

Participation Report: UNISDR Science & Technology Conference Geneva - 27 - 29 January 2016

“Governance & advanced regionalism: keys to integrated risk management in Morocco,” was the title of my presentation in Work stream 4 on Leveraging science through capacity development and research in the **UNISDR Science & Technology Conference Geneva - 27 - 29 January 2016**. The main idea of my contribution revolved on the premise that while disaster risk reduction interventions have been increased in Morocco as a direct result of the country's exposure to a wide range of hazards, those activities proved to be loosely connected and insufficient vis-à-vis the growing vulnerability of the population, and the geographical position and geological characteristics of the country, which remains at risk of earthquakes, floods, torrential rains, desertification and drought, and locust invasions. To reduce the socioeconomic impact of three key risks (Commodity price volatility; Natural disaster risk; and Risks in the agricultural sector), the Moroccan government has put together a combination of risk mitigation measures and financial instruments. My take on this issue, however, is that these efforts remain barricaded by the poor and centralized governance system, which often results in limited access to funds and authority at the local level; thus, hindering local DRR action. I, accordingly, claim that synchronized collaboration between local decision-makers and science community along with advanced regionalism and good governance can boost the country's Integrated Risk Management approach by allowing local communities' benefit from the fact-based research and developed policies in decision-making on DRR matters, which would mitigate vulnerability towards natural hazards. Contingently, the case of Morocco can forge a successful model to be duplicated in the MENA region.

Additionally, I also contributed to the session on UN Major Group on ***“the Role of Youth in the Application of Science for DRR.”*** Among the various pertinent points that were discussed in this session, I called for senior scientists' tolerant accommodation of and maintained collaboration with young scientists. Senior scientists, in my opinion, are invited to cultivate a participative culture based on partnership and valorization of the science of young scientists for the sake of globalizing science for all. This same culture is what we, at the Global Young Academy, endeavor to promote among our members, partners and communities, through our various platforms among which is the focus group ***“Science Education & Outreach Focus Group.”*** My colleague GYA members uncompromisingly believe that we need to do more to contribute to society than simply advance our individual research agendas, which is why we seize every opportunity to promote and foster science education at schools and universities within and outside our communities.

Abdeslam Badre, Ph.D.

*Youth, Women, Migration & Policy Development
Mohammed V University, Rabat*

Regional Interests: MENA-South-Mediterranean