

1. Here on behalf of the Sendai Stakeholders Group –
  - a. a diverse group of constituents that have come together to advance an integrated approach to disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development – guided by the Sendai Framework for disaster Risk Reduction.
  - b. one of most important messages is that we cannot achieve the SDG's if we do not address disaster risk – and to do that we need to draw on all the capacities we have.
  
2. From Nicaragua and am part of an agriculture cooperative with a constituency of over X grassroots women,
  - a. We are part of the Huairou Commission, a global movement of a million grassroots women in 50 countries.
  - b. Our theory of change focuses on demonstrating women's leadership and expertise in delivering on the goals of sustainable development. Although many of us are exposed to extreme risks – I am here to tell you that grassroots women's groups are not vulnerable – we are agents of resilient development.
  - c. I will speak from my own experience in working to reduce disaster risk and promote sustainable development in my own community. I thank member governments for listening to the recommendations I will share.
  
3. For our community, and this is true of many other community-led groups, we approach the SDG's in an integrated way –
  - a. For example, we, like many other grassroots groups, invest in community infrastructure and support disaster and climate-resilient livelihoods - things such as forest management, managing scarce water resources, agroforestry and diversified agriculture – all build our resilience to climate and disasters, promote economic growth and women's empowerment and protect natural resources. In this way we have raised awareness of disaster risk and our community, steered development away from high risk areas and worked to address the underlying drivers of disaster risk. In so doing, we are showing the way for sustainable and resilient development that is integrated and is people-centered.
  
4. Our communities begin with an assessment of disaster and climate risk. We use the risk information to prioritize our efforts and to engage local governments in dialogue about resilience and development to build partnerships with local governments and others to reduce disaster risk and adapt to climate change.
  
5. We manage Community Resilience Funds that our network raises to enable our communities to plan, implement resilient practices , monitor and report on our work.
  
6. We share our good practices, tools and expertise in neighboring communities as well as regionally and globally to scale up effective problem solving among members of our global network of grassroots women's groups who are coping with disaster and climate hazards.
  
7. In Nicaragua, our efforts are recognized by the national government and our grassroots groups are part of the national platform for disaster risk reduction. Where we can share our views, priorities and expertise with government and other stakeholders from NGO's, science and academia, private sector and others.

8. This model works only where there is political commitment to engage us as partners and agents of change. In Central America, for instance, the regional body of disaster management authorities, CEPREDENAC, has picked up on this approach and initiated a process of certifying community-led organizations to support national and regional disaster risk reduction plans.

9. The reality however, is that these stories remain the exception rather than the common practice. The full engagement of stakeholders, including groups led by grassroots women and men, young or aged, living with and without disabilities, in cities or rural communities, is not only essential from the perspective of social justice and our common aspiration “to leave no one behind” – engaging stakeholders simply makes sense if you want to apply all-of-societies talents to solve common problems and to keep ourselves accountable and on track for achieving the sustainable development goals.

10. We have made bold commitments and are dangerously far away from actually meeting global targets. I urge you all to take up a risk-informed approach and to engage grassroots women’s organizations and other locally focused stakeholders meaningfully in the process. I encourage you to partner with stakeholders, to ensure they have access to the financial and technical resources that to deliver on the SDG’s, the Sendai Framework, the New Urban Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and I invite you all to take the opportunity to learn from the good practices that have been tried and tested.