

PAKISTAN'S STATEMENT

ASIAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2016 TO BE HELD ON 02-05 NOVEMBER 2016, NEW DELHI, INDIA

Distinguished Delegates!

It has been a great pleasure to participate in the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. The Conference at the Ministerial level shows the level of commitment of the Asian countries. Such commitment is instrumental in strengthening disaster risk management initiatives at the regional and national level, henceforth also contributing towards the sustainable development goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and also the commitments made at the World humanitarian Summit.

The Government of Pakistan is fully committed to further strengthening of such processes and platforms in the larger interest for regional cooperation and sustainable development by addressing climate change impact and natural disasters aligned to both national, regional and global priorities. Disaster management remains a core focus of the Government of Pakistan and it follows a pre-emptive strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction as well as a prompt mechanism for disaster response.

Distinguished Delegates!

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Government of Pakistan in collaboration with Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) successfully hosted last month in Islamabad, Pakistan from 17-19, 2016

Meeting of the 13th Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) on Disaster Management-on the theme “Operationalizing Global Frameworks for Risk-Resilient Development in Asia”. The delegates of Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, Indonesia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam, along with development partners, besides from sub-regional organizations participated and shared their tangible recommendations/proposals for the operationalization of global framework. The 13th RCC meeting concluded with Islamabad Statement. The Islamabad Statement called upon the RCC Secretariat, the United Nations entities, development partners and other relevant stakeholders to develop an integrated macro-level tool to monitor the implementation of the three key global frameworks. The Islamabad Statement stresses the need to identify tangible entry points for implementing such global frameworks in accordance with DRR policies and programs of the member states. We feel that the Islamabad Statement as a consequence of three days of deliberations during the 13th RCC has brought out a practical Way Forward in terms of a solid regional inputs of RCC countries for AMCDRR-2016. In this context the 13th RCC Meeting participating countries acknowledge the need for further consultation of the Asia Regional Action Plan on SFDRR, which is imminently to be adopted by the AMCDRR, towards its effective implementation including through national contextualization and appropriate progress monitoring and reporting mechanism.

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You are all aware of the fact that Pakistan is prone to a number of natural disasters particularly hydro-metrological in nature, with an increased frequency and intensity during the last one decade, primarily due to the

phenomenon of climate change and variability being experienced around the globe. In order to meet the emerging challenges, Pakistan established a proactive disaster management system at national, provincial and district levels, under the NDM Act, 2010 to deal with the whole spectrum of disaster management including preparedness, mitigation, rescue & relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

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Previously, Pakistan had been actively contributing in implementation of priorities set out in the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA-2205-2015) as well as in the development of the Sendai Framework for DRR. It has brought a shift from disaster management to disaster risk management (DRM), such an approach is imperative for resilience and sustainability. It presents a stronger focus on risk prevention and clearly identifies role of all stakeholders from global level to the local level. Sendai Framework emphasizes the need for '*coherence across policies, institutions, goals, indicators and measurements*' to ensure credible links with the global processes. In a way, Sendai Framework provides us a unique opportunity to move towards vision for "risk sensitive development as cornerstone for sustainability".

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In order to better manage risks and crises at regional level, there is an increased need to create synergies in our joint actions and build partnerships in order to reduce the otherwise significant impact particularly from natural disasters. In view of emerging vulnerabilities to adverse

impacts of climate change, in particular extreme weather events, adaptation efforts need to be mainstay in future. The vulnerabilities of various sectors to climate change need to be highlighted and appropriate adaptation measures need to be spelled out for reducing risks.

Distinguished Delegates!

At the regional level, we need an approach which puts vulnerable and poor people at its heart and as the primary focus of our attention. Our regional efforts must holistically include adaptation and means of implementation like financial support, technological development and transfer, as well as capacity building of vulnerable countries. An enabling international environment is also needed to stimulate implementation of global frameworks, plans and agreements in true letter and spirit. Such an environment can contribute to developing the knowledge, capacities and motivation for disaster risk reduction for vulnerable and developing countries. There is need to enhance regional partnerships for sustainable developments that mobilize and share knowledge expertise, technology for achieving desired ends. Moreover, the commitment should also reflect in terms of strategically placed sustainable funds so that priority needs can be structured in long term programmes. Last but not the least, the process of sustainable and resilient development should be the sole responsibility of the regional governments and the development community and for the sake of sustainability and delivery, there is a dire need to build long lasting partnerships with the private sector.

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