

# The UNISDR Global Science & Technology Advisory Group for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 UNISDR

- Terms of Reference -

February 2018

## 1. Background

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted by the UN Member States in 2015, recognises the importance of a science-based approach to disaster risk reduction for risk-sensitive development and investment. The role of the science and technology community is outlined as to focus *“on the disaster risk factors and scenarios, including emerging disaster risks, in the medium and long term; increase research for regional, national and local application; support action by local communities and authorities; and support the interface between policy and science for decision-making”*.<sup>1</sup> It also calls on countries to *“Enhance the scientific and technical work on disaster risk reduction and its mobilization through the coordination of existing networks and scientific research institutions at all levels and all regions with the support of the UNISDR Scientific and Technical Advisory Group...”*<sup>2</sup>

To meet this request and to serve the needs of countries and stakeholders, the UNISDR Global Scientific and Technology Advisory Group (G-STAG) has been enhanced in terms of its scope and resources. This includes the establishment of a S&T Partnership at the First International Conference on Science and Technology hosted by UNISDR in January 2016 and the adoption of a ‘Science and Technology Roadmap to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030’<sup>3</sup> to guide the work of the Partnership and the G-STAG. It also includes the development of regional STAGs (R-STAGs) to enable better engagement of scientists, researchers and technology experts in the development and implementation of regional and national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans.

Building on the work of the previous S&T Committees and G-STAG that were convened for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and the implementation of the Hyogo Framework (2005-2015)<sup>4</sup>, the G-STAG will focus on the implementation of the Sendai Framework, in particular with regard to the expanded scope of hazards covered therein. The G-STAG will also aim at fostering coherence and linkages with other relevant fora and networks related to climate and disaster risk and the SDGs. The overarching framework for the G-STAG is thereby the resilience and wellbeing of all people, to ensure nobody is left behind.

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<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 36b

<sup>2</sup> Paragraph 25g

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.preventionweb.net/files/45270\\_unisdrscienceandtechnologymap.pdf](https://www.preventionweb.net/files/45270_unisdrscienceandtechnologymap.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> The IDNDR Science and Technical Committee (STC) (2001), UNISDR Scientific & Technical Committee (2008). The first STAG Group was formed in 2012.

The following will describe in detail the advisory and coordination role of the G-STAG to UNISDR and the disaster risk reduction stakeholders globally.

## **2. Purpose**

The principal goal of the G-STAG is to improve resilience to disasters and thus the wellbeing of people through better scientific and technological understanding and enhance science based decision making at the global, regional and national levels. It is doing so in providing scientific and technical advice to UNISDR and coordinating strategic engagement of science, research and technology institutions in the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

The work of the G-STAG will be guided by the 'Science and Technology Roadmap' and its expected outcomes, actions, and deliverables under each of the four priority of actions of the Sendai Framework.

## **3. Functions of the G-STAG**

The G-STAG will:

- Act as UNISDR global advocates for the Sendai Framework.
- Provide guidance to UNISDR on global trends related to the implementation of Sendai Framework, in particular on the expanded scope of hazards.
- Promote and support the coherent implementation of the Sendai Framework and other global and regional frameworks and initiatives such as the Paris Climate Agreement and the 2030 Agenda by developing linkages with other relevant fora and networks.
- Catalyze innovation and partnership to generate new knowledge on disaster and climate risk.
- Engage in relevant global and regional processes such as the Global and Regional Platforms, the Science, Technology and Innovation Forum (STI Forum), HLPF and UNFCCC COPs, in collaboration with the UN Science & Technology Major Group.
- Carry out periodic reviews of the S&T Roadmap, recommend strategic engagement and provide analytical input for its implementation.
- Lead the work around select global thematic focus areas through time-bound global Working Groups.
- Contribute to capacity building on disaster risk reduction by promoting the science- policy interface i.e. translating knowledge into action.
- Ensure use of regional results and priorities at the global level and disseminate as appropriate using individual networks and other relevant constituencies.

## **4. Links with other science and technology groups and networks**

### **G-STAG Working Groups**

At the beginning of each two-year term, G-STAG members will agree on the establishment of a small number of time-bound global Working Groups on select global thematic focus areas and/or activities. Each Working Group will be led by two G-STAG members with support from other interested G-STAG members and draw on the expertise and engagement of other S&T partners. Working Group coordinators are expected to lead the set-up, including the selection of partners and development of workplans and ensure the timely completion of the deliverables of the Working Groups. Working Groups will provide an annual report to the G-STAG at the annual G-STAG meeting.

### **Regional STAGs (R-STAG)**

Regional STAGs will be established in all UNISDR regions to support implementation of the Sendai Framework at regional and national level through scientific and technical advice and guidance to UNISDR and countries, aligned with the S&T Roadmap.

At least one R-STAG member per region will be represented on the G-STAG. R-STAGs will brief the G-STAG through an annual report on the developments and challenges in their respective regional contexts; the G-STAG will, as appropriate, disseminate and use the regional inputs at the global level and the working groups. R-STAGS will provide an annual report to the G-STAG at the annual G-STAG meeting.

### **Science & Technology Partners**

An open pool of Science and Technology Partners has been established as part of the overarching Science and Technology Partnership<sup>5</sup>, consisting of major scientific and technical institutes or organizations, research centres, networks and platforms, and UN science-based organizations working on the different disciplines of advancing S&T for disaster risk reduction. The S&T Partners will serve as a knowledge and resource base for UNISDR and the G-STAG.

### **Science & Technology Major Group (Official name: The Science and Technology Community, STC)**

The Science & Technology community was recognised by Agenda21 as one of the nine sectors of society that had a role in achieving sustainable development. The Science & Technology Major Group is the main channel through which broad participation in UN activities related to sustainable development is facilitated.

The G-STAG will collaborate closely with the organizing partners of the STC to facilitate regular information exchange and strategic input to major global UN-processes. Members of the G-STAG are encouraged to join the STC.

## **5. Working Modalities**

### **Composition, Selection, Terms of Office**

The STAG will constitute up to 21 members representing institutions from the S&T Partnership. Members are eligible for a term of two years, renewable once. The composition of the Group will reflect the makeup of the institutes and disciplines needed for the implementation of Sendai as well as an appropriate geographical, gender and age balance. UN agencies and research consortia will each have two rotating representatives. In addition to this, up to 5 associates can be added as needed. If in exceptional circumstances a STAG member cannot serve his/her full term a replacement will be selected at the discretion of STAG members and UNISDR.

Members are elected first in their personal capacity, secondly based on their institutional background. All members are expected to be represented in person at G-STAG meetings and actively engage in the discussions. The STAG chairs can declare vacant the seat of a member who is considered to be inactive with a replacement selected at the discretion of STAG members and UNISDR.

A call for interest for G-STAG candidates will be announced by UNISDR Secretariat, and members will be selected by a committee consisting of the STAG Chairs, the SRSG and UNISDR staff. R-STAGs are expected to nominate 2-3 members from their respective region for the G-STAG. If for whatever

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<sup>5</sup> Members were selected from the interested organisations who respond to a call for interest

reason no R-STAG member is represented in the G-STAG, the R-STAG chair can get an associate or observer role.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **G-STAG Chair and Vice Chairs**

The G-STAG will have a Chair and up to two Co-Vice Chairs elected by the G-STAG members for the two-year term through an open nomination process with a ballot vote.

The Chair and Co Vice-Chairs will:

- Act as the key entry point for UNISDR communication with the G-STAG.
- Together with the SRSG, convene the G-STAG on an annual basis.
- Follow up with individual members as required on their engagement in and timely delivery of agreed G-STAG activities.
- Together with G-STAG members, develop an annual report on G-STAG activities and impact to the SRSG.
- Together with the SRSG and UNISDR, select new G-STAG members.

### **UNISDR**

UNISDR will act as the Secretariat for the G-STAG.

- UNISDR will work closely with the G-STAG Chairs and members on the definition of key priorities, activities and deliverables for the G-STAG during their respective term in office.
- UNISDR will help ensure coordination across and engagement in other stakeholder groups, regions and UN processes.
- UNISDR will provide technical and logistical support to the G-STAG, including for the communication with the S&T Partners and setting up and maintaining the STAG website.
- As appropriate, UNISDR will support in fundraising initiatives led by the G-STAG.

### **Meetings**

The G-STAG will meet face to face once a year, with ad hoc meetings and telephone or video conferences organized according to work program needs.

### **Reporting**

The G-STAG will report to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (SRSG) and Head of the UNISDR. This includes the development and submission of an annual report on the G-STAG activities and impact by the G-STAG Chairs.

### **Financial Resources/Funding of activities**

G-STAG members will not receive remuneration for their services, but depending on availability of resources may receive travel grants and per diem expenses in order to perform their functions. Members will be expected to fundraise for activities under the Working Groups and other costs, in close collaboration with the UNISDR Secretariat.

## **6. Accountability, use of information and publications**

Members of the G-STAG and Working Groups shall respect the impartiality and independence required by and from the United Nations and UNISDR.

Members of the G-STAG will share, as appropriate, their work and results through Preventionweb and the Voluntary Commitments Platform managed by UNISDR. Information provided by members does

not imply endorsement by UNISDR.

Any publication generated by and in the name of the G-STAG activities by a member shall be subject to review and approval by the chair of G-STAG and UNISDR prior to its issuance and shall contain appropriate disclaimers.

Members shall not make public statements on behalf of the UNISDR, unless authorised by UNISDR. The use of name and logo of UNISDR in any statement or materials shall only be done with prior written consent by UNISDR.