

**Ministerial Statement by the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement  
at the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR)**

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016

India

**Honorable Excellencies**

**Ministers in charge of Disaster Risk Management**

**Distinguished Delegates from the Government of India**

**Heads of Delegations from the member countries**

**Senior Representatives from United Nations, International Non-Governmental Organizations and Development Partners**

**Distinguished Delegates**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, Mingalabar, Good Morning to everyone!**

Allow me to begin my speech by wishing you all present here in all wellbeing and delight.

I am privileged to deliver a statement at this very auspicious conference. From here, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciations to the Government of India for successfully hosting this event and for the hospitality and warmest welcome extended to us by the Government of India.

Recalling the message delivered by the United Nations Secretary General on 2016 commemoration of International Day for Disaster Reduction that we can replace material possessions but human's lives cannot be replaced, we all here are committed to reduce disaster mortalities as per our global agenda embodied in Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030).

We witness the increasing scale and prevalence of natural disasters over time, their exposures and impending risks are challenging our efforts on preparedness, risk reduction and management measures.

As the Regional initiative on disaster management, Myanmar welcomes the adoption of Asian Regional Plan on Disaster Management for the implementation of Sendai Framework as well as the Joint Statement of ASEAN for 2016 AMCDRR. Likewise, regarding the sub-regional implementation of Sendai Framework for DRR, Myanmar is implementing strategies and plans to be able to translate AADMER Work Programme (2016-2020) into national and local actions.

Aiming to reinforce the nexus between SDGs and Sendai Framework, Myanmar has developed guiding principles, which could meet the indicators under global priorities. Furthermore, we are redesigning and reformulating Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR) which will be the national roadmap for interpreting those new global and regional commitments and priorities at various levels.

**Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Since the disaster landscapes are changing, we are now facing the new risks so this requires our national strategies and plans to be updated accordingly. Taking this opportunity, I would like to spotlight the earthquake happened in August this year in Myanmar. Despite very few causality caused by the magnitude 6.8 earthquake, damages to the historical artifacts and monuments are invaluable to us. In fact, our Sendai Framework also highlights the importance of safeguarding historical and cultural heritages from the natural disasters. At the present, with the support of UNESCO, international partners and local well-wishers, we have been preparing a comprehensive plan for the restoration of an outstanding complex of 11<sup>th</sup> Century Buddhist temples. This indicates the fact that disaster threats posed to human lives also keep changing.

Regarding the implementation of Sendai Framework, Myanmar also voluntarily participated in the feasibility exercise for the Sendai Indicators and has a chance to review the indicators and their implications to various sectors.

As articulated in Sendai Framework's priority action, ensuring Build-Back-Better Principle, Myanmar, co-chaired with the Government of Indonesia, took a lead in recovery component under AADMER Work Programme and endorsed ASEAN Disaster Recovery Reference Guide in April 2016. This Reference Guide incorporates the principles and strategies, which can bring

risk sensitive recovery and the linkage of recovery and development. It also depicts the best practices for recovery based on the disaster scenarios in ASEAN Member States.

In order to minimize the loss of lives during the disasters, early warning dissemination plays a vital role in saving lives and taking preparedness actions. In addition to that, the use of advanced technology helps shape the efficiency of our disaster management activities. In this sense, we have developed disaster alert notification (DAN) mobile application that provides disaster early warning information through mobiles to the end users. Regarding the early warning information, we are using the local expression of disaster risks rather than technical jargons maintaining the reliability and applicability of information.

**Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Having realized the critical role of Sendai's Global Targets and priority actions, we need to consider national risks and hazards as a global concern. In this aspect, international cooperation and supports are the major defining factors for the successful implementation of Sendai Framework for DRR. As a member country, Myanmar remains standby to contribute to the regional collective efforts and to support the regional initiatives as well. I would like to conclude my speech by wishing this 2016 AMCDRR makes a successful contribution to building risk-informed and sustainable development for every country.

Thank you.