# Personal statement on the input of Science and Technology towards the Post 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

Within the personal statement on the input of Science and Technology towards the Post 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (herein after referred to as the Post2015 FDRR) the IDRC Davos 2014 organising committee aims to gather your personal input for the Post2015 FDRR. All personal statements will be collected within an IDRC Davos 2014 input document that will be made available to all IDRC Davos 2014 participants. The statements will influence the IDRC Davos 2014 chairman's summary and also be used for further discussion in a post-conference expert workshop, which intends to contribute to the process towards the UN World Conference WCDRR in Sendai, Japan in March 2015.

Within your personal statement, please identify research gaps, needs and further steps in Disaster Risk Reduction / Management that should be addressed in the Post 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction within:

- *Research*
- *Education and training*
- *Implementation and practice*
- *Policy improvement*
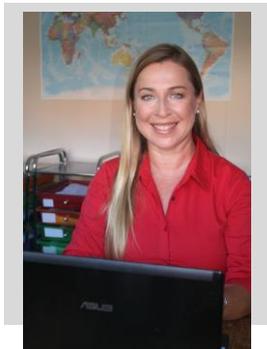
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Please provide your statement below in the grey areas (max. 500 words):

What are major gaps and needs to be addressed in science within the next decade in:

1. research:

Research into the effective use of social media for disaster resilience needs to have a greater emphasis on providing practical recommendations that can be implemented by emergency response agencies and governments.

There needs to be a stronger focus on sharing lessons learned from each disaster with the international community.

Due to the rapid pace of change to social media platforms, there needs to be shorter timeframes for research projects to ensure the findings will be relevant when the report is released.

2. education and training:

There needs to be a stronger focus on capacity building communities by providing education and information on the role each sector of the community: emergency response agencies, government, NGOs, schools, hospitals, community groups, business, media and citizens, can play in using social media for disaster resilience to help themselves and each other.

National guidelines and training resources for emergency response agencies need to incorporate using social media to effectively engage with the community as partners, including with volunteer technical communities providing information aid.

NGOs, community groups, faith based groups, volunteer groups and service clubs need to be trained on how they can use social media to build disaster resilience in their communities.

Public education campaigns and materials need to have social media integrated into them with simple, action oriented information. Campaigns need to encourage citizens to help each other by sharing disaster information via their social networks and providing guidance on how to effectively do that.

Disaster preparation information for businesses needs to incorporate the use of social media both for business resilience to ensure they continue providing services soon after a disaster and to also highlight the role they can play in community recovery.

3. implementation and training:

There needs to be a greater emphasis on providing the social media tools and platforms such as mobile apps and crowdmaps to empower communities to help themselves, each other and emergency response agencies.

Equally important is providing guidance to communities on how to effectively use these tools and platforms to help themselves and their communities and provide situational information to emergency response agencies.

4. policy dialogue:

The policy dialogue needs to recognise the transformative role that social media can play in making disaster resilience a social norm.

Social media offers the potential to create a level of resilience that ensures communities don't just 'bounce back' after a disaster, but 'bounce forward', becoming stronger with increased social networks, social cohesion and social capital.

This requires a 'whole of community' approach to disaster resilience in which the community become partners, using social media to help themselves and their communities.

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This involves recognising that along with emergency response agencies, the government, schools, hospitals, NGOs, community groups, private sector, media and citizens all have a role to play in using social media to help the community prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters.

This requires capacity building the community by providing education for using social media in the disaster context and empowering them by providing the tools and platforms to help themselves and their communities.