



**Stakeholder Consultations on the Political Declaration for the Sendai Framework Midterm Review**  
Monday, 27 February 2023, 7:00 a.m.

*Statement delivered by Theresa Makwara, Zimbabwe Parents of Children with Disabilities Association, on behalf of Huirou Commission and Local Communities stakeholder group at SEM*

Your Excellencies,

I am speaking on behalf of the Huirou Commission, a global movement of grassroots women's organizations supporting women in 42 countries leading a transformative agenda for inclusive resilience and gender justice. We also convene the Community Practitioners Platform that represents Local Communities at the Sendai Engagement Mechanism.

We welcome the co-facilitators efforts to include stakeholders in the consultations on the Political Declaration of the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The pandemic, the climate crisis, and escalating conflict has provided grassroots women powerful learnings and reminders about resilience that must be apparent to national and local governments as well. These should be taken in to consideration in the Mid Term Review and further guide our work in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We cannot go back to business as usual.

Grassroots women's leadership and organizing **has played a demonstrable role in reducing risk in and beyond their communities.**

The Pandemic has revealed invisible losses born by women and shown that local resilience can be driven in the ways we organize around food and livelihood security, caregiving and social protection.

Grassroots women have been using their own local savings and community financing mechanisms to innovate, test and demonstrate resilience building solutions and have leveraged their social and intellectual capital to implement of the Sendai framework for DRR.

In risk prone urban and rural poor communities, grassroots women-led organizations have demonstrated that when they have access to flexible finances, their groups and constituencies can manage and use funds strategically for resilience building and DRR.

When linked through global and regional networks, grassroots groups play an important role in promoting learning about the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda and their implementation.

Grassroots organizations in partnership with national disaster agencies, regional disaster bodies, and local governments are showing new ways to support effective and equitable local implementation of the Sendai Framework. These collaborations are often in their infancy and need to be recognized, resourced and nourished.

Your excellencies, based on these evidence and learnings, and considering current shifting patterns of risk and vulnerability **we hope the Political Declaration will give attention to:**

**Localization of DRR, including through financing and formal recognition for grassroots organizations** and their contributions to building local resilience through food and livelihood security, care giving, and social protection

**Recognition and investment in women's leadership,** including through supporting the development



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of norms and guidance on women's leadership and resilience that reflects the needs and contributions of women from impoverished, highly-exposed and marginalized communities.

We stand ready to join with governments and other stakeholders in accelerating delivery of the Sendai Framework – through this review process and in our communities.

Thank you,  
*Theresa Makwara*  
*Huairou Commission*