

Introduction

Countries in the Central Asian and South Caucasus (CASC) region are prone to high levels of disaster risks due to their geographical position, exposure of populations and economies to risks from prevalent and emerging multiple hazards.

The region experiences a wide range of natural and technological hazards, including earthquakes, floods, landslides, mudslides, debris flows, avalanches, droughts and extreme temperatures, which have historically – and in recent times – caused colossal economic and human losses. Many of these hazards are trans-boundary in nature. In addition, issues related to radioactive waste and pollution are significant.

There is an increasing incidence and severity of hydro-meteorological hazards in the region, some of which are related to climate change.

Heads of delegations of the countries¹ and High Level Authorities attending the first Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Asia and South Caucasus hosted by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 12 July 2016;

Acknowledging:

Disaster risk management and risk resilient development is a common element highlighted in all the post-2015 development agendas adopted by all member states of the United Nations, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, as well as being endorsed by the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit;

The successor to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 endorsed by the UN General Assembly with resolution A/RES/69/283 on 3 June 2015 is the global guidance framework for disaster risk reduction for resilience building;

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 stresses the need for agreed regional and sub-regional strategies and mechanisms for cooperation and for progress to be reviewed by regional and global platforms²;

The implementation of global development programmes, including Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, should be implemented exclusively recognizing the strategic role / involvement of governments in order to ensure future sustainability.

Express commitment to, in collaboration with national and local authorities, private sector, international and non-government organizations, and other stakeholders:

Develop and implement Disaster Risk Management strategies and action plans with national targets and indicators towards realizing the Target (e) of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 'Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020' ³;

Take concerted action to further strengthen and expand regional and national multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms, including the established and operating mechanisms and platforms, aiming consolidation of efforts and resources, involving a wide range of stakeholders, and also with due regard for the principle of national ownership, as recommended in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction with the firm

objective of building coherence and integrated actions for achieving risk resilient sustainable development in the CASC region;

To improve effectiveness and coordination of actions, Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to integrate existing national and regional forums and platforms active in addressing Priorities for Action of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;

Take action to increase understanding risk at the national level by conducting national status reviews of disaster risk management and setting up national disaster loss databases as a basis for developing Disaster Risk Management strategies/programmes and action plans;

Develop cooperation with the 'Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction' as a resource centre for implementation of the Priorities for Action of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;

Participate in the First Cycle of the 'Sendai Progress Monitoring 2017 – 2019' to be introduced by the UNISDR Secretariat in 2017.4

Conduct regular meetings of the Regional Platform for DRR in the CASC region

Call for:

International organizations and regional institutions to provide financial, technical, operational and programmatic supports to accelerate the planning and implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the CASC region especially developing the national DRM strategies and action plans, including setting targets and developing indicators of progress.

Regional inter-governmental mechanisms and bodies and regional institutions to consider contributing through their existing forums to support implementation and follow-up of the Declarations of the Regional Platform for DRR in CASC and implementation.

Coordination of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the region of Central Asia and the South Caucasus by further strengthening and / or expansion of the scope of activities of existing mechanisms and/or platforms of the CASC countries and consolidation of efforts and resources around them.

Inclusion of modalities for information exchange on the application of innovations and exchange of best practices between countries in the region, and between other regional platforms.

Undertaking efforts in developing policies and approaches to involve multinational corporations and representatives of the business sector in the region to participate in the implementation of local and regional risk reduction programs.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, as the host country of the first meeting of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in CASC, in coordination with the CASC Sub-Regional office of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), to present the content of this Declaration at the Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in New Delhi, India, 02-05 November 2016 and at the Fifth Session of the Global Platform for DRR in May 2017, in Mexico.

Express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Tajikistan for their gracious hospitality in hosting and organizing the First Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Central Asia and South Caucasus.

Dushanbe, 12 July 2016