

Draft Report

Asian Leaders' meeting towards implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia

And

2nd ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) meeting of 2015

17-19 November 2015, New Delhi, India

I. Objectives

- (i) Set the policy direction for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia through the Asia Leaders' meeting.
- (ii) Discuss the implementation of the Sendai Framework at Regional, national and local level
- (iii) Update on the substantive and administrative preparation of the Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2016.

II. Outcomes against objectives

Stronger high-level political support secured to lead implementation of the Sendai Framework

Senior governmental presence from across the region demonstrated a strong commitment to prevent the creation of new risks as well as reduce existing risks in a wider social, cultural and economic context of our society. This presence was backed up by a series of strong updates of country level progress to strengthen disaster resilience (see country updates below).

Six strategic areas agreed for the Regional Plan

The Asian leaders agreed the following six strategic areas for the Regional Plan:

1. Multi-hazard and multi-stakeholder approach
2. Make DRR a development practice to achieve resilient public investment and the SDGs
3. Encourage risk sensitive private investments
4. Build local capacity and foster local leadership
5. Inclusive approach
6. Work towards a common outcome through partnerships and regional and sub-regional cooperation and platforms

India reaffirmed its leadership role in DRR

- (i) **The Union Home Affairs Minister, H.E. Mr Rajnath Singh**, said India would support implementation of the Sendai Framework as a 'people-centred and preventative' strategy to address man-made and natural hazards. H.E. Singh said: "We would also

like to call upon all entities, public and private, to strengthen the international support mechanisms for disaster risk reduction by sharing of reliable and affordable modern technology for capacity-building and enabling institutional and policy environment at all levels. I am positive that the outcome of this meeting will set the policy direction for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and yield useful inputs for the upcoming Asia Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2016.”

- (ii) **The Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijju** was recognized as a **‘Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction’** for a series of policy decisions to strengthen disaster risk governance and partnerships in education, disaster preparedness and response in his country. H.E. Rijju said: "The Sendai Framework brings important new dimensions ... the scope of disaster risk reduction has also been broadened significantly to cover both natural and man-made hazards and related environmental, technological and biological hazards. A rare opportunity now exists for countries, organizations and stakeholders in Asia to translate these new dimensions into policies and actions to achieve our vision of risk-sensitive development for resilience and sustainability." [*see the acceptance speech in Annex I*]

Strengthened commitment from National Governments

- (i) **The Union Home Affairs Minister of the Government of India, H.E. Mr Rajnath Singh:** The IAP is ‘a vital space for our governments to collectively reflect and share experiences on best practices and innovative solutions to implement disaster risk reduction effectively at national and local levels across the Asia region’. He said the meeting was an important step towards reinforcing our commitment to implement the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction in Asia and that it would set the policy direction and yield useful inputs for the upcoming ACMDRR.
- (ii) **The Minister of State for Home Affairs of the Government of India H.E. Kiren Rijju:** The Sendai Framework brings important new dimensions ... the scope of disaster risk reduction has also been broadened significantly to cover both natural and man-made hazards and related environmental, technological and biological hazards. A ‘rare opportunity’ now exists for countries, organizations and stakeholders in Asia to translate these new dimensions into policies and actions to achieve the vision of risk-sensitive development for resilience and sustainability.
- (iii) **Vice Minister of Civil Affairs of China, H.E. Mr Zou Ming:** The series of AMCDRRs over the year has enabled China to: a) strengthen learning of advanced concepts and key technologies of DRR; b) build more consensus on DRR; c) and deepen its multi-lateral and bilateral cooperation mechanisms on DRR. Looking ahead, China commits to: continue to implement the strategy of Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction; formulate its 13th Five-Year Plan on comprehensive disaster prevention and reduction; tackle hard-nut scientific and technological issues, and promote the application of results in DRR; strengthen grass-root capacity of comprehensive DRR; and give play to social forces and market mechanisms.

- (iv) **State Minister of the Cabinet Office of Japan, H.E. Mr Fumiaki Matsumoto:** Japan is very focused on implementing the Sendai Framework. It is open to additional know how on how to achieve the seven global targets. One element is the continued strengthening of risk governance, including the role of a sector-based DRM committee to develop long term plans that are updated based on learning from disasters. Japan's DRM system can serve as a reference for other countries; this year's White Paper on DRM has been translated into English for the first time. Japan remains committed to the AMCDRR as a regional cooperation mechanism that is proven to deepen relationships.
- (v) **Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia, H.E. Mr Tserendash Oyunbaatar:** As part of its commitment to regional implementation of the Sendai Framework, Mongolia will host the following Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2018. The Government has focused on: strengthening the national DRM system; enhancing the legal and policy environment; improving early warning systems and hazard and vulnerability assessment; and adopting community-based DRR programmes (in July 2015).
- (vi) **State Minister for Disaster Management Affairs of Afghanistan, H.E. Mr Wais Ahmad Barmak:** Afghanistan and the entire government leadership recognizes the importance of integrating DRR into all socio-development programmes. The country is committed to implement the Sendai Framework nationally and be active at the regional level to support an Asia Regional Plan. Afghanistan would benefit from more exchanges on DRR to learn from its neighbours. Stronger domestic capacity in training would also help.
- (vii) **Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Interior of Thailand, Mr Chayabol Thitisak:** Thailand new National Plan for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation will transform the country's approach to DRM while maintaining its people-centred approach to development. It is important to build coordinated actions and mainstream DRR across sectors. The AMCDRR has supported the country's shift from reactive to proactive DRM. Inter-governmental organizations should play a role in raising awareness, sharing local wisdom, promoting technologies. Thailand will host an international conference on the link between health resilience and DRR (March 2016).
- (viii) **Director-General Ministry of Public Safety and Security, Representative of the Korean Government Mr Ahn Young Kyoo:** AMCDRR provide vision and directions and set clear regional targets and indicators for implementation of global framework. Underpinning this, crucially, is strong policy and leadership at the country level. Asia should continue its play leading role in DRR and as part of this the Korean Government will pay more effort to implement the Sendai Framework and support active regional and global cooperation.
- (ix) **Deputy Chief of Indonesia's Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) Mr Bernarbus Wisnu Widjaja:** For the AMCDRR to remain an effective forum, it should set targets

(medium and long-term) and monitor progress. Ways of strengthening its leadership can be looked at including an enhanced role for the Chair and Vice Chair in between conferences. The AMCDRR should also strengthen its links with the formal inter-governmental process for the SDGs. This will ensure that the transformative nature of DRM as a theme is leveraged more widely in terms of development.

- (x) **SRSG for Disaster Risk Reduction, Ms Margareta Wahlström:** The strong leadership of India to support regional implementation of the Sendai Framework is welcome. The consideration of an Asian Regional Plan to implement the Sendai Framework will ‘further consolidate political commitment and inspire more effective action at all levels and across all sectors’.

Preparations for the next Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction are on track

- (i) The dialogue, decisions and logistical preparations at the IAP provided a springboard towards the first Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) of the Sendai Framework era, to be hosted by the Government of India in November 2016.
- (ii) An important milestone on the road to the AMCDRR was reached. A significant step was taken towards the development of a Regional Plan to Implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Endorsement of this plan is one of the main intended outcomes of the AMCDRR. More than 100 DRR policymakers and practitioners from various sectors provided substantial feedback and agreed to further hone the current draft and associated Policy Guidance.
- (iii) It was agreed that the Policy Guidance and Regional Plan will help provide a shared vision and foster cooperation and collaboration to implement the Sendai Framework. The Guidance should specify how to implement the Sendai Framework at all levels. The Regional Plan, meanwhile, should be an achievable, inclusive and sustainable tool to support implementation. A 15-year horizon should be set – coherent with associated international timelines – and medium-term action plans for every 4 to 5 years should be developed to support implementation. Any system of indicators and monitoring should be aligned with the new global agendas in relation to DRR and sustainable development.

2nd ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) meeting of 2015

IAP continued to transform towards a more strategic partnership

- (i) A clearer strategic focus agreed; a three-pillared focus was agreed to in terms of guiding and channeling regional support to implement the Sendai Framework: a) resilient public and private sector investment; b) more and stronger public-private partnerships to build disaster resilience; c) and stronger local capacity and action to reduce disaster risk.
- (ii) The IAP's role as a regional mechanism linking the Ministerial Conferences was enhanced. The Sendai Framework calls for such strong regional mechanisms in support of national and local action. The forum shifted towards a network that is more focused and engaged on themes, substance and action to support local and national level action. This evolution supplements its already valuable role as an information sharing platform.
- (iii) As part of this transformation IAP demonstrated a greater inclusion based on the stated principle of 'equality of opportunity to participate and contribute'. A strong presence of local government representatives and a growing engagement from the private sector are two such examples. As SRSB Ms Margareta Wahlström said: The Sendai Framework's goal can only be achieved by working together at all levels and among all sectors.
- (iv) The next IAP meeting is planned for 2016 as part of: a) ongoing efforts to implement the Sendai Framework; and b) preparations for the AMCDRR in November 2016, in New Delhi.

III. Follow-up actions

IAP members agreed to:

- (i) Review the current pre-zero draft of the regional plan and provide inputs to UNISDR by the end of the year
- (ii) UNISDR will send IAP partners the Meeting Final Report together with the updates on action provided during the forum.
- (iii) Fill in the one-page template shared by UNISDR to identify actions in line with key actors at different levels. This will enable the identification of targets and indicators at national and local levels, which are a key reference for regional targets and indicators.
- (iv) Share any additional information with IAP focal point Sujit Mohanty of UNISDR.

IAP members asked UNISDR to further hone the draft Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework taking note of the following:

- (i) **Coherence:** Clarify for whom the regional plan is intended for; ensure it links with national plans; explain how it connects with the local level and sub-regional plans; make a more explicit link to climate change; be more coherent as well as sensitive to differences within the region; ensure stability of policy through political change and disruption of disasters
- (ii) **Clarity:** Further highlight guiding principles i.e. inclusion; articulate the role of stakeholders such as local government, community-based organizations, media, IGOs; make the language clearer; investigate resources for translation; include specific targets for regional, national and local level (last one in particular); and draw up guidelines on how to define sectors; and emphasize the importance of disaggregated data.
- (iii) **Existing learning:** Policy Guidance should reference the concept of Comprehensive DRR learning from China; learning can be considerably strengthened with a stronger focus on statistics and the strengthening of national capacity in this regard; and better use of practical case studies could be made
- (iv) **Sendai Framework priorities:** Strengthen awareness of the impact of disaster losses, including on the environment; emphasize the importance of risk knowledge ie disaggregated data, more specific risk maps, better and usable risk assessments; important role of insurance; and need for preparedness planning to be inclusive
- (v) **Process:** Establish four working groups that include Governments, IGOs, the hosts of AMCDRR, and various other stakeholders; allow two months for national consultations for inputs and consider comments from other entities including Ministries of Foreign Affairs, as well as wider representations to local government associations, private sector, youth etc; make use of on-line discussions; and clarify whether the aim is for the plan to be adopted or endorsed at AMCDRR.

IV. Major Themes underpinning Outcomes

- (vi) **Indicators are a key area and challenge:** A monitoring system is emerging in the context of the Sendai Framework so that progress towards the seven targets can be measured. 168 indicators are proposed of which 28 are core. Efforts are underway to move from collection of data to analysis of data and, finally, the use of data for decision making and planning. The use of proxy data could be helpful for DRR. A related issue is that of terminology and categorization (ie of hazards). Challenges include: a lack of indicators to capture disruption of livelihoods; and the availability and ability to cross-use data.

(vii) **Progress continued to establish Sendai Framework baselines:** The initiative to draw up ‘*Country Disaster Risk Management Status Reports 2015*’ moved forward. For instance, Bangladesh made some recommendations on the country status report template, that is include: the name of pertinent policy and regulation and person responsible; information on disaster loss; any DRM plans; information on climate management as well as disaster management funding mechanisms; and a section to capture evacuation records. Bhutan reported it had filled out the report but said the process was challenging because of a lack of available data.

(viii) **Local government vital to the resilience challenge:** The importance – and vibrancy – of the local government network for disaster resilience was a constant positive theme. Between 2011 and 2014, 114 cities in the region have utilized the Local Government Self-Assessment Tool (LG-SAT). There are now 700 cities signed up to the Making Cities Resilient campaign, including 14 role model municipalities and five champion cities. In line with this increasingly recognized role, it was proposed that a special Local Government Network event be a signature feature of the AMCDRR. The following local level perspectives were provided:

- **Sendai:** The foundation of disaster prevention is education in communities and schools to build a culture of disaster resilience. Local government is best positioned to have the needed daily contact with residents. Local capacity is important as it takes time to get support from the national level. Schools are constructed to be disaster resilient. Strong leadership at all levels is important. Regional variations need to be accounted for in any modification of the national law. A greater inclusion of the perspective of women is needed to strengthen DRR.
- **Banda Aceh:** Echoed the importance of safe schools and other critical infrastructure such as hospitals and transport links. The Sendai Framework will help Banda Aceh guide its local work on DRR and mitigation. Regional level planning, via working groups, could support local implementation by analyzing local government efforts and see how it is aligned with the Sendai Framework.
- **Bhutan:** An important element of DRR is to meet basic needs first to strengthen individual and household resilience. Local participation and local action is very important. Policy is developing behind this important concept. One challenge is the fragility of basic infrastructure and that so much is pushed on to the local level from the centre. Another is advocating to political leaders to get on board with the DRR agenda.
- **Bangladesh:** More than 70% of Bangladesh’s population lives in rural areas. The country’s constitution has led to the establishment of local government disaster management communities across the country. During hazards such as floods and

cyclone these committees work well. However, during non-hazard time, the committees should focus on increasing the awareness of the Sendai Framework. Lack of local DRM capacity is a big challenge. National level cyclone preparedness and flood contingency planning should be more of a 'bottom-up' process.

- **Philippines:** Community leaders are a great resource with a lot of knowledge. They help to demystify DRR and its jargon. CSOs are a natural partner for communities and local authorities. Such organisations have done a lot to support the building of resilience on the ground but there is much more to be done. A stronger citizens' voice in local planning improves action and strengthens accountability. One example is community participation in risk assessment. Community based disaster risk reduction is the core of the Sendai Framework. In this spirit, more needs to be done on inclusion.

(i) **Importance of cross-cutting issues emphasized:** The Sendai Framework can only be achieved when key cross-cutting issues are integral to policy and action. The framework has a stronger focus on several such cross-cutting themes, which are integral to building disaster-resilient and sustainable development. Some of the key cross-cutting areas highlighted in the discussion were:

- **Gender sensitivity:** For greater inclusion and empowerment of women in line with the Sendai Framework, the following is needed: strengthened strategic partnerships (ie with research and training institutes and the media); development of policy and plans; clear guidance on how to incorporate gender sensitivity; the development of baselines now so that progress can be gauged; and capacity building support for national and local governments, including Sendai Framework focal points. There is a need to focus attention and action. Several tools already exist; they need to be mapped so existing material is reviewed. Coherence with the SDGs is important to harness resources and consolidate effort. A minimum set of requirements should be agreed as well as what support countries and partners require as part of the Asia Regional Plan.
- **Health:** The Sendai Framework is a people-centred, all-hazard, multi-sectoral approach to DRR, which recognizes health resilience in its outcome. All hazards include those of a bio nature, such as epidemics and pandemics. This is particularly relevant to Asia Pacific with its recent history of such events (ie MERS outbreak in South Korea this year). A strong emphasis is placed on preparedness and the building of a resilient health system. This includes strengthening the capacity of health workers. Access to the health system is also a key element. Animal health (because of its importance to livelihoods) is also important.

- **Safe schools:** Implementing the Comprehensive Safe School Framework (and the ASEAN Safe School Initiative) is a big priority in the region. Schools can act as ‘a centre of gravity’ for DRR in communities and help create a culture of disaster prevention. Schools provide a space for DRR education to students as well as a place of safety for communities during disasters. The role of schools as partners in DRR decision making with local government and the community should be expanded. They act as excellent ‘vehicles’ to disseminate DRR knowledge, as students bring information home to their family and friends. In one of many examples, Indonesia is piloting a programme where a disaster-affected school receives support during response, recovery and rehabilitation from a pre-designated ‘sister school’. *(Plan International among the lead discussants)*

V. Main themes related to various Sendai stakeholders

A consistent theme was the key role of various Sendai Framework stakeholders, particularly at the local level. There needs to be a greater emphasis to engage various civil society groups – including those who are among the more vulnerable sectors of society – and to see them as people and groups with capacity and commitment. A perception change is needed so that such groups are seen as contributors – not just beneficiaries – of DRR work. For many, making risk-informed decisions is a daily task that they are skilled in. The following is a snapshot the main themes related to some of the key stakeholders of the Sendai Framework.

Women: More steps are needed to strengthen the inclusion and role of women in DRR. Many barriers remain. Opportunities to incorporate a stronger inclusive approach to planning and the allocation of resources need to be seized. Inclusion and engagement in some contexts needs to become more socially acceptable to promote a more secure environment for all.

Children & youth: Efforts are being made to introduce youth-led community monitoring of the Sendai Framework. A publication is being made on the level of youth engagement at the national level in Indonesia

Persons with disabilities: Many countries are unaware of the lack of progress and need for disability disaggregated data. The Informal UN Working Group on disability has requested consideration of this aspect.

Migrants: Migrants often suffer silently in times of crises; their voices often unheard or ignored. In the case of migrants being assisted to return to their home countries following a disaster involves extremely complex issues. There are examples of informal cooperation between countries but more effort is needed to make trans-boundary support easier.

Science Technology and academia: This sector has a critical role in the ongoing shift from the growth in risk information to the development of stronger risk knowledge. Better partnerships with academia are emerging but there is room for more. The work

of UNSPIDER is a good example of the progress that has been made to quicken the shift from risk information to risk knowledge.

Private sector: UNISDR's Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE) has been launched. It represents a consolidation of previous effort and an increase in ambition reflected the more important role accorded to the private sector. There are 120 members globally. In terms of the region, ARISE would exist as a partnership of active national networks. For instance, a 20-strong national ARISE network has been launched in the Philippines. One is also due to be launched in Japan in November building on the existing membership of 24. UNISDR has requested Kokusai Kogyo to lead the Asian regional network. (*Kokusai Kogyo*).

Media: Progress is being made to formalize the media stakeholder group with advice from longer-standing networks such as the private sector, and science and academia. More needs to be done to strengthen awareness on CCA and DRR. As such, a DRR literacy campaign is being launched through the media. The first part is to equip the media with the knowledge to convey such a complex issue and its impact to their audiences. One such initiative is the training of weather forecasts to be climate change communicators, with the support of the World Meteorological Office. Seven national meteorological offices are being helped to communicate disaster warnings in understandable language. Reaching community level media remains vital, particularly in terms of radio. One such programme is in Nepal. (*Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU)*)

VI. Country updates

Bangladesh: The country has significant experience of dealing with floods and cyclones. However, its future ability to address such hydro-meteorological hazards is being tested because of climate change. The Cabinet moved on Sendai Framework implementation from May. The Framework was translated into various local languages. Businesses, academia, scientists, NGOs, and INGOs, have been informed of their roles. An updated National Plan for DM is being drafted.

Bhutan: Disasters are a genuine threat to the country's development. The country is exposed and vulnerable to a variety of hazards (earthquakes, floods, landslides, windstorms, and forest fires). It is building an inclusive, long-term disaster policy framework focused on the local level. As part of this process Bhutan is working to ensure DRR is a coordinated priority across all relevant ministries, not just the DM agency. The Nepal earthquake in April has prompted much reflection in Bhutan on the importance of stronger DRM and in particular urban resilience. Challenges remain, including the country being landlocked and a scarcity of resources.

Cambodia: The Sendai Framework has been translated. Nine of 25 provinces have contributed to the Open Ended Intergovernmental Working Group, on indicators and DRR terminology. UNISDR terminology is being translated into Cambodian language.

The DRM Status Report has been compiled and comprises information from cross-cutting sectors, reflecting one of the key principles of the Sendai Framework. It is now being reviewed.

China: Implementing the Sendai Framework is a priority. The first National Commission of DRR met in May. This started a major process on how best to implement the targets and priorities of the Sendai Framework in China. Focus on raising local awareness and on grassroots action is strong. China also emphasized the importance of regional cooperation to national efforts to strengthen national resilience.

DPR of Korea: National experience is being compiled and shared. International cooperation on disaster risk management has been identified as important. Progress is being made. Government and partners are working together well. In May it was decided to formulate a National Strategy for DRR incorporating several aspects, including risk reduction, mitigation, preparedness, response, planning, recovery, education and reconstruction. Resource mobilization will be a key issue.

India: the private sector is a major partner to implement the Sendai Framework and work is ongoing to bring them more on board. Increasingly more ministries are engaging on DRR. Any regional roadmap should have common parameters. We need to be clearer in how to measure economic loss. Insurance is a key part of sharing risk and work is in progress in strengthening this system. There is also a need to strengthen capacity in disaster loss modelling.

Indonesia: The process of the DRM status report has engaged various ministries and incorporated a more detailed data set as a result. Enhancing DRR capacity at the local level, particularly for hazard-prone areas, is the priority. International development support should align with this. Implementing the Sendai Framework is being mainstreamed at the national and local level but it is a challenge.

Japan: The country's annual DRM White Paper (since 1953) has been translated into English for the first time to enable regional and global learning of Japan's approach. Japan is also proposing to the UN General Assembly an annual Tsunami Day to promote awareness of this powerful hazard. One aspect that needs to be emphasized is the importance of indigenous knowledge. It is not just Japan but several other countries, including Chile, Philippines, Peru, and Papua New Guinea among others who have experienced the devastation of tsunamis.

Mongolia: The Sendai Framework has been translated. The Government has led a comprehensive partnership to develop plans and programmes to implement the Framework. This is being done under the aegis of a new National DM Law recently adopted. The approach is emphasizing inclusion, including family level engagement and responsibility. The Country DRM Status Report is in progress with disaster loss

data for people and animal an important part. It will be complete by the end of the year. The challenge is to elevate DRR to a cross-sectoral priority.

Myanmar: The Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR) will be updated to reflect the Sendai Framework. The Vice President chairs the National Committee for Disaster Management. A series of developments has strengthened governance: ratification of the Disaster Management Law in July 2013; development of the National Social Protection Strategic Plan, which includes the National Community Disaster Resilience Framework; and the prescribing of Disaster Management Rules by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in April 2015. A DRR public awareness programme includes: disaster management courses; capacity building training on DRR; a high level advocacy workshop; DRR youth and volunteer training; and poster and pamphlets and educational talks.

Nepal: Thank you to all countries and partners who provided significant support to rebuild after the April 2015 earthquake. A new constitution has recently been drafted but the country has been challenge by a blockade at the border with India, prompting shortages. This experienced has shaped different thinking on disaster management to include man-made hazards. Efforts are underway to evolve SOPs and common disaster assessment guidelines. Earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation is focusing on 'Building Back Better'. The Government is reviewing its national strategy and key areas such as information technology, early warning, and local government capacity. Progress against the Hyogo Framework for Action revealed several gaps. International partnership remains important.

Philippines: The DRR Management Law is being reviewed prompting serious consultation among various stakeholders. This process will lead to an updating of national disaster planning. Within this, more specific planning for various hazards is being undertaken. A process to document best DRM practice and consolidation of various knowledge and tools is underway.

Republic of Korea: The Sendai Framework's priorities for action are consistent with Korean Government strategic thinking. Korea is progressing against each, ie: Priority 1 - strengthening community DRM awareness and the development of community-based hazard maps; Priority 2 - strengthening the legal basis for DRR and initiatives to increase the capacity of the public and private sectors; Priority 3 - work to make investments risk sensitive including preventing the creation of new risk as well as the soon-to-be established integrative DRM command system; Priority 4 – development of polices to support recovery in the event of disaster. Government has stepped up engagement with the private sector. International cooperation remains important.

Sri Lanka: The country has mounted significant engagement at the local level. The health, education, local government, security, water, science and technology sectors have been assessed. The Sendai Framework is being translated. In 2016 a new booklet with information on Sendai's goal, targets and outcomes etc. will be produced. Risk financing and insurance are important. In terms of insurance, the building of trust among people is vital. The DRM Status Report is in process and will be ready next year. International partnerships have been formed focused on climate change adaptation, drought, early warning and forecasting, disaster information database, and the preparation of action plans.

Thailand: The national DRM plan has been revised in accordance with the Sendai Framework embracing the need to identify and prevent new risk as well as reducing existing risk. DRR has been expanded within the national development planning. For instance, it now features in the country's economic and social development plans. Overall, the focus is on more effective and integrated disaster management, including in terms of building back better. Within this, the local level is the priority.

Viet Nam: The Sendai Framework has been translated. A national consultation workshop has been held. Moves have been made to set up focal points to implement the Sendai Framework. In addition, national plans will be reviewed so that priorities are aligned with the Sendai Framework. A five-year community based disaster risk management programme will incorporate key elements of the Sendai Framework. Risk assessments based on climate change, applications to develop flood maps and stronger databases will strengthen implementation at the provincial level.

VII. Regional Organization Updates

ASEAN: Significant progress has been made in the successful deployment of emergency support and response teams. ASEAN is supporting member states and communities to strengthen resilience, principally through an enabling environment for policies and programmes. The importance of institutionalizing DRR is high. The post-2015 AADMER (5-year rolling) plan embraces the Sendai Framework. It will incorporate clear and measurable targets. AADMER reaches out to all sectors, as is showcased in the ASEAN safe schools initiative. An initiative by member states on disaster risk financing has involved CSOs. The work programme reaffirms the importance of partnerships with various actors, including CSOs, academia, among others. The ASEAN Community has just been signed signaling deeper integration of the bloc over the coming decade. The agreement includes key aspects of resilience. Put together, developments in 2015 represent a key moment in ASEAN's effort to strengthen disaster resilience.

SAARC: The leaders of the SAARC region are committed to implement the Sendai Framework. The SAARC secretariat is looking to play its part but partnerships need to

be strengthened for this to happen fully. The partnership with UNISDR is particularly important. SAARC is supporting several capacity building activities that include information sharing, training, and workshops. The SAARC agreement for response to natural disasters provides a legal framework for DRR. SAARC has been working with ASEAN to better understand and learn from their experience. In December a lessons learned workshop in Nepal, with the help of USAID, is being organised.

VIII. Organizational Updates

ADDRN: 55 members have engaged CSOs across several cities. A voluntary commitment on local level action participation has been made. This includes highlighting the importance of the leadership of children, women, youth, and the role of traditional knowledge, including in policy planning. Several local campaigns have been launched to convert the Sendai Framework into community and village level action. The global Road to Sendai coalition (also rooted in the local level) reached 7 million people. This is now being followed up with the Sendai Spring initiative. These various initiatives capture the reality that disaster risk really goes down to the individual and household level.

Plan International: launched a guideline on comprehensive school safety within the Sendai Spring campaign. It looks at addressing underlying risk for children and child protection systems and mechanisms. Partnership with the Government of India on this issue next year in the lead-up to the AMCDRR is important. The Comprehensive Safe School Framework remains a priority. There are still several gaps.

ASB: The Third UN World Conference on DRR in Sendai set the benchmark for accessibility. The push on disaggregated data needs to include people living with disability. Momentum on engagement and inclusion is continuing as with the planning for a DRR and disability conference in Bangladesh. One upcoming initiative is the plan to train 100 facilitators on in Indonesia DRR and disability. This is part of an overall shift away from seeing groups as 'at risk' to seeing them as contributors with capacity and wisdom. Philippines is one country where inclusive resilience is moving forward. People with disability are now genuine stakeholders in the Sendai Framework. The challenge is to convert their predominantly advocacy role to one of implementation.

Duryog Nivaran: Supporting efforts to account for gender at the national and local level. Governments have been supportive on study of gender mainstreaming. The Sendai Framework has been translated into several local languages. There has been engagement with various Ministries of Women's Affairs (ie Nepal and Sri Lanka) on gender indicators. A capacity building programme has been developed with Japan's

network in the lead on this. The Global Assessment Report on DRR (GAR) has been disseminated to civil society and the private sector in Colombo. A research plan for universities in Bangladesh has been developed to ensure their knowledge is harnessed. Looking at how to implement the Sendai Framework at the subnational level as well as in the public-private planning process. Resources, though, remain an issue.

IFRC: The 37 national Red Cross Red Crescent societies in Asia Pacific region are committed to implement Sendai Framework. Investment in DRR continues to increase year on year. Sendai Framework priorities are being implemented in planning. National societies will increasingly engage with national disaster prevention platforms. The building of national coalitions is a priority. National societies and IFRC will continue to engage on the core business of strengthening community resilience, in both urban and rural areas. This will include school-based DRR, scaling up health and first aid capacity, more engagement with academia, and pandemic and nuclear disaster preparedness. As always youth and volunteers are key actors. DRR is being mainstreamed into emergency operations with 10% of all international appeals allocated to disaster risk prevention. Progress on disaster management law finalization (three more countries) and revision (12 countries) continues to be made.

IX. Challenges as the Region Moves Forward

- (i) A major recurring theme was the limitations at the 'frontline' of DRR ie the local level. These gaps include a lack of: specificity in hazard risk assessments; resources among local governments to perform risk assessment; capability to update assessments so as to account for changing patterns of risk; participation in risk assessment; openness to data.
- (ii) Local government is the main go-to point. As such, it is often overwhelmed. As regional policy guidance and plans evolve care should be taken to not to swamp local partners. Such regional tools should instead be enablers rather than burdens.
- (iii) The important – but thus far limited – role of national statistics offices resonated strongly. Greater engagement is needed. At the same time so is support to build the capacity of this important partner in DRR efforts. The lack of disaggregated data in terms of gender is one priority area for improvement.

Annex I

Asia's Leaders Meeting to be held on

November 17th, 2015

Hotel Ashok, New Delhi

Acceptance Address By

H.E. Kiren Rijju, Minister of States for Home Affairs,

Government of India

In the morning I was honoured in welcoming the Excellencies Ministers & Special representatives of host nations & the delegates. Now, I am privileged welcome the Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singhji and extend my sincere thanks to Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction and eminent delegate for bestowing on the Government of India and on my capacity the honor of serving as the Disaster Risk Reduction Champion for implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Asia region. This recognition is an onerous responsibility on India and in my personal capacity to make India, Asia-Pacific and the world as a whole safer and better prepared to deal with any disaster. Let me also acknowledge the positive vibes created

2. First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate and acknowledge the important role of the visionary leadership of our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, in the field of Disaster Management and the personal guidance of our Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singhji, to the Ministry of Home Affairs and to me, in the ascension of our country as the leader in the Disaster Risk Reduction. We recognize the importance of including disaster and climate risk management as an integral part of developmental planning and programs to realize the global goals of sustainable development and poverty eradication. Let me also acknowledge the positive vibe created by the constant efforts of Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom and her effective UN team on India and me personally.

3. The **Asia-Pacific region is the most disaster-prone area in the world**. It shares 45 percent of global disasters, 42 percent of economic losses but 83 percent of the mortalities and 86 percent of people affected in disasters. Many Asian countries have experienced fast economic growth over the last decades, which coupled with high population growth and rapid urbanisation, has exposed the large vulnerable population and their habitats as well as economic assets to hazards, creating huge risks of disasters which is further exacerbated by climate change. We embraced the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 with extraordinary commitments by creating legal frameworks and institutional arrangements and development of Disaster forecasting systems especially for hydro-meteorological hazards such as tsunamis, cyclones and floods.

4. We are now approaching the first Post Sendai **Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction** to be held in November 2016 in India. This conference will set the tone for implementation of the Sendai Framework, with the region aiming to endorse a 'Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework'. With leaders from previous Asia Ministerial Conferences and the World Conference host nations present at this forum

today, this is a significant moment to reflect and learn from the past Asian Ministerial Conferences and also solicit their views on how to implement the Sendai Framework at national, local and regional levels. We also appreciate the efforts of previous multi-stakeholder consultations led by governments, inter-governmental organizations, and other key stakeholders in Asia-Pacific region which led to the formulation of the 'Asia-Pacific input document for the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction'.

5. The **Sendai Framework** brings important new dimensions, which in many ways reflects Asian region's views on future disaster risk reduction as it focuses on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) as opposed to Disaster Management (DM). For the first time in an international framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, **seven global targets** have been set to measure the progress. The scope of disaster risk reduction has also been broadened significantly to cover both natural and man-made hazards and related environmental, technological and biological hazards. The Sendai Framework reiterates principles of 'primary responsibility of the state to prevent and reduce disaster risks' but also underlines 'shared responsibilities' across sectors at all levels and among stakeholders.

6. The Government of India has taken measurable and sustainable **steps to reduce disaster risk** within and outside its boundaries. Infact, a basic comparison of Orissa super-cyclone of 1999 where nearly 10,000 people lost their lives and millions others got affected, with the cyclones faced in the recent past - Phyllin and Hudhud- where the loss of life was 10-15 and the number of affected were also substantially less, shows that the Govt. of India understood the importance of investment in disaster preparedness, especially for strengthening early warning Systems.

7. We also acknowledge the importance of private sector participation in disaster risk reduction. The Global Assessment Report by UNISDR has highlighted the fact that the relationship between business investments practices and disaster risk reduction needs to be strengthened in order to reduce economic losses. Infact, Our National Policy on Disaster Management too recognizes the role of private sector and encourages public- private partnerships for disaster risk reduction.

8. We are also committed towards forging **regional cooperation** in the field of disaster risk reduction. Infact, all the SAARC countries are working together to achieve the target of reduced disaster risk by promoting knowledge sharing among the SAARC countries. The SAARC Agreement on Rapid Response to Natural Disasters signed in 2011 institutionalizes the regional cooperation on disaster response among the member countries. The SAADMEX 2016 (South Asian Annual Disaster Management Exercise) is being organized by the National Disaster Response Force in Delhi is a joint exercise to strengthen responsiveness to disasters by pooling of resources and expertise and forging a well-coordinated response to disasters across the SAARC region. Investment in the Science & Technology to achieve DRR has led to development of scientific applications like Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), the Tsunami Early Warning System (TEWS), which is a State-of-the-Art warning system, are benefitting not only India but also the littoral countries of Indian Ocean.

9. I once again thank the UN Body and all stakeholders on behalf of the Government of India and the people of India for the trust and recognition you have reposed in us to lead disaster risk reduction efforts in the Asia region and look forward to building sustained regional and international partnerships under the Sendai Framework 2015-2030.

Annex II - THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK:

MAKING THE DIFFERENCE FOR POVERTY, HEALTH AND RESILIENCE

WHAT IS IT?

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 with its seven targets and four priorities for action was adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction on March 18, 2015. It was endorsed by the UN General Assembly on May 15, 2015.

The Sendai Framework is a 15-year, voluntary, non-binding agreement which recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibilities should be shared with other stakeholders drawn from civil society. It aims for the following outcome:

The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.

THE SEVEN TARGETS

The targets focus on substantial reductions in (1) disaster mortality, (2) number of affected people, (3) direct economic losses and (4) reducing damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services. The Sendai Framework also seeks a substantial increase in (5) national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020, (6) enhanced cooperation to developing countries, and (7) a substantial increase in multi-hazard early warning systems, disaster risk information and assessments.

THE FOUR PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

Priority 1 Understanding disaster risk: Disaster risk management should be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment. Such knowledge can be used for risk assessment, prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response.

Priority 2 Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk: Disaster risk governance at the national, regional and global levels is very important for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, and rehabilitation. It fosters collaboration and partnership.

Priority 3 Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience: Public and private investment in disaster risk prevention and reduction through structural and non-structural measures are essential to enhance the economic, social, health and cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries and their assets, as well as the environment.

Priority 4 Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction: The growth of disaster risk means there is a need to strengthen disaster preparedness for response, take action in anticipation of events, and ensure capacities are in place for effective response and recovery at all levels. The recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase is a critical opportunity to build back better, including through integrating disaster risk reduction into development measures.

Annex III: Background of the ISDR Asia Partnership Meeting

The ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) has been an informal multi-stakeholder forum with the role to facilitate implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-15 (HFA) in the Asia region. The IAP launched in 2004 and subsequently expanded in 2007 including regional inter-governmental organizations, governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, UN and international organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors. Since 2007, the IAP has emerged as the support mechanism for the Asia Regional Platform for DRR and has been meeting twice a year.

The fundamental role of the IAP so far has been to: support the political leadership of the regional platform through series of Asia Ministerial Conferences (AMCDRR); support the biennial progress review of the HFA implementation; and improve regional coordination and coherence through regional experience sharing.

With the advent of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the IAP members have also voiced the need for transformation of the IAP to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework through regional platforms and periodic review of the progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

In order to strengthen disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, the Sendai framework calls on governments and stakeholders to actively engage in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the regional and sub-regional platforms for disaster risk reduction and the thematic platforms in order to forge partnerships, periodically assess progress on implementation and share practice and knowledge on disaster risk-informed policies, programmes and investments, including on development and climate issues, as appropriate, as well as promote the integration of disaster risk management in other relevant sectors.

The 1st Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction after the introduction of the Sendai Framework will be hosted by the Government of India in November 2016. As a follow up from the 6th Asian Ministerial Conference outcome and as a requirement of the Sendai Framework implementation, the intended outcome of the Asia Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2016 will be to ensure a political endorsement of an 'Asia Regional plan for implementation of the Sendai Framework'. The IAP forum will mainly work as the regional consultation mechanism and provide technical input for the preparation of the AMCDRR 2016 and development of the regional plan.

Annex IV: Asian Leaders Meeting Agenda

- 9.00 - 9.10 Welcome remarks by Shri Kiren Rijju, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Government of India
- Setting the context
- 9.10 - 9.20 Keynote address by Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary - General for Disaster Risk Reduction
- 9.20 - 11.00 Address by Ministers: Experience and learning from hosting the AMCDRR and way forward - Consolidation of Past AMCDRR, moderated by Shri Kiren Rijju, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, India
- H.E. Mr. Zou Ming, Vice Minister, Ministry of Civil Affairs , People's Republic of China as the host of 1st AMCDRR in 2005
 - Mr. AHN Young Kyoo, Director General , Republic of Korea, as the host of 4th AMCDRR in 2010
 - Deputy Chief of Indonesia's Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) Mr Bernarbus Wisnu Widjaja, Indonesia as the host of the 5th AMCDRR in 2012
 - Mr. Chayabol Thitisak, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Interior, Royal Thai Government as the host of 6th AMCDRR in 2014
 - H.E. Mr. Tserendash Oyunbaatar, Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia as the host of AMCDRR to be held in 2018
 - H.E. Mr. Fumiaki Matsumoto, State Minister of Cabinet Office, Government of Japan as the host of 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015.
 - H.E. Mr Wais Ahmad Barmak, State Minister for Disaster Management Affairs of Afghanistan,
- 11.00 – 11.05 Arrival of Shri Rajnath Singh, Hon'ble Union Home Minister, India
- 11.05 - 11.15 Recognition and announcement of 'DRR Champion' for implementation of the Sendai Framework in Asia and way forward – SRSG Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom
- 11.15 – 11.20 Speech-acknowledging the receipt of the honour by Shri Kiren Rijju, Hon'ble Minister of State for Home Affairs, Government of India,
- 11.20 – 11.30 Inaugural speech of Shri Rajnath Singh, Hon'ble Union Home Minister, India
- 11.30 – 12.30 Policy direction for implementation of the Sendai Framework in Asia - Discussion moderated by SRSG, Ms Margareta Wahlstrom.

The 1st AMCDRR post Sendai regional plan towards implementation of the

Sendai Framework in Asia and other regional initiatives by Government of India by Dr P. K Mishra, Additional Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Government of India.

Followed by interaction with audience and panel members

12.30 – 13.00 Wrap up, launch of AMCDRR website by Shri Kiren Rijiju, Hon'ble Minister of State for Home Affairs, Government of India, and vote of thanks by co-chairs

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

Annex V: 2nd IAP of 2015 Agenda

DAY ONE: 17 Nov 2015

Session 1 Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Chair: Mr. R. K. Jain, Member Secretary, National Disaster Management Agency, Government of India

14:00-14:05 Chair's Welcome remark

14:05-14:10 - Remarks by Ms Feng Min Kan, Head, UNISDR Asia Pacific office and introduction to the agenda

14:10-14:25 - Key note address: Transforming Political commitment to regional implementation of the Sendai Framework by Ms Margareta Wahlstrom, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction

14:25-15:00 - Preparation of Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2016 : Update from host country— Dr. V. Thiruppugazh, Joint Secretary, Policy & Plan, NDMA, Government of India

Presentation followed by Q &A

15:00-15:15 - **COFFEE BREAK**

15:15-16:45 - Tour de table:

Governments' update: Implementing the Sendai Framework and priorities for AMCDRR2016

Presentation to focus on : Initial findings from Country DRM status review, national priorities for Sendai Framework implementation and AMCDRR 2016

16:45-18:00 - Updates from stakeholders and partners: Delivery on previous voluntary commitments (6 AMCDRR and 3WCDRR) and support to governments for Sendai Framework implementation

18:00 - Wrap up by Chair

18:10

DAY TWO: 18 Nov 2015

09:00 – 09:10 Recap of day 1 and introduction of agenda for Day 2

Session 2 Asia regional plan for implementation of Sendai Framework

Chair: H.E. Ms. Fathimath Thasneem, Deputy Minister, Government of Maldives

09:10 – 10:00 Presentation on the preparation of the Asia regional plan for implementation of Sendai Framework - Ms Hang Thi Thanh Pham, UNISDR

Presentation followed by Q &A

10:00 – 10:30 Monitoring the Sendai Framework implementation: Global targets, indicators and monitoring the implementation of the Sendai Framework and its implication at the regional level – Sujit Mohanty, UNISDR

Presentation followed by Q &A

10:30- 10:45 COFFEE BREAK

10:45 – 11:45 Taking the targets and indicators to the National and Local level: Country perspectives – Mr Kamal Kishore, Member, NDMA, India, Government of China (TBC)

Presentation on country specific example followed by Question and Answers

11:45 – 12:30 Plenary discussion: Shaping the outcome of the AMCDRR 2016 – Preliminary inputs from Asian countries and stakeholders for the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of Sendai Framework, building on the guidance from the Asian Leaders' Meeting

12:30 – 13:30 LUNCH

Session 3 Regional consultation on the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of Sendai Framework

Chair: H.E. Mr. Wais Ahmad Barmak , State Minister for Disaster Management Affairs and Chairman of ANDMA (TBC)

13.30 – 15.00 Group exercise: Inputs for development of the 'Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of Sendai Framework'

[The aim of the group discussion is to provide inputs, both in terms of substance and process, to further develop the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of

Sendai Framework for adoption at the AMCDRR 2016 as the main outcome document of the conference. Further guidance will be provided during the session]

15:00 - 15:15 **COFFEE BREAK**

15:15 – 15:45 Group Report back

15:45 – 17:00 Implementation of Sendai Framework by Sectors:

 Presentation on Health sector: Ms Chadia Wannous, UNISDR (20 min)

 Presentation on Education Sector: Ms Caroline Zastiral, on behalf of Asian Pacific Coalition for School Safety (APCSS) (20 min)

 Presentation on Science, Research and academia : Prof. Rajib Shaw, on behalf of the Asian Science, Technology and Academia Advisory Group (ASTAAG) (20 min)

Presentations followed by question and answers (15 min)

17:00 – 17:30 Next steps and way forward for development of the Asia Regional Plan of Action for Sendai Framework implementation in Asia – Ms Feng Min Kan

17:30 – 17:45 Wrap up by Chair

DAY Three: 19 Nov 2015

09:00 – 09:10 Introduction of the agenda for Day 3

Session 4 **Local implementation of the Sendai Framework**

Chair: Kamal Kishore, Member NDMA, Government of India

09:10- 09:15 Welcome remarks by the Chair

09:10 – 09:30 Presentation by UNISDR: Local implementation of the Sendai Framework: How can the Making Cities Resilient Campaign support?

09:30 – 11:00 Panel discussion: Priorities for local implementation of Sendai Framework in Asia, addressing emerging urban risk

[Panelists: Ms. Yukimoto Ito, Vice Mayor of Sendai city, Japan, Mr. Sugeng Triumoto, former Deputy Chief, BNPB, Chair Indonesia National Platform for DRR, Mr. Vijai Amaralikit, Mayor, Phanat Nikhom Municipality, President of Environment Committee of National Municipality League of Thailand, Mr. Manu Gupta, Chair, ADRRN, Ms. Ms. Maria Fellizar-Cagay, Centre for Disaster Preparedness Foundation]

11:00 – 11:15	COFFEE BREAK
11:15 – 11:35	Presentation by UNISDR: Sendai Framework local indicators and local monitoring
11:35 – 12:30	Plenary discussion: Feedback on the proposed local indicators of Sendai Framework and mechanisms for local monitoring
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH
Session 5	Parallel sessions – Key areas for local implementation of Sendai Framework, tools and approaches
	Chair: Mr. Raditya Jati, Deputy Director for Disaster Prevention, National Disaster Management Authority (BNPB), Indonesia
13:30 – 15:30	Parallel sessions: <ol style="list-style-type: none">I. Assessing Local Risk and ResilienceII. Develop and Implement Risk-informed Local DRR Strategies and PlansIII. Ensuring inclusive and community-managed approaches
15:30 – 15:45	COFFEE BREAK
15:45 – 17:00	Plenary discussion: Bringing all together – Strengthening local leadership and building partnerships for local implementation of Sendai Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reporting back from parallel sessions- Presentation by ADRRN: Annual Local DRR Forum to consolidate actions and promote - leadership of local actors- Plenary discussion
17:00 - 17:15	Summary of key points and next steps
17:15 – 17:30	Closing of IAP