Outline for NGO statement on DRR

**Parameters for the statement**

1. Must be short! To be delivered to the room, it can only be 3 mins max (and co-chairs apparently get v grumpy if overrun). Hence can’t include every single issue. I reckon that 3 mins is 450-500 words, which is really very little. Suggestion that we submit a longer written version, and cut this down to 500 words for the oral presentation.
2. Ideally, it should respond to what states are saying over the week – so may need to be adapted as the week goes on.
3. Due to need for brevity, this will only focus on DRR, not climate change, BUT need to make a strong and clear link.
4. Needs to have a strong overall message, clear unambiguous language.
5. Need to be as strong as we can be on recommendations, whilst also recognising that the NGOs do not have a single clear position yet.

**PROPOSED text**

**Shocks and stresses -** such as the interlinked problems of climate change, price volatility, and disasters – **are increasing**. Climate change is the lead cause of the rising social, environmental and economic losses from disasters and unplanned urbanisation is also exposing people to more risk. The growth in disaster losses is an indicator that our development processes are unsustainable.

The vast majority of these losses come from small scale every day disasters, which get very little attention from the international community or national governments. Reducing risk therefore has to happen at the local level, building on the existing capacities of communities.

**Shocks and stresses derail development and play a major role in pushing people into poverty and keeping them there.** Their impact is not shared equally: **the poorest and marginalised, those with least capacity to cope, are the worst affected**.

**So what are the solutions?**

**Firstly, states need to focus on building up existing resilience capacities** from the community level up, so that they can make the most of each opportunity to lift themselves out of poverty. National efforts must deliver at local level and target vulnerable groups.

**Secondly, states need to make development sustainable**, to avoid the accumulation of new risk, by promoting development planning that accounts for environmental and social costs.

**Thirdly, states need to invest in disaster risk reduction –** we need ashift from damage control to investment in sustainability. DRR measures are proven to be both highly effective – as demonstrated by India’s management of Cyclone Phailin last October – and cost effective. The focus needs to shift however from large scale infrequent disasters to the small scale disasters that account for most losses.

**So what does this mean for the SDGs?**

The framework must clearly recognise the role that shocks and stresses play in undermining development, particularly for the vulnerable, and seek concretely to reduce this. This requires:

* A **clear commitment to a development model** that fully incorporates both short and long term environmental and social costs.
* **Incorporation of resilience building and risk management across relevant goals** – for example, requiring states to increase food security for all during and after disasters; providing access for all to resilient education and healthcare infrastructure.
* **And a specific target to reduce disaster risk.**

This target must:

* **Prioritise reducing disaster risk for the most vulnerable.**
* Stimulate **greater action to reduce *underlying* vulnerabilities** rather than just ‘disaster-proofing’ development.

This brief was written by Debbie Hillier, Oxfam and Katherine Nightingale, Christian Aid. December 2013

* **Capture the impacts of** **recurrent small-scale disasters**, as well as the major crises, which are clear drivers of poverty
* **Support locally developed actions** to reduce vulnerability working with local and indigenous networks in ways that build on existing capacities and are culturally appropriate.
* **Be squarely linked to climate change goals and targets,** as well as **other policy frameworks** – particularly UNFCCC and the post-Hyogo Framework for Action.

**What might such a target look like?**

* A target could be that **no one be pushed into poverty due to disasters**.
* Or it could focus on **reducing the impact of disasters on lives and livelihoods and protecting productive assets live livestock**.
* Of critical importance is using **the right indicators to measure underlying risk drivers** – such asenvironmental and ecosystem degradation, and urbanisation – **and measuring the social capital and cohesion** required for resilience.

Disaster risk is on the rise, and the poorest, most marginalised people are in the firing line. If the post-2015 development framework is to be sustainable, it must actively reduce risk and build resilience.