

**STATEMENT BY THE WOMEN'S MAJOR GROUP <sup>1</sup>**  
**World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR)**  
**Sendai, Japan, March 15, 2015**

As Delivered

Thank you, Chair.

Esteemed Colleagues, I am Hiroko Hara from the Japan Women's Network for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The Women's Major Group is committed to achieving women's human rights and gender equality as well as ensuring that the post-2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is centered on all people, in their diversity. To address underlying risk factors, we must use a human rights-based approach and involve women in every phase of disaster risk reduction.

To guide the successful implementation of the post-2015 framework, the Women's Major Group recommends the following actions related to the priority areas.

- 1) **We must Deconstruct Differential Risk. This means that we must collect and analyze disaggregated data. This includes gender, sex, age, race, ethnicity, geography, income, and ability.**

We must use this data to assess disaster risks, and implement gender-responsive risk reduction measures.

- 2) **Gender equality and women's human rights are fundamental for Disaster Risk reduction efforts**, as echoed in (CEDAW), the (SDGs) and the (UNFCCC).

We urge governments and all stakeholders to:

Ensure ***diverse and active participation in DRR decision-making, programming, implementation, evaluation, monitoring, and financing*** processes.

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<sup>1</sup> This is the spoken version of the Women's Major Group (WMG) Statement for the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR). The longer version is available via <http://tinyurl.com/oubsoqf>.

- 3) **We must Incentivize Partnerships, such as between local governments and women's groups** focused on community resilience.
- 4) **Investing in DRR requires that Women and girls' perspectives, skills and knowledge are valued and integrated into the process. This requires Member States and Institutions to:**
  - ***Allocate resources*** to gender-responsive expertise, research, education, and training ***at all levels.***
  - ***Address socioeconomic vulnerabilities before disasters occur***
- 5) **To build back better,** we urge governments and all stakeholders to:
  - Ensure ***accessible information and services*** through all disaster phases
  - ***Value Resiliency contributions by women, including*** those in paid and unpaid, formal and informal labor

For the last decade, we have been committed to including gender and diversity in DRR practices and building resilience. We commit to using gendered data for improving risk analyses, training leaders at all levels, and improving DRR design and planning with diverse participation.

We call on Member States to demonstrate political will and commitment. Women and communities must not wait another 10 years for action.

Thank You.