

**PSI statement to the Technical Committee on
The Role of Major Group in building coherence btwn DRR, SDGs and climate
Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
Consultations with Major Groups on
18 November 2014
(United Nations, Geneva)**

So much of these major initiatives revolve around poverty.

The best way out of poverty is not charity, is not a handout, but a decent job.

Too many jobs don't qualify under ILO conventions, standards and recommendations.

Too many workers suffer hazardous and demeaning conditions in their daily worklives.

Decent Work needs to be addressed seriously and urgently.

One tool is to use the tripartite approach to solving problems.

This was used effectively after the Ranaa Plaza disaster, where the ILO hosted major employers in textile manufacturing up and down the supply chain, and the major retail chains, along with workers and trade unions and governments.

These difficult tripartite negotiations set standards for the industry, not only about building codes, but a whole range of activities.

And the three parties are clear about their responsibilities in implementing the tripartite agreements which they have negotiated among themselves.

The workplace focus in climate is also critical, as we move to a carbon-free economy – and we know that dislocations are inevitable, workers and investors will be affected...

There we have proposed the concept of a Just Transition for workers in industries that will have to change.

We have mentioned the social protection initiative which is moving through the UN system, endorsed by the UN Chief Executives Board, and included in the SDG negotiations.

This too will support coherence among the major initiatives underway.

Poverty reduction and community resilience must focus heavily on the workplace, on job creation and on Decent Work.

Major Group Commitments

Under the necessary conditions, PSI and unions can make commitments to help different actors understand dynamics in the workplace.

Working with the firefighters trade unions around the world to set and disseminate standards around personal protective equipment and OHS practices.

Working with health and social services providers to assess adequate staffing levels.

With municipal workers unions on disaster mechanisms.

Will commit to strengthen tripartite tools to bring together workers and trade unions, employers and governments in order to deal with DRR.

Thank you