Priorities for the HFA2

While the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) has achieved some successes, including a decrease in loss of lives from large-scale disasters, disaster-related economic losses continue on their upward trend, particularly at the local level. Additionally, the current HFA fails to address the cumulative losses of everyday, small-scale disasters, and it has not effectively catalysed action to support the poorest and most marginalised populations.

VOICE, InterAction, The Global Network for Disaster Reduction, JANIC and Bond are networks representing over 900 International NGOs, NGOs and civil society organisations globally and believe the successor framework will need to address these major gaps if we are to achieve *a 'substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries'.* In order to achieve this goal, the HFA2 need to:

1. Address the underlying causes of people's vulnerability to disaster

The UN-ISDR Global Assessment Report revealed that of the HFA's Priorities for Action, the slowest progress has been made on Priority 4 – reducing underlying risk factors. To make progress, the successor framework needs to strengthen local governance and recognise the role of communities and civil society in supporting effective social change processes. In addition to addressing the dynamic changes, like urbanisation, that increase vulnerability, the framework must also respond to the role that structural inequalities and power imbalances between social groups play in creating vulnerability. Clear accountability mechanisms are needed to incentivise action to reduce the vulnerability of the most marginalised including the introduction of independently monitored targets.

2. Recognise the impact of everyday disasters on lives, livelihoods and assets

Cumulatively more losses result from recurrent, everyday disasters than from the large-scale disasters recorded in national loss databases. To reduce such losses it is essential that the global DRR framework incorporates a strong focus on these small-scale natural and human derived disasters. A holistic framework needs to reflect the multi-dimensional inter-dependent nature of risks that impact on vulnerable peoples' lives and livelihoods.

3. Prioritise the most at risk, poorest and marginalised people

It is the poorest communities in developing countries that have reported the highest growth in disaster losses since 2005 (*Views from the Frontline*, GNDR, 2013). The HFA2 needs to promote DRR policy strategies that respond to the differential vulnerabilities amongst countries and social groups, and also recognise the role that high-risk vulnerable groups play in achieving effective local risk governance.

About the supporting networks

InterAction is the largest coalition of U.S.-based international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) focused on the world's most poor and vulnerable populations, with more than 190 members working in every developing country. The DRR Working Group works to promote DRR mainstreaming among its international NGO membership and the broader humanitarian and development communities.

The Bond Disaster and Risk Reduction Group is a group of 69 development agencies with a UK presence, and 187 individual members working collaboratively on DRR and contributes to and monitors international DRR debates, shares information and exchanges knowledge in addition to exploring opportunities for closer coordination and collaboration to advance common issues.

The Global Network for Disaster Reduction is a Network of Civil Society Organisations committed to working together to improve disaster risk reduction policy and practice at every decision-making level. The network has over 400 civil society organization members in over 70 countries.

The Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC) is a non-profit, non-partisan networking NGO founded in 1987 by a group of NGO leaders who saw the need to better coordinate activities in Japanese society and facilitate communication with groups overseas. Currently, JANIC has 93 full membership NGOs and another 97 associated memberships including NGOs, corporate and labor unions.

VOICE (Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies) is a network of 82 European non-governmental organisations (NGOs) active in humanitarian aid worldwide. VOICE is the main NGO interlocutor with the European Union on emergency aid, relief, rehabilitation and disaster risk reduction. **VOICE Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction** brings together European NGOs with the goal of contributing to and improving EU policy and practice on DRR, with particular reference to the Hyogo Framework for Action.