

## **The ISC GeoUnions Standing Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UN DRR to collaborate and combine efforts.**

UN Member States adopted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 on 18 March 2015 at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in Sendai City, Japan. UN DRR has been tasked to implement, follow-up, and review the Sendai Framework.

The Sendai Framework recognizes that the states have the primary responsibility to reduce disaster risk, but it also underscores the shared responsibility of other stakeholders, including local governments, the private sector, academia, and civil society.

A follow-up resolution, adopted by the UN General Assembly on the 30th of June 2015, clearly encourages the active participation of non-governmental bodies:

### ***V. Role of stakeholders;***

*35. While States have the overall responsibility for reducing disaster risk, it is a shared responsibility between Governments and relevant stakeholders.*

*“Non-State stakeholders play an important role as enablers in providing support to States, in accordance with national policies, laws, and regulations, in the implementation of the present Framework at local, national, regional, and global levels. Their commitment, goodwill, knowledge, experience and resources will be required. “*

Recognizing the importance of the Sendai Framework, ISC GeoUnions (<https://www.icsu-geounions.org/>), a network of representatives from the international scientific unions of the International Science Council (ISC) dealing with Earth and space sciences, adopted a resolution to establish a Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) to reinforce the longstanding leadership of the International Science Council (ISC) in advancing DRR.

Seven members of GeoUnions have appointed representatives to the committee, which commenced its activities in June 2020, shaping the Terms of Reference (ToRs) and establishing its headquarters at Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture, Beijing, China.

The committee completed its actions during the previous three-year term with multiple policy briefs, contributing to the organization of sessions at the Gi4DM Conferences in Sydney 2020 and Beijing 2022, CODATA Conference 2022, and serving as Guest Editors for the Journal Sustainability to launch a new Special Issue titled "Monitoring and predicting natural hazards and environmental risk".

Commencing the next term, the committee has decided to enhance its coordination by establishing a close relationship with the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) program, co-sponsored by ISC and UNDRR. As part of this effort, committee members Orhan Altan, Jiang Jie, and Sisi Zlatanova visited the Headquarters of the IRDR Programme Office (IPO). Subsequently, both parties agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), formalizing the agreement on November 16, 2023.

The ICS GeoUnions Committee for DRR expresses the sincere ambition that the collaborative efforts will yield fruitful results in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction.