

Chapter 2. Review editors report submitted to TSU

To begin, a general feeling arising from reading the 710 comments on chapter 2 is that this chapter includes a lot of important points and appears as one of the key chapters of the report from a conceptual point of view. This may be summarized by comment 19: *“a very important chapter with a lot of good ideas and materials, but that requires some strengthening”*.

1) Main areas of concern arising from the review comments

The chapter is too long and should be reduced;

The authors need to identify better the key messages they want to communicate;

Ensure that a flow is easily understood between chapters 1 and 2, and decide on common definitions of key terms;

Some sections are repetitive with too many details;

Refer to chapters 3 and 4 instead of giving the same information;

Avoid overlaps with chapters 1, 5, 6, and 7;

Needs a better utilization of the boxes;

Needs an effort to improve the list of references in the literature analysed (including risk and perception and communication);

Inordinate emphasis on the work of one of the lead authors;

Needs a more cohesive inclusion of the role of health and biological hazards;

Many parts of the chapter read like a literature review rather than an assessment of the current state of the literature.

These main areas of concern are not really contentious issues, and in fact they have been clearly identified by the group during the breaking group sessions in Geneva. The group has organized his work to address these concerns during the next few weeks. He has been successful in restructuring his executive summary in order to clarify his key messages. Every author will send the Review Editors “comments of the comments” made by the expert reviewers in order to facilitate the exchanges and arrive at an acceptable new text before Christmas.

2) Contentious issues that need to be addressed.

The main contentious issue to be addressed is the difference in the approaches of concepts in chapters 1 and 2. For example, for the concept of vulnerability, the role of chapter 1 is to introduce the concept and define it in a way that is commonly accepted in the following chapters; the role of chapter 2 is to start from this definition, explore the different dimensions and elements in this definition, explain why it is crucial in the framework of this report, and go deeper in analysing the complexity of the concept, its different understandings in time and space (which is different from giving multiple definition as misinterpreted by some experts).

In addition,

- 1) The chapter over-emphasizes DRR at the expense of CCA. There should be more integration and discussion of the integration of these subjects,
- 2) Nearly the entire chapter focuses on environmental hazards. There is minimal attention paid to biological hazards that are also predicted to increase due to CC;
- 3) The chapter describes DRR, (and to a lesser extent CCA), within the setting of ecology, economy and infrastructure with less explanation, discussion, and examples of critical human/social/health/migration and humanitarian issues)

3) How to handle these issues

- 1) Discuss with the authors of the first chapter.
- 2) Clarify the role of chapter 2 in introducing this chapter.
- 3) Participate to the glossary group.
- 4) Include health and humanitarian subject matter experts in the writing team.
- 5) Focus on writing an assessment of the DRR literature as it applies to CCA.

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18 November 2011