

To: Ms.Kristalina Georgieva
Vice-President of the European Commission

Mr. Christos Stylianides
Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management

11 March 2015

VOICE calls on the European Union to strengthen support for international cooperation and the role of civil society in disaster risk management

As we approach the final negotiations on the Post-2015 DRR Framework and the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, VOICE wishes to highlight the need for the new framework to be designed so as to have an impact at the local community level. While acknowledging the EU's commitment to this process to date, we believe that more work is needed to ensure a sustainable and effective disaster risk reduction framework. Attention must be given to ***strengthening support for international cooperation*** and ***including civil society and vulnerable groups' participation across all disaster risk management phases***.

Disaster-prone developing countries require prioritisation due to their higher vulnerability and risk levels, which often exceed their capacity to prepare for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from disasters. We must support these countries' resilience-building efforts. We call on the EU to support the inclusion of a stronger global target on international cooperation for DRR that *quantitatively measures the provision of effective and sustainable finance, technology transfer, and capacity building at local level*. Setting an ambitious target for international cooperation on DRR is a pre-requisite for developing countries to be able to achieve the other targets foreseen in the new framework, and thus achieving our joint objective of effective DRR.

With the support of the EU, we hope to contribute to a more inclusive and participatory Post-2015 DRR Framework that enhances governance for disaster management at all levels across sectors, ensuring coordination and partnerships with civil society. This will lead to longer term savings in humanitarian response and ensure fewer lives are lost. Engaging civil society organisations has been shown to *positively influence family, community, local and national government practices that reduce vulnerability to future risk*¹. As disasters significantly impact the most vulnerable, active engagement of civil society in decision-making processes through participatory coordination mechanisms, should be promoted by European leaders.

We call on the EU to reaffirm its commitments made in the EC Communication on Post-2015 DRR Framework and meet the calls put forward by the most active European NGOs engaged in DRR worldwide through the VOICE network.

Yours sincerely,



¹The critical role of civil society was highlighted in GNDR's *Views from the Frontline* studies, which provided local perspectives of progress in the HFA.

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