

To:

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Geneva,  
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**Date:** 28.02.2019

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COMMENTS on the revised draft as of 17 February 2019 on:  
**THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ROADMAP TO SUPPORT  
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR  
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030**

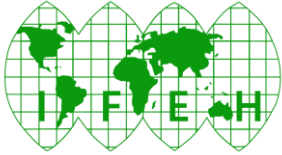
As member of the S&T Partnership the International Federation of Environmental Health – IFEH has received the draft to the update of the S&T Roadmap for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030.

The International Federation of Environmental Health support the draft roadmap for implementation of the SENDAI Framework however we believe that much of the data the UNISDR will need to determine progress is:

- not collected or
- may be collected now but has not been collected in the past, or
- not collected in a form that makes for easy analysis in the context of SENDAI

This makes assessment of whether objectives have been met, or are even realistic, exceedingly difficult.

A priority must be the creation of a minimum standard dataset (or made more widely known/available if actually existing) so that information can be collected by various organizations and governments and shared globally. Refer overall Outcome 1 and overall Outcome 3 - Priority for Action 1 and in particular 'Action' Bullet 1.1.3/1.1.4 and 1.3.1/1.3.2. Refer Priority for Action 2 - specifically 'Action' Bullet 2.2.3 and 2.2.4. Urgent attention to these bullets will assist UNISDR determine the



effectiveness of the implementation of Sendai. It may be simply too difficult to retrofit information from past events, so we need a new starting point as soon as possible.

We are aware that governments may already have commented on the roadmap but actual commitment to Sendai Framework may be varied. For example we are aware that New Zealand is already well down this path in a generic sense, as evidenced by the Alpine Fault Rupture Preparedness Project (AF8) they have initiated refer: <https://projectaf8.co.nz/>

That is likely because New Zealand seems to have had more than its fair share of Natural Disasters. Many countries haven't had so many, or any issues, so the pressure to implement the Sendai Framework for DRR may be lesser. Alternatively, the political, or economic situation of countries may reduce the priority around implementing Sendai. So global comparison of performance and appropriate incentives, such as sharing of methodology or technical expertise from progressive countries to those not so progressive in implementing Sendai, is important.

The UNISDR is a key player when it comes to hosting and facilitating a web-based platform from where all DRR actors can easily tap into the knowledge base on DRR. Much information is already available on the www but it is placed on many different platforms and it is diverse in structure.

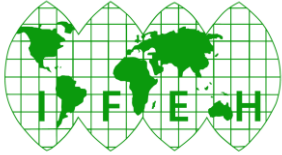
What is needed in this regard is not that all DRR information is hosted by the UNISDR – but it is strongly recommended that the UNISDR take the lead in providing a database – where links are established from an UNISDR driven database to the different initiatives and information from different stakeholders. Each of the initiatives could then in the UNISDR database be provided with structured meta data so that it would be possible to run a search on the UNISDR database and find relevant information and links to initiatives which are relevant for the DRR stakeholders.

An example could be a “meta tag” as “national DRR strategy” (for which there is set a goal as of 2020 in the Sendai Framework – as well in the SDGs). When you then search for “national DRR strategy” you will as user be provided with links to those countries that have by now implemented a national DRR strategy – and of course these national DRR strategies should be available directly. Similar could go for “local DRR strategies and plans”.

The UNISDR runs the Prevention Web website which many of us S&T Partners are using. The IFEH acknowledge this important website and it should of course stay and be used even more. But still a new special UNISDR database – as described above – would be of great importance – and such new database should have its own new platform.

As one result of the upper mentioned considerations the IFEH would recommend that bullet 2.2.3 (that anyway need some alterations as some words must be missing in the sentence!) could be changed to:

2.2.3 Establish a database by which it becomes possible in a structured way to search understandable, practical, evidence based scientific knowledge on DRR as well as local and national authority driven information on DRR, global comparison of performance and appropriate incentives, such as sharing of methodology or technical expertise, and information on local and national strategies for DRR.



The bullet 2.2.4 “Improve access to data” could in line with the proposed bullet 2.2.3 be refined in this way:

“Improve access to structured data on DRR, provided by the UN offices, the scientific community, national and local authorities, organizations and by community groups etc.”

Other remarks: We notice that the new draft version of the Roadmap is very different in the structure. The new version seems much more elaborate and uses a matrix where some 4 overall outcomes are set in the top of the table. These 4 outcomes were all in the old version only related to Priority for Action 1 (Understanding disaster risk) – but now seems to be used on all of the four Priority for Actions in the Sendai Framework. It seems as if these overall outcomes are not always relevant / compatible with the action bullets set under Priority for Action 2, 3 and 4. It is difficult to assess whether this new structure secures that all relevant outcomes are sufficiently addressed, taking into consideration that a roadmap - by its nature - is general and not specific.

## Final comments

The International Federation of Environmental Health believe that climate change will adversely affect many countries and millions of people in the World – leading to natural disasters not previously experienced or exacerbating those they already have to manage. There is already a growing body of evidence to support this view, e.g. from NASA

[https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/features/RisingCost/rising\\_cost5.php](https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/features/RisingCost/rising_cost5.php) and US Coast Guard [https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/how-can-climate-change-affect-natural-disasters-1?qt-news\\_science\\_products=0#qt-news\\_science\\_products](https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/how-can-climate-change-affect-natural-disasters-1?qt-news_science_products=0#qt-news_science_products).

Therefore, work on implementing the SENDAI FRAMEWORK on DRR is urgently required by all nations and we support this roadmap. Just because a natural disaster hasn't happened doesn't mean to say it won't – so all countries need to start planning now, not just those managing, or trying to manage, what nature is already supplying. We believe the environmental changes we face will adversely affect the health of most, if not all nations, which is of serious concern to The International Federation of Environmental Health.

Yours respectfully,

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