secretariat to the whole Science and Technology Partnership. The announcement will include:
 - Information about STAG membership, level of commitment & expected workload;
 - Information about the nomination process and deadlines;
 - Details required for the candidacy (name, institution, level of involvement);
 - Selection criteria for STAG membership.
- b. All institutions of the Science and Technology Partnership are able to nominate representatives for consideration as members of STAG. Nominations with required supporting information will be sent to the Secretariat by a stipulated deadline.
- c. The Secretariat will share the list of candidates and the details of the procedure with the Partnership.

Selection Process for STAG membership

- The Secretariat will forward the list of nominated candidates to each respective UNISDR regional offices (RO) for comments. The regional offices will be requested to provide confidential recommendations to the Secretariat for the candidates from their region with a description of the strengths & weaknesses of each candidate/institution as it pertains to their participation to the STAG and the Partnership.
- A selection panel will be composed of 8-10 members, with two members from the Secretariat, 2-3 from UNISDR regional offices and 4 members from the current STAG including the Chairperson and Vice-Chair. The other two members of STAG for the selection panel will be chosen from among existing STAG members by consensus
- The Secretariat will send the list of nominations with RO confidential recommendations to the selection panel. The selection panel will then shortlist candidates, based on the candidates' demonstrated level of commitment to the Partnership through deployments, involvement in training activities, technical expertise, and diversity of geopolitical representation. The final list of candidates will be selected by consensus.
- Any differences of opinion among members of the selection panel should preferably be resolved by discussion and consensus. If necessary, final selection will be resolved by a simple majority vote. In cases of persistent and unresolvable disagreement, the matter will be referred to the SRSB and Head of the UNISDR, and every attempt should be made to resolve the matter amicably.

Term of Office of the STAG

- The STAG shall be comprised of up to 20 members. These members and their alternates are designated by their respective institutions/organizations/agencies and represent those institutions.
- The terms of office for members of the STAG will be two years, and renewable for one term, for a total of 4 years. After a maximum of 4 years, individuals should rotate off the STAG for one term of 2 years before being eligible for re-selection. Institutions can designate other candidates and therefore continue to be represented in the STAG.
- Focal points are selected annually by the selection panel according to both institutions and individuals' contributions to the Partnership.
- Remark: On specific occasions, STAG can invite individuals in its meetings due to their skills or expertise on a given topic.

Frequency of meetings of the STAG

- The STAG will meet face-to-face at least once every year to review activities and outputs of the Partnership and to promote collaboration among members.
- STAG will maintain regular tele or video conferences to exchange information, organise its work and deliver.

Annex 3:

Nomination and Selection of the S&T Partnership members

STAG seeks to build collaboration with existing and future institutions, organizations, academia and platforms with recognised expertise and experience in developing and/or applying science and technology to reduce disaster risk in alignment with the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Nomination Process for the S&T Partnership membership

- a. Nominations for STAG Partnership members will be announced by the Secretariat to the whole Science and Technology Partnership. The announcement will include:
 - Information about S&T partnership membership, level of commitment & expected workload;
 - Information about the nomination process and deadlines;
 - Details required for the candidacy (name, institution, Partnership involvement);
 - Selection criteria for S&T membership.
- b. All partners institutions are eligible for self-nomination of their representatives for consideration as members of STAG. Nominations with required supporting information to be sent to the Secretariat by the stipulated deadline.
- c. The Secretariat will share the list of partnership candidates and the details of the procedure with the selection panel.

Selection Process for S&T Partnership membership

- A selection panel will be composed of 8-10 members, with two members from the Secretariat, 2-3 from UNISDR regional offices and 4 members from the current STAG including the Chair and Vice-Chairs. The other two members of partnership for the selection panel will be chosen from among existing partnership members by consensus
- The Secretariat will send the list of nominations with UNISDR Regional Offices (RO) confidential recommendations to the selection panel. The selection panel will then shortlist proposed partners, based on the demonstrated level of commitment to the Partnership through relevant scientific and technical research, deployments, involvement in training activities, technical expertise, and diversity of geopolitical representation.
- Any differences of opinion among members of the selection panel should preferably be resolved by discussion and consensus. If necessary, final selection will be resolved by a simple majority vote. In cases of persistent and unresolvable disagreement, the matter will be referred to the SRSG and Head of the UNISDR, and every attempt should be made to resolve the matter amicably. All discussions about partners should remain confidential within the STAG and the Secretariat.

Term of Office of the Partners

- The Partnership shall be comprised of as many institutions/organizations/agencies with recognized experience in developing and applying science and technology to DRR.
- The terms of membership of the partnership shall be for two years, renewable.

Frequency of meetings of the S&T Partnership

- Representatives of members of the S&T Partnership will meet face-to-face once every two years just before the Global Platforms to review activities and outputs of the Partnership and to promote collaboration among members.
- STAG and the Secretariat will arrange these meetings.

Annex 4:**Summary report of the working session on “Applying Science and Technology to Disaster Risk Reduction Decision-making**

Sendai, 15 March 2015

at the 3rd UN World conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

The session discussed the critical role of science and technology in disaster risk reduction and agreed to establish an international partnership of Science and Technology to support the implementation of the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030”³. By mobilizing relevant institutions, networks and initiatives, the international partnership shall implement the actions identified in the Sendai framework through voluntary commitments in the following areas:

- **Assessment.** Science can provide analytical tools to assess and advance our knowledge of hazard, risk, and underlying risk drivers. It can also evaluate the need for a regular, independent, policy-relevant international assessment of available science on disaster risk reduction, resilience and transformation to achieve a more comprehensive view of disaster risk.
- **Synthesis.** To facilitate the uptake of scientific evidence in policy-making, we need to synthesize it in a timely, accessible and policy-relevant manner.
- **Scientific advice.** To translate knowledge into solutions, the science community can provide advisory capabilities integrating all fields of science, technology and innovation in collaboration with practitioners and policy-makers.
- **Monitoring and review.** The science and technology community is ready to support the development of science-based indicators, common methodologies and processes to harness data and information to promote their availability and use at different scales.
- **Communication and engagement.** We need to build closer partnerships between policy and research and between researchers themselves. We need to improve the communication of scientific knowledge to facilitate evidence-based decision-making at all levels of government and across sectors of society.
- **Capacity building.** Risk literacy needs to be promoted through curricular reform, professional training and life-long learning across all sectors of society

³ Statement in plenary from the Science and Technology Major Group Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 14-18 March 2015, Sendai <http://www.icsu.org/science-for-policy/disaster-risk/documents/official-statement-science-technology-to-wcdrr.pdf>

DRAFT version 1

22/05/2015

**Science and Technology Conference
on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030**

October 21-23 October 2015

Palais de Nations

Geneva

'Towards an increased role of Science and Technology in Disaster Risk Reduction policies'.

Draft Concept Note

Target participants

The conference will bring together scientists in relevant disciplines on Disaster Risk Reduction, some policy makers and DRR practitioners to discuss how the science and technology community can support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR).

Brief

1. Why is this topic important?

The Sendai Framework for DRR (SFDRR) calls for extensive use of science and technology to implement 'Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels'.

Scientific data and information are critical to underpin well-informed policies and decisions, across the public, private and voluntary sectors. Extensive scientific knowledge and evidence already exists but better links into policy-making are needed to continuously deepen our ability to forecast, reduce and respond to disaster risks. Science needs to become more relevant to decision-makers. Equally, scientific and technology communities need to engage in the process of knowledge generation and in the application of science and technology to disaster risk management. This is partly about connecting the dots and enhancing coordination, collaboration, and dialogue towards a shared goal of reducing disaster risks and building resilience of societies.

2. What commitments are expected to be achieved?

Scientific and technological communities are keen to engage in a stronger dialogue and collaboration with policy-makers and disaster risk reduction practitioners to identify knowledge gaps, co-design and co-produce knowledge, and make science more readily available and accessible to support the implementation of the SFDRR. To this end, the scientific and technical work on disaster risk reduction should be enhanced through the mobilization of existing networks of scientific and research institutions at local, national, regional and international levels.

The SFDRR made a call to 'Enhance the scientific and technical work on disaster risk reduction and its mobilization through the coordination of existing networks and scientific research institutions at all levels and all regions with the support of the UNISDR Scientific and Technical Advisory Group. There are two elements to answering this call:

A) Support the implementation plan of the SFDRR by:

- promote and support the availability and application of science and technology to decision-making;
- contribute to the implementation of the science and technology commitment made at the Third UN World Conference on DRR, in particular to establish a partnership of

science and technology, by mobilizing relevant institutions, networks and initiatives to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030.

- identify capacity development opportunities to enhance learning and public policy. Compile and disseminate case studies;
- strengthen the evidence-base in support of the implementation of this framework;
- disseminate risk information with the best use of geospatial information technology.

By mobilizing relevant institutions, networks and initiatives, the SFDRR international partnership shall implement the following four main functions identified in the Sendai Framework through voluntary commitments in the following areas:

- **Assessment.** Science can provide analytical tools to assess and advance our knowledge of hazard, risk, and underlying risk drivers.
- **Synthesis.** To facilitate the uptake of scientific evidence in policy-making, we need to synthesize it in a timely, accessible and policy-relevant manner.
- **Scientific advice.** To translate knowledge into solutions, the science community can provide advisory capabilities integrating all fields of science, technology and innovation in collaboration with practitioners and policy-makers.
- **Monitoring and review.** The science and technology community is ready to support the development of science-based indicators, common methodologies and processes to harness data and information to promote their availability and use at different scales.

In addition, two cross-cutting capabilities would need to be strengthened to ensure an effective science-policy interface:

- **Communication and engagement** to improve the communication of scientific knowledge to facilitate evidence-based decision-making at all levels of government and across sectors of society.
- **Capacity building** to promote risk literacy through curricular reform, professional training and life-long learning across all sectors of society

B) Building the evidence base

- promote scientific research of disaster risk patterns, causes and effects;
- provide guidance on DRR terminology and methodologies for risk assessments, disaster risk modelling and the use of data;
- identify research and technology gaps and set recommendations for research priority areas in disaster risk reduction;

Expected outcomes

- Recognise the role of science and technology agreed by Member States in SFDRR, and get commitments to the science and technology partnership to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework;
- Identify capacity development initiatives and research institutes to share knowledge from the science and technology community and other stakeholders to meet the functions indicated above.
- Support the implementation of the next 2 years' work plan for the scientific, policy, and practitioner communities by identifying immediate and urgent tasks to strengthening resilience, and national government coordination fora (for example National Platforms) to practice evidence-based DRR.
- Identify concrete initiatives to support a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary evidence-based approach for formulating DRR policies and interaction with decision-makers and sectors.

Draft programme outline

In order to maximize the benefits of science and technology for disaster risk reduction related decision making, national platforms for disaster risk reduction could be empowered as focal fora with respective regional and international partners to incorporate science and technology into real practice. In this regard, the science and technology community is mobilizing to scale up to national, regional and global levels and also strengthen at local and national levels the use and application of science and technology on disaster risk reduction around a SFDRR Science and Technology Partnership for disaster risk reduction to improve the science-policy interface.

Day 1 morning:

Introduction

SRSR, STAG Chair, ICSU, IAP, and others.

Day 1 afternoon

Work Stream 1: promote and support the availability and application of science and technology to decision-making;

- Learning from good practice and show cases at local, national, regional and global levels;
- Using tools, technology and evidence based for DRR;
- Disseminating risk information with the best use of geospatial information technology.

Day 2

Work Stream 2: commitments to science and technology partnership and research institutes to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework;

- Learning from research initiatives, partnership and networks;
- Introduction of the science and technology partnership to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Work Stream 3: capacity development for DRR;

- Learning from good practice at local, national and regional levels;
- Global level initiatives on capacity development for DRR.

Day 3 morning

Work Stream 4: interaction with some decision makers and practitioners (tbc);

Day 3 afternoon

- Agree on S&T roadmap to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework.
- Panel discussion and Closing remarks

Organizing team

ISDR Science and Technology Advisory Group (STAG), International Council for Science (Organizing Partner of the Science and Technology Major Group), Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR), Science Council of Japan (SCJ), Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and many other science organisations worldwide working locally, nationally and internationally.

UN: WMO and UNESCO with input from UNESCAP, UNOOSA, ITU, UNITAR.

Submission of papers (tbc)

Shall we ask for submission of S&T papers or case studies to the conference? If so, we need a scientific committee to review and decide on inclusion. STAG members could take this role or the organizing team?

Sponsors

Institutions supporting the event.

Cost of at least five science and technology partners and academia per region are expected to be covered. LDC and SIDS will have the priority.

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Sixty-ninth session

Agenda item 19 (c)

**Sustainable development: International Strategy
for Disaster Reduction**

Draft resolution submitted by the President of the General Assembly

**Establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental expert
working group on indicators and terminology relating to
disaster risk reduction**

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 adopted by the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015,

Recalling also that the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, financing for development, climate change and disaster risk reduction provide the international community with a unique opportunity to enhance coherence across policies, institutions, goals, indicators and measurement systems for implementation, while respecting the respective mandates, and that ensuring credible links, as appropriate, between these processes will contribute to building resilience and achieving the global goal of eradicating poverty,

Noting the initiative of the Secretary-General to hold the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2016 and its possible contributions to disaster risk reduction,

1. *Decides* to establish an open-ended intergovernmental expert working group comprising experts nominated by States and supported by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, with the involvement of relevant stakeholders, for the development of a set of possible indicators to measure global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, coherent with the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators;

2. *Also decides* that the working group shall consider, as appropriate, the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction on the update of the publication “2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction”;



3. *Affirms* that the work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group shall be guided by the rules of procedure and established practices of the General Assembly;

4. *Decides* that the work of the working group shall be completed by December 2016 and its report submitted to the General Assembly for consideration;

5. *Also decides* that the working group shall:

(a) Hold three formal sessions, at the United Nations Office at Geneva, including one session in 2015 and two sessions in 2016, each session lasting two days, and additional informal sessions as needed;

(b) Decide on its calendar and programme of work by consensus at its first meeting;

(c) Develop its outcome through consensus;

6. *Decides* that physical participation at meetings will be self-funded, with support provided to developing countries through voluntary contributions made to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction trust fund, and in this regard urges international and bilateral donors, as well as donors in the private sector, financial institutions and foundations and other donors in a position to do so, to support the participation of representatives of developing countries in the meetings of the working group, with priority given to the least developed countries and small island developing States, including coverage of economy-class air tickets, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses;

7. *Encourages* relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, to make contributions, as appropriate, to the work of the working group;

8. *Reiterates* its strong encouragement of and the need for effective coordination and coherence, as appropriate, among intergovernmental processes, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the post-2015 development agenda and other relevant processes in order to build synergies.



UNISDR Scientific and Technical Advisory Group

Audio-conference,

25th May 2015 (from 12h30 to 14h Geneva time).

PROPOSED AGENDA

Main topic: The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the role of Science and Technology to implement it.

1. The Role of STAG to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework.
2. The revised Terms of Reference of the STAG.
3. The proposal to hold a Science in DRR Conference during October 2015
4. Next steps