

## Asia Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction

### Ministerial session

#### *Statement from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*

*Delivered by Dr. Veer Bhushan, Indian Red Cross Society*

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Mr./Madame Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

We convey our deep appreciation to the Government of India and UNISDR for organizing this important Conference.

We represent National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Asia with more than 100,000 local branches and 9 million volunteers across the region, along with their International Federation and the ICRC. Together we make up the largest global humanitarian network dedicated to alleviating human suffering. We are unified by our commitment to humanitarian principles and service, and we are delighted to contribute to this AMCDRR.

Communities and local institutions are central to disaster risk reduction. National Societies, as auxiliaries to their governments, are key to translating national policy into meaningful local action.

However, funding does not always reach local actors. We must all step up our commitment to ensure that scarce resources reach and empower the communities we serve.

As recognized in Sendai, building resilience and reducing disaster risk, requires an “all of society approach.” No one actor can do this alone, we need to work together.

Globally we aim to build a coalition that enables one billion people to become safer, healthier and more resilient by 2025.

We call upon all governments and stakeholders to join us in this “One Billion Coalition for Resilience”.

From our side we commit to the 2030 Global Agenda, through the following concrete actions:.

- We will increase our investment in local actors, to help prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks;
- We will promote more systematic early warning, early action mechanisms to respond better, facilitate recovery and build resilience, and to bridge humanitarian, development and climate agendas;
- We will promote equality and act upon gender and diversity issues, including the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence, throughout all our programmes;
- We will step up youth engagement on disaster risk reduction by investing in developing youth leadership;

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- We will work with communities and governments to ensure systems are in place to reconnect families in disasters or complex crises, and to deal with the deceased in a safe and dignified way;
- We will work with governments to strengthen national and local disaster risk reduction laws, policies and platforms, including National Adaptation Plans on climate change;

In order to achieve this we also call on Governments, the private sector and other key stakeholders to further commit and invest in the following areas:

- Increase investment in local actors in Asia, with a view to allocate 25 per cent of global humanitarian funding to local responders;
- Strengthen gender, diversity and socially inclusive approaches which engage and empower women and minority groups in disaster risk reduction;
- Review and strengthen governance frameworks (laws and policies) for inclusive and integrated risk management;
- Further strengthen formal and non-formal education for youth to take an active part in School Safety and disaster risk reduction activities
- Find innovative ways to better anticipate and prepare for early action, including through forecast-based financing;
- Explore ways to strengthen social protection and safety nets for those at risk
- Prioritize work to improve the resilience of urban communities

We are now at an important cross-roads in Asia, and we realize that there must be a mind-set shift in the way we operate. A shift to ensure that we are all committed towards common goals of building resilient communities as a whole-of-a-society ambition.

Thank you.