The International Conference on Silk-road Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development

11-12 May 2019, Beijing, China

Scientific, Technical and Policy Dialogue for the Better Implementation of the UN Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals 2030

Beijing Statement

Preamble

The Silk Road, tracing back from the Han Dynasty (207 BC - 220 AD), traverses more than 70 countries and affects some 4.4 billion people (63% of the world). For centuries, the Silk Road has played an essential role in connecting the East and the West, through the exchange of trade, science, technology, culture and civilization.

However, this area also suffers natural hazards that are being exacerbated by climate change. This presents challenges for implementing disaster risk reduction and achieving sustainable development. These challenges include the lack of baseline data and capacity and tools for data collection, sharing and analysis, as well as the absence of science-based risk assessments and mitigation countermeasures, among others. The **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030** (Sendai Framework) and the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) were established in 2015, and emphasize the need to understand the underlying factors causing disaster risk. They also promote international cooperation in disaster risk reduction and sustainable development globally including high-risk areas such as along the Silk Road. Resilience against disasters must be enhanced and international platforms for joint research and information sharing within the field are imperative.

To support the role of science and technology, the International Conference on Silk-road Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development with the theme: **"Towards Safe, Green, and Resilient Silk Road"** was held in Beijing on 11-12 May 2019. It was co-hosted by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and the Alliance of International Science Organization (ANSO). The conference brought together about 700 senior researchers and academics, policy-makers, practitioners, universities and institution leaders, organizations and private sectors from over 40 countries to discuss means of strengthening science-based disaster risk reduction and SDGs.

Actions for Science and Technology

The following recommended actions align with and contribute to the global 'Science and Technology Roadmap to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework' across the four stated outcomes of data and knowledge, dissemination, monitoring and review, and capacity building.

Priority 1 – Understanding Disaster Risk

1. Enhance abilities to assess disaster-related losses and damages and improve the communication of national and local disaster risk assessments to both urban and rural areas.

2. Promote the use of data, spatial and disaster-risk mapping innovations, and other emerging technologies. Strengthen the capabilities to use these technologies to further the understanding of disaster risks at the local, national, and global level.

3. Develop a knowledge exchange platform for local, regional and national stakeholders on disaster risk information and science in order to better understand complex disaster risks including those of transboundary, cascading and compound disasters.

Priority 2 – Disaster Risk Management

4. Strengthen the science-policy-practice nexus in resilience building at all levels (community, local, national, trans-boundary and regional) and integrate into development planning and investments.

5. Develop inter-disciplinary national science and technology plans to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework in securing the safety and sustainability of the Silk Road. Universities and academic institutions are called upon to develop their own disaster risk management plans.

Priority 3 – Invest in DRR and SDG for Resilience Construction

6. Make DRR and SDG a focus area for the education sector, including networking among universities and institutions. This includes developing and training more young professionals in the multidisciplinary fields of disaster risk reduction.

7. Encourage governmental and societal investment in disaster risk reduction. Ensure and assess the impact risk-sensitive investments through the enhanced role of the academic community.

8. Enhance and showcase projects and innovations that promote science and technology-based DRR and SDG, especially those which encourage societal engagement.

Priority 4 – Enhance Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response and to Build Back Better

9. Promote the role of transdisciplinary science and technology in effective pre-disaster planning, preparedness, response, rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction to be able to build back better.

All participants from the International Conference on Silk-roads Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, held on 11-12 May 2019 in Beijing, China