



Community Practitioners Platform for Resilience

May 26, 2017 Cancun Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Good Morning My Name is Josephine (Jhocas Castillo), I am a grassroots community organizer working for DAMPA—a federation of 250 urban and rural poor people's organizations in multiple provinces in the Philippines including Leyte and Metro Manila. My statement today is on behalf of the Community Practitioner Platform sponsored by Huairou Commission and Groots International

I am proud to say that twenty-three leaders of the Community Practitioners Platform (CPP), representing eleven developing countries, have been participating in the Global Platform for DRR to ensure that grassroots priorities, contributions and partnerships for realizing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) are included in the discussions of national implementation, policy congruence, and decentralized risk reduction. The delegation represents the CPP in its diversity: 45% are indigenous women leaders from Central and South America; there are leaders from Nicaragua and Brazil serving as the voice of thousands of rural farmers lacking land tenure and coping with drought; and from national urban poor people's movements, informal settlements facing extreme disaster and climate threats, and women leaders organizing for access to basic services.

To ensure that the hard work of producing an inclusive, locally-relevant implementation plan for the SFDRR is realized, CPP members hosted two highly successful preparatory events – the Grassroots International Academy and the Community Practitioners Platform Caucus—which engaged seventy people and produced commitments and practical actions for strengthening the implementation of the SFDRR in partnership with local authorities and national agencies. These events highlighted the effective practices grassroots groups have established to reduce risk and vulnerability to disasters and climate change as well as innovative partnerships in Central America, with CEPREDENAC, to formalize and scale up grassroots women leaders as resilience champions. CPP community leaders also chaired two working sessions—on Local Implementation of SFDRR and the 2030 Agenda and on Cultural Heritage and Indigenous Knowledge; and myself and another leader participated in the Ministerial Roundtables focused on Economic and Sectoral Planning. Our contributions will be incorporated in the final outcome documents of these events and create formal recognition of the importance of consciously including those living with the greatest risk and vulnerability in these and other policy discussions.



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Alongside of our participation in the Global Platform events, we were pleased to hear repeated references to community participation in decision-making and inclusive, local risk governance. However, we were disappointed to see that outside of the CPP, only two or three other grassroots community leaders were present and visible in Platform activities. Hence we call upon the national governments, including Platform hosts, to consciously bring leaders of urban and rural poor communities living with risk into these policy events. Similarly we urge civil society and development agencies to start modeling their own rhetoric on the importance of inclusive, collaborative policy implementation by reducing their own roles in speaking for and about marginalized groups and communities (indigenous, grassroots women, etc.) in global and regional policy discussions and financing leaders of these constituencies to be the issue and progress framers.

In conclusion, I will share the five priorities the Community Practitioner Platform will press to achieve in the next 3 years to insure the SFDRR ad 2030 policy agendas are realized in poor communities:

Decentralized, inclusive local risk reduction and resilience facilitated by integrated community development planning and budget frameworks as a prerequisite for empowering local authorities and citizens and promoting viable, context- relevant, and sustainable community resilience;

Dedicated financing for rural and urban grassroots organizations, especially those that are women-led, to empower them to innovate and expand effective risk and vulnerability reduction initiatives and assist local authorities in promoting resilient, sustainable community development.²

Policies and programs to foster grassroots- led data collection, monitoring and evaluation of disaster and climate risk reduction and mitigation to accelerate local ownership and realization of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and related frameworks (Sendai Framework, Paris Climate Agreement, and New Urban Agenda), as well as publicly transparent, accountable, and participatory risk governance.³

Democratizing agenda-setting and implementation roles in civil society as a cornerstone for empowering and transferring resources and decision-making authority from university educated professionals to grassroots stakeholder groups of women, men, indigenous people – living with poverty; in risk prone, dangerous and degraded living conditions; and facing other forms of social, economic and political exclusion.⁴



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Promoting and integrating indigenous and traditional knowledge in DRR policies, programs and initiatives.

Thank you for your careful attention



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