**CPP policy statement at Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**

***Geneva, Switzerland***

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The Community Practitioners Platform on Resilience was established in 2010 and serves as a global mechanism for organized communities living and working in disaster prone urban and rural areas to play an active role in implementing the Sendai Framework and drive disaster and climate resilience agendas at local, national and global level.

Grassroots organizations possess unique organizing capacities, participatory action tools, local data, knowledge and resilience practices that are missing among government and other stakeholders but are essential to advance risk informed development and targets set in Sendai Framework. We need a paradigm shift in our thinking about risks, bridging the gap between disaster response and recovery and the long-term planning and preparedness.

Risk informed development calls for community resilience building approach that is concerns not only disaster and emergency response capacities but targets the underlying factors of vulnerability, which concern socio-economic inequality and poverty all the way to the household level.

The CPP is a grassroots led multi-stakeholder platform, engaging local, national, and regional governments, academia, INGOs and others. It serves as:

· A body of community practice and innovation to share and scale community resilience and secure livelihoods

· A common platform for community practitioners to collectively develop advocacy agendas and engage policy makers around the Sendai Framework for DRR and Agenda 2030

· A network of institutional collaborators prepared to champion community-led action in resilience and DRR

The Community Practitioners Platform has actively contributed to implementing an inclusive, bottom-up and pro-poor approach to risk-informed development and resilience building. Our members have held capacity and awareness workshops around the SFDRR across Latin America, Asia, and Africa to build community capacities in DRR.

Women have organized around Community Resilience Funds - a tool that serves as an emergency fund, a collective mechanism to avert risks to livelihoods, and a platform to exchange resilience practices and innovations in 24 countries.

Engaging communities across the world, we have conducted 100s of risk-mapping exercises in Latin America, Asia, and Africa. Grassroots women and other community practitioners’ have leveraged their knowledge of risk in partnership with municipalities in disaster recovery efforts, prioritizing restoration of livelihoods, to mitigate risks by constructing retention walls, canals and embankments to reduce the impacts of floods and landslides. We have trained other stakeholders, including local governments, on risk governance and resource management that are inclusive of grassroots priorities.

Our members collaborate with National and Regional DRR authorities, and local government to advance achievement of Target E. In Central America, we work with CEPREDENAC to include grassroots women’s knowledge in developing and implementing regional DRR strategies. In the Philippines, grassroots organizations work to sensitize local government on the Sendai Framework for DRR and its targets. Meanwhile, leaders in Indonesia are actively participating in government held consultations on national strategy development.

The Community Practitioners Platform hosted a global grassroots academy during the GPDRR preparatory days that brought together grassroots women leaders from 12 countries to share their practices in community resilience building and develop collective advocacy messages in relation to scaling community practitioners effort and partnerships under SFDRR implementation.

**Priority one: Understanding Risk**

The community risk mapping is a participatory tool providing critical information on vulnerabilities and resilience priorities, but also community capacities and strengths, which should ground inclusive and participatory risk management plans. These mapping and enumeration tools serve to develop a community resilience strategy and agenda.

We call for the community resilience agenda to be an institutionalized part of the DRR governance process and for formalization of their roles in the effort to understand community risks.

**Priority two: Strengthening disaster risk governance**

Institutional actors change regularly but organized women and communities remain. Grassroots women are organizing local to local dialogues and other processes demonstrating through partnerships how community engagement in government resilience plans can support effective delivery of resilience targets. These dialogues also serve as a space for the community leaders to present community resilience priorities.

We call for recognition and institutionalization of the role of community based organizations in DRR, and for meaningful engagement of community organizations in the DRR decision-making processes.

**Priority three: Investing in DRR for resilience**

Grassroots women invest their fiscal and social capital, their human and economic resources to building community resilience. We ask governments to allocate direct funding, 5% of risk finance, to grassroots women led organizations so they can build their capacities, and scale their action.

**Priority four: Enhancing disaster preparedness**

Grassroots women hold the key organizing skills and knowledge needed to strengthen community resilience capacities. Community resilience agenda is built on reducing vulnerabilities and risks and promoting bottom-up risk-informed development. Knowledgeable of community development dynamics, grassroots women are positioned as key actors in designing recovery and reconstruction plans that would ensure inclusive and participatory approaches to building back better.

We would also like for UN DRR to host an annual international grassroots women’s day that would become the platform for community led dialogue on linking household risks and vulnerabilities all the way to the global thinking about risk-informed development.

As CPP, we commit to continue our efforts to promote inclusive, gender sensitive and women empowering, bottom-up risk-informed development, to build multi-stakeholder partnerships with local governments, academia, businesses, governments, media, and all others to enhance and scale our work, we commit collect local data and generate an evidence base to inform DRR policies, strategies and programs.