



Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2016 New Delhi, India

Summary of Statements Ministerial and Head of Delegations Statements

3-4 November 2016

A total of 51 Official Statements were delivered by Member States, regional intergovernmental and international organizations at the Ministerial Meetings of the Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction.

All Statements from Governments and other parties expressed commitment and support to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which is helping countries to institutionalise DRR into long-term development planning that also incorporates climate change adaptation strategies. A stronger institutional approach to disaster resilience is a big part of this. The coherence and interlinkage between disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change was underlined as a critical thread in most statements.

Governments highlighted the need for cross-sectoral partnership and community engagement as a shared responsibility. They pointed to the need to foster collaborative partnership with private sector to drive the regional disaster resilience agenda.

Disaster risk reduction is fundamental for resilient and sustainable social and economic development. Within this it is crucial to strengthen risk awareness and risk mitigation. The role of applied science and technology is important in this regard.

The importance of formulating legal frameworks through multi-stakeholder consultations to ensure that its provisions will be aligned with the Sendai Framework and doable at the local levels, while encouraging greater political awareness and enhancing investments in disaster risk reduction as well as addressing some of the risk associated with climate-induced disasters, were also common themes. In particular, the need to boost progress in strengthening local capacities and actions, utilizing local knowledge and local wisdom, and adopting an inclusive approach to disaster risk reduction that embraces such groups as women, the poor, youth, and persons with disability.

Ministers representing the Small Island Development States emphasized that climate change is increasing the risk of severe erosion and degradation of coastal environment and infrastructure. This has a severely adverse effect on people and their livelihoods on the islands as well as a negative impact on marine life. Hence it is crucial to integrate disaster risk management into climate change policies at national level.

Among the actions highlighted in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework was a focus on developing national and local strategies, policies and plans for Disaster Resilience and implement them, including substantially increasing investment in disaster preparedness and to promote and strengthen education on disaster risk reduction.

Risk assessment, the quality and availability of data and effective risk information systems for communities were referenced as a cornerstone for community participation and resilience even for those located in exposed areas.

It was underscored that the needs of women and children, and persons with disability, should be prioritized in disaster risk reduction so that no one is left behind. Also their capacity was recognized an immense social, political and economic asset.

It was widely recalled that it was important to support the *Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework* in partnership with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and its Regional Office for Asia Pacific. Regional collaboration was a constant theme, particularly in terms of the exchange of knowledge, best practices and innovation.

There was a strong desire expressed to contribute to the upcoming Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to be hosted by the Government of Mexico in Cancun, in May 2017.

Governments recorded their sincere appreciation to the Government of India for their hospitality in hosting this AMCDRR, and to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) in co-organizing this first AMCDRR since the adoption of the Sendai Framework.