Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction
Second Session
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the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk Programme

The International Council for Science, ICSU, as a participant on the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction, is pleased to make a short presentation to this Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The International Council for Science can be said to represent the international science community. ICSU's extensive membership network of scientists, national scientific academies and scientific unions representing a broad range of scientific study, including all hazards constitutes an international forum for scientific research and policy development.

The Hyogo Framework for Action states: "*The starting point for reducing disaster risk and for promoting a culture of disaster resilience lies in the knowledge of the hazards and the physical, social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities to disasters that most societies face, and of the ways in which hazards and vulnerabilities are changing in the short and long term,…*" Many examples exist that demonstrate the importance of science and technology towards disaster risk reduction.

The Report of the ISDR Scientific and Technical Committee to this Second Global Platform session, paper ISDR/STC-3/4-a, recommends that governments support systematic programmes of scientific research, observations and capacity building at national, regional and international levels. The international Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) Programme, which is co-sponsored by ICSU, ISSC, and UN-ISDR, provides a new and important framework for global collaboration.

The IRDR is guided by three broad research objectives that will, when projects make successful contributions to them, lead to understanding of hazards, risk and vulnerability and enhanced capacity to model and project risk into the future; to the understanding of the decision-making choices that lead to risk and how they may be influenced; and how this knowledge can better lead to disaster risk reduction.

The resulting legacy of the IRDR Programme will be enhanced capacity around the world to address hazards and make informed decisions on actions to reduce their impacts. This would include a shift in focus from response–recovery towards prevention–mitigation, the building of resilience and the reduction of risk and learning from experience resulting in avoidance of past mistakes. Through this enhanced capacity and a shift in strategic approaches, future societies will benefit from reductions in loss of life, with fewer people adversely impacted, and wiser investments and choices made by civil society, when comparable events occur.

IRDR has a commitment towards to development – development of science and development of broadly-based capacity. Capacity building through working with the ongoing START Programme will be one of the three cross-cutting themes. Another cross-cutting theme is assessment, data management and monitoring which have been foci of many interventions and discussions at this Global Platform. IRDR will work with partners to have in place quality-controlled, comprehensive data and information

sets so another legacy will be a firm basis for the determination of trends and demonstrations of success – which we all strive for.

I thank you for your attention and look forward to describing at future Global Platforms how science, with the input and support from all of you, has made a difference for the benefit of global humanity.