



AMCDRR

2016

REPORT

Asian Ministerial Conference on  
Disaster Risk Reduction

New Delhi, India  
02-05 November 2016



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# REPORT

## Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

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## Glossary

AADMER	:	ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response
ADPC	:	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
AMCDRR	:	Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
APEC	:	Asia Pacific Economic Community
ARISE	:	UNISDR's Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies
ASEAN	:	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASTAAG	:	Asia Science Technology Academia Advisory Group
BIMSTEC	:	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
DiDRRN	:	Disability-inclusive DRR Network
DP-Net	:	Disaster Preparedness Network
ECO	:	Economic Cooperation Organization
GNDR	:	Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction
IAP	:	ISDR Asia Partnership
IFRC	:	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IGO	:	Inter-Governmental Regional Organizations
OEWG	:	Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group
SCO	:	Shanghai Cooperation Organization
SDG	:	Sustainable Development Goals
SAARC	:	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SFDRR	:	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNISDR	:	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

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## Key Figures

51 Official Statements

6 Technical Sessions

21 Preconference Events

22 Thematic Sessions



H.E. Shri Kiren Rijju



Mr. Robert Glasser

The Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2016 was ‘a landmark event’ that saw the adoption of a clear regional plan to substantially reduce disaster losses by 2030. The Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction will boost national and local efforts to strengthen resilience and increase regional cooperation on disaster risk management.

The plan envisages that by 2030, the period of the Sendai Framework, all countries in Asia will have demonstrated a substantial reduction in disaster-related mortality, number of affected persons, economic losses and damage to critical infrastructure and basic services. Governments reiterated their continued political commitment to preventing and reducing disaster risk by adopting the New Delhi Declaration. Ten Stakeholder Action Statements were also agreed. This impressive undertaking confirms one of the main messages of the Sendai Framework: that disaster risk reduction is everyone’s responsibility and requires an inclusive and coordinated approach.

It is also very encouraging to note that coherence between disaster risk reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement was a strong theme running through the conference. This needs to continue to ensure future progress. The 4,500 people – including 30 government Ministers and representatives from 51 countries – present in New Delhi and their concrete commitments demonstrated the power of partnership.

The milestones until 2030 are clear, from the early establishment of national disaster loss databases and establishing national and local DRR strategies to achieving the overall Sendai Framework targets.

The Delhi Declaration urges all governments and stakeholders to ‘pursue with a sense of urgency the paradigm shift from disaster management to disaster risk reduction’ and ‘ensure that policies and practices reflect an understanding of disaster risk’. The next AMCDRR in 2018, to be hosted by the Government of Mongolia, will be an important occasion to demonstrate progress each country in the region has made in response to this call.

A blue ink signature of H.E. Shri Kiren Rijju.

Minister of State  
Home Affairs India  
H.E. Shri Kiren Rijju

A black ink signature of Mr. Robert Glasser.

United Nations Special Representative  
of the Secretary-General for  
Disaster Risk Reduction  
Mr. Robert Glasser

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The Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction 2016 (AMCDRR) provided a unique opportunity for the region to shape the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. It was the first such high-level meeting in the region since the Sendai Framework was adopted by 187 countries at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Co-organized by the host, the Government of India, and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the conference resulted in three main outcomes that will guide the region through a series of milestones to achieve the seven targets of the Sendai Framework.

The New Delhi Declaration consolidated the political commitment of governments towards preventing and reducing risk and strengthened efforts to build disaster resilience in the region.

The Asian Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework strengthened and consolidated efforts to address the seven targets of the global blueprint to reduce disaster risk.

The Asia Regional Plan provides a:

- a) Broad policy direction to guide the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the context of the 2030 sustainable development agendas in the region;
- b) Long term road map, spanning the 15-year horizon of the Sendai Framework outlining a chronological pathway for implementation of priorities to achieve seven global targets;

c) Two-year action plan with specific activities that are prioritized based on the long term road map and in line with the policy direction.

The Asia Regional Plan will guide and support the national implementation of the Sendai Framework, but is not a replacement of national plans. It does so by identifying priorities at regional activities to support national and local actions, enhance exchange of good practice, knowledge and information among governments and stakeholders, in addition to strengthening regional cooperation to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Ten Stakeholder Action Statements illustrated and strengthened the shared responsibility approach that is needed to implement the Sendai Framework.

Collaboration, consultation and partnership between governments and stakeholders were at the heart of the process that led to these successful outcomes of the AMCDRR 2016. This set of ambitious commitments comes at a time of increasing exposure and persistent vulnerability to disaster, which is putting at risk a large part of remarkable socio-economic development that has been achieved over recent decades.

The Sendai Framework clearly articulates the ‘what’ that needs to be done at the global, regional, national and local level. These regional-level outcomes focus governments and stakeholders on the ‘how’ at the national and local level.

Because risks and vulnerabilities reach beyond national borders, the AMCDRR 2016 provided a forum that enables the region to address trans-boundary issues around disaster prevention and preparedness.

The conference saw governments take the lead to address a broad range of key DRR issues in Asia Pacific. They were supported by strong proactive engagement from several stakeholders, including the private sector, local governments, the science, technology and health communities, plus various sectors of civil society. A wide exchange of experiences occurred on various successful practices and innovative approaches to prevent, reduce and manage disaster risk.

This shared responsibility of governments and stakeholders led to the above ambitious outcomes to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework in Asia Pacific. Overall, the AMCDRR 2016 proved instrumental in increasing political commitment and strengthening the disaster risk reduction agenda at all levels.

The conference began with an impressive Opening Ceremony. It was both ceremonial as well as an exhibition of leadership in DRR. A series of substantive addresses were delivered. Most notably the Honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, gave the inaugural address in which he unveiled an ambitious 10- point plan to strengthen disaster resilience in Asia.

The United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Mr. Robert Glasser, said the AMCDRR 2016 provided a powerful opportunity to reaffirm India's regional leadership in DRR and ensure that the Asia region provides valuable input to the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be in Mexico.

**H.E. Shri Kiren Rijiju**, Minister of State, Home, India, delivered the welcome remarks. Two other dignitaries – **Mr. Toshihiro Nikai**, Secretary General, Liberal Democratic Party, Member (LDP), Japan; and **H.E. Shri Rajnath Singh**, Home Minister, India – also delivered speeches. The

Opening Ceremony set the scene for the following conference deliberations.

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***“The AMCDRR 2016 provided a forum that enables the region to address trans-boundary issues around disaster prevention and preparedness.”***

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The ministerial sessions saw member states, regional intergovernmental and inter-national organizations deliver a total of 51 Official Statements. All Statements from governments and other parties expressed commitment and support to the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

The 15-year global blueprint to reduce

disaster risk is helping countries 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.

The AMCDRR had six technical sessions for which UNISDR took the lead in coordinating with the respective session chairs and supporting partners in terms of speakers. The first four focused on the Priorities for Action of the Sendai Framework: understanding DRR; DRR governance; investing in DRR for resilience; and enhanced preparedness for effective response and to build back better. Two others focused on key areas of international DRR policy: monitoring the Sendai Framework; and stronger coherence between DRR, climate change adaptation and sustainable development.

Technical Session 1 agreed on the need to leverage the resources of governments and stakeholders to strengthen understanding of DRR. In turn, a strengthened understanding of DRR would boost the case for more resources for disaster resilience. It would be important to develop partnerships for disaster resilient strategies in general and infrastructure in particular. There should be more transboundary sharing of data and capacity. Bilateral and regional solutions need to be leveraged through existing treaties and further dialogue.

Technical Session 2 proposed that reviews of existing governance infrastructures be undertaken. This included the need to develop a coherent understanding of hazards and to facilitate the development of stronger networks to share risk data and technical capacities regionally. Information must therefore become more readily accessible and communicable to allow communities to benefit. Existing governance practices must work closely with the local level and stakeholders; especially youth, who are the inheritors of past and current DRR failures.

Technical Session 3 proposed that solutions will be stronger with greater coherence between the SDG, climate change and DRR agendas. Such enhanced coherence would enable new policy to more effectively deliver on the overall 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Governments thus need to mainstream practices and knowledge through education and investment in resilience. There should be increased investment in tools to track resources flows, and for countries to have national and sub-national focal points. Stakeholders should invest time into building relationships to ensure this flow.

Technical Session 4 emphasized the need to engage stakeholders by developing active networks of information sharing. Disaster response and preparedness must be institutionalized and incentivized in order to strengthen community coherence. Early warning systems must be accessible and people centred. Accountability measures must be available to be shared regionally. ‘Build back better’ should be an approach that is shared between national and local level governments and institutions.

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***“Disaster response and preparedness must be institutionalized and incentivized in order to strengthen community coherence.”***

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Technical Session 5 recommended that data continue to be collected, both in hard and soft forms. Information must be reviewed and made readily accessible to the public. This requires investment. Archives must be maintained to assist in the development of future projections. Disaster loss and damage data should comply with the standards of national statistics offices bearing in mind data disaggregation in line with ‘no one left behind’ principle of the SDGs. A data readiness review should be conducted in the first quarter of 2017 to be presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Platform for DRR, in Mexico, in May.

Technical Session 6 agreed that good examples of national practice can help inform other countries but strategies and policy need be tailored to national interests and values. Risk and resilience considerations need to be embedded in the core planning processes of government. The link between plans and budgeting decisions needs to be strengthened. This takes note of a government’s budget being the ultimate expression of intent, will and priorities. The capacities of government actors on all levels must be strengthened through cross-sectional approaches and new financing systems such as insurance schemes and blended financing models. Within this, local actors and stakeholders must be engaged to turn rhetoric into practical action.

There were three Featured Events for which the Government of India took the lead: Disaster risk resilient infrastructure for sustainable development; Application of science and technology for the prevention of new risks; and strengthening regional cooperation for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Asia.

Featured Event 1 recognized the need to share DRR knowledge with the financial sector to address gaps in learning. This will help enable risk-resilient infrastructure to prevent and reduce disaster risk as part of a smarter approach to urbanization. Knowledge needs to be

accessible. Recognition of the important role the private sector in investment is needed as are associated financial incentives.

Regulations and governance should strengthen coherence, especially with respect to private sector action. Safe practices should be integrated into regional tools. Inter-governmental regulatory bodies should be established to ensure transboundary cooperation.

Featured Event 2 agreed that problems need sharper definition to galvanize scientific efforts

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***“Initiatives to reduce disaster must be evidence-based and globally scalable, with appropriate resources mobilized.”***

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that lead to progress. Initiatives to reduce disaster must be evidence-based and globally scalable, with appropriate resources mobilized. Coherence should be fostered. DRR must be collaborative between governments, stakeholders and IGOs. Science and technology can then be utilized in a way that are not politically aligned or geographically contained. There needs to be a deeper understanding of

how science and technology can effectively address disaster risk at the local level. There needs to be a shift in the language used by science and technology experts so that information can become accessible to all stakeholders and on all levels.

Featured Event 3 called for a strengthening regional coherence to ensure the standardization of methodological and analytical practice. The Asia Pacific region would benefit greatly by sharing lessons learnt on a country level. Regional observation networks and analysis must be implemented and facilitated through IGOs. The session proposed that networks can be facilitated by establishing ‘Trans- boundary Disaster Risk Management Systems’. This means there must be greater coordination between upper and lower riparian countries in order to facilitate North-South, South-South and trilateral partnerships. Undertaking of regional and sub-regional DRR assessments must occur alongside the need to share innovations, technology and technical capacities between countries in the region, particularly to assist developing states.

At the Closing Ceremony the AMCDRR 2016 outcome documents – the New Delhi Declaration, the Asia Regional Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework; and 10 Stakeholder Action Statements – were formally adopted.

The final session also featured the Inaugural World Tsunami Awareness Day event and film festival award ceremony.

The World Tsunami Awareness Day session began with a minute’s silence in remembrance of all those who have lost their lives in tsunamis. Its theme ‘Live to Tell’ focused on the importance of reducing disaster mortality through the promotion of effective education and evacuation drills.

The following entries won the short film competition:

1. Best short film on the positive human impact of DRR

Winner: 'I Play, I Learn, I am Safe', Live & Learn Vietnam

2. Best short film on DRR for development

Winner: 'The Resilient Ones from the East of Indonesia', Care World Indonesia

3. Best short film on adapting to climate change

Winner: 'The Catalysts of Change: Adapting to Changing Weather in Ladakh', SEEDS India

The formal closing included remarks from Mr. Luis Felipe Puente, National Coordinator of Civil Protection of Mexico; Mr. Robert Glasser, Special Representative of the United Nation Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction; Dr. P.K. Mishra, Additional Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India; Shri Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State, Home, India; Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, Minister of State, Home, India;

H.E. Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia, as host of the AMCDRR 2018, issued a warm welcome to all governments and participants to come to Mongolia in 2018 for the next conference.

The closing remarks were presented by Shri Rajnath Singh, Home Minister, India. He said the AMCDRR and its outcomes had provided the opportunity to share experiences and best practices to ensure a consensus road map for implementation of the Sendai Framework.



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**Opening  
Ceremony**







More than 4,400 participants attended the Opening Ceremony on 3 November. Five high level dignitaries presented on various aspects of disaster risk reduction (DRR) in the Asia Pacific region, which provided an excellent overview of the opportunities and challenges to hand. H.E. Shri Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State, Home, India, made the welcome remarks. Three dignitaries followed with their remarks: Mr. Robert Glasser, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction; Mr. Toshihiro Nikai, Secretary General, Liberal Democratic Party, Member (LDP), Japan; and H.E. Shri Rajnath Singh, Home Minister, India. The Prime Minister of India, H. E. Shri Narendra Modi, made the keynote speech of the Opening Ceremony.

## Key Messages



H.E. Shri Kiren Rijiju thanked dignitaries and ministers for their attendance. He spoke about the importance of DRR, and the unique opportunity provided by the AMCDRR 2016 to promote the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Mr. Rijiju highlighted that the increased severity and frequency of disasters in the region pose a severe threat to development. He stressed that those people who are most affected also are generally the most vulnerable. He outlined three primary threats to disaster resilience: the increased rate of population growth and urbanization and the nature of socio-economic activity that often builds rather than reduces disaster risk. Looking forward, Mr. Rijiju urged that all stakeholders, partner and governments use the Sendai Framework to strengthen coherence and the paradigm shift from disaster management to disaster risk management



Mr. Robert Glasser delivered remarks from the United Nations Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon. The Sendai Framework is a key pillar of the overall 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its focus on risk management is an important tool and guide to realize the overall development agenda. Mr. Glasser complimented Asia’s remarkable recent development and economic growth. However, future development needs to be more sustainable and resilient. Regional collaboration and understanding DRR from its various angles is vital, both from a practical and political perspective. The AMCDRR 2016 provides a powerful opportunity to reaffirm India’s regional leadership in DRR and ensure that the Asia region provides valuable input to the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, in Mexico.



Mr. Toshihiro Nikai drew attention to the conference’s capacity to recognize the threat of tsunamis in the region. He highlighted the importance of the inaugural World Tsunami Day event on 5 November. Mr Nikai recounted the story of ‘In-amura-no-hi’ to demonstrate the importance of early-warning and incorporation of local knowledge to keep people and their livelihoods and assets safe. Inclusion, particularly in terms of children, is a key element of all such initiatives. Mr. Nikai shared Japan’s great experience in the area, including programmes to educate future generations on tsunami risk and resilience.



H.E. Shri Rajnath Singh emphasized the importance of coherence. He stressed that all levels and sectors of society must be committed to DRR so that losses decrease. Because disasters do not recognize political boundaries, regional cooperation is vital. Technologies, capacities, and practices should therefore be shared. The role of the state is crucial. In particular, DRR needs to be more mainstreamed into social, cultural, economic, and livelihood development plans. Mr. Singh emphasized India’s commitment to the principles of regional and global cooperation.



H.E. Shri Narendra Modi's keynote speech emphasized India's commitment to development. He highlighted the importance of coherence between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (COP 21), and the Sendai Framework. Collectively, these agreements have the potential to shape the future of humanity. Prime Minister Modi emphasized that we must not take the development progress of the last two decades for granted. People's own leadership is crucial to support local initiatives and tap into traditional knowledge through policy and practice for better outcomes.

The Prime Minister highlighted the increase in the number of national disaster management institutions. More than 30 Asian states now have such a dedicated body. He welcomed the upcoming inaugural World Tsunami Awareness Day. The Prime Minister recalled how the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami caught the region by surprise. The experience has led to vast improvements in early-warning systems. However, there remain significant challenges ahead. As Asia Pacific continues to rapidly urbanise more people, assets and economic activity will gather in more condensed areas that are often at high-risk to hazards. He urged countries to adopt practices to establish safe cities and monitor risk and provide education to manage urban development.

The Prime Minister presented a ten-point plan to reduce disaster risk globally:

1. All those involved in the development sector – whether from private industry, public, or government – must accept best practices of disaster risk management. Knowledge must be generated, and hazard risk mechanisms for international infrastructure financing must be established where lacking, and strengthened where present.
2. Risk coverage must be made available for all. The penetration of insurance will ensure financial inclusion and risk insurance for all levels of societies and communities. The world must think innovatively, and big.
3. The increased involvement of women in disaster risk management must be encouraged given their high levels of vulnerability. The unique insights of women must be employed through training more women volunteers and professionals working in DRR.
4. Risk mapping must be enhanced globally. Standards must be widely accepted and global parameters established. Globally accepted risk categories will enable the development of a common understanding.
5. Technology must be liberated to enhance efficiency of disaster risk management efforts.
6. A global network of universities should be established to work on development issues in the context of disaster risk reduction. Universities can specialize on multidisciplinary issues given their geographic location.



7. The opportunities provided by social media and mobile technologies should be utilized. Social media has transformed disaster response via speed and connectedness.
8. We must build on local capacities and initiatives. The scope of community-based efforts must be expanded. Local best practices and indigenous knowledge must be enabled through capacity building and inclusive policy development.
9. We must ensure that the opportunity to learn from disasters is not wasted. Papers and reports are often ineffective. The UN should hold an international film competition that encourages the documentation of disaster risk management, and relief efforts in post-disaster recovery to ensure lessons are learnt not lost. These films must not only explore building back better through physical infra-structure, but also the strengthening of institutional capacity for managing risk. India is committed to work bilaterally and with multilateral institutions to develop such reports.
10. Cohesion on international response to disasters must be strengthened. Collective strength and solidarity could work under a common umbrella. The UN should establish a common organization under which global disaster risk management authorities would work on the ground. In this spirit of global cooperation, India is committed to sharing space-based technologies for the purpose of risk assessment, preparation, and recovery.

The Prime Minister concluded by focusing on the opportunities for global collaboration. The conference outcomes will provide a solid blueprint for collective action.

Following the speeches, ministers were invited on stage for photographs. The Prime Minister then left the auditorium to tour the children's art competition in a neighbouring area of the conference venue.

The full text of the main speeches is available in Annex 4.



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# Summary of Ministerial Statements

**GOVERNORS/  
CABINET MINISTERS/  
CHIEF MINISTERS**





Member States, regional intergovernmental and international organizations delivered a total of 51 Official Statements.

All Statements from Governments and other parties expressed commitment and support to the implementation of the Sendai Framework. The 15-year global blueprint to reduce disaster risk is helping countries institutionalize 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 inter-linkage between disaster risk reductions, sustainable development and climate change was underlined as a critical thread in most statements.

Governments highlighted the need for cross-sectorial partnership and community engagement as a shared responsibility. They pointed to the need to foster collaborative partnership with the 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 it is aligned with the Sendai Framework and achievable at the local levels was emphasized. Other common themes included the need for greater political awareness, enhanced investment in DRR, and the importance of addressing risk associated with climate-induced disasters. In addition, emphasis was placed on the need to: strengthen local capacities and actions, utilize local knowledge and local wisdom, and adopt an inclusive approach to DRR that embraces such groups as women, the poor, youth, and persons with disability.

Ministers highlighted that climate change is increasing the risk of severe erosion and degradation of the coastal environment and infrastructure in general. This has a particularly



adverse effect on the populations, livelihoods and marine life of Small Island developing states (SIDS). As such, it is crucial to integrate disaster risk management into national climate change policies.

Among the actions highlighted in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework was a focus on developing and implementing national and local strategies, policies and plans for disaster resilience. This includes substantially increasing investment in disaster preparedness and strengthening education on DRR.

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, particularly for those located in exposed areas.

It was underscored that the needs of women and children, and persons with disability, should be prioritized in DRR so that no one is left behind. Their respective capacities were recognized as an immense social, political and economic asset.

There was wide recognition of the importance of supporting the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework in partnership with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction's (UNISDR) Regional Office for Asia Pacific. Regional collaboration was a constant theme, particularly in terms of the exchange of knowledge, best practices and innovation.

A strong desire was regularly 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 the AMCDRR 2016, and to UNISDR in co-organizing the first such conference since the adoption of the Sendai Framework.



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## Technical Sessions







## Understanding Disaster Risk

### Context

Understanding disaster risk is the foundation for effective disaster risk management, and involves a number of fundamental, inter-connected steps. Priority 1 of the Sendai Framework calls for development policies and practices to be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment.

### Session Objectives

- **Agree actions** to strengthen comprehensive and shared understanding of disaster risk in Asia
- **Deliberate** on how to achieve the related milestones and two-year actions proposed in the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of Sendai Framework
- **Share knowledge and experiences** on critical issues related to understanding risk; such as disaster loss accounting, multi-hazard risk assessment and risk information system development.

### Main Points of Discussion

To achieve the session objectives and develop an in-depth understanding of disaster risk, six presentations were made before discussions were opened up to the floor:

1. 'Multi-Hazard Monitoring and Risk Assessment in China'.
2. 'Challenges and Prospects of Standardizing Disaster Loss Accounting at National and Sub-national Level Inclusive of Gender and Diversity Parameters'.
3. 'Climate Change Scenario and Experience of Integration of Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Risk Information into Policies and Plans in Vietnam'.
4. 'Understanding Risk and Strengthening Resilience in Urban Areas'.
5. 'SAARC Disaster Management Centre's Environment Development Geo-climatic Perspective'.
6. 'Lessons from the UN Global Assessment Report (GAR) on Disaster Risk Reduction'.

The plenary discussed the impact of climate change in Asia Pacific and explored the role of local actors within climate change adaptation and DRR. Further to this, understanding the full impact of the human-driven aspects of disaster risk challenged those assumptions that regard disasters as being 'natural'.

### Challenges Identified

The panel and plenary identified several challenges to developing a far more comprehensive understanding of DRR across all sectors and levels, by all actors and stakeholders.

The session identified that increasing risks are emerging because of rapid urbanisation and a lack of standardization of loss accounting data in the region. For instance, climate data currently fails to develop an adequate image of the effects of climate change. This lack of



coherence is having a negative impact on the development of disaster resilient practices, including at a regional level.

Disaster risk strategy, accountability, and assessment are currently weak at a regional level. In addition, solutions cannot be enacted because of the difficulty in mobilizing cost-effective resources. Currently, socio-economic assessments in Asia Pacific do not account for disaster risk and strategies to reduce it. As such, related national level financing and capital investment is yet to be fully disaster risk sensitive.

## **Recommendations and Solutions Proposed**

Technical Session 1 agreed on the need to leverage the resources of governments and stakeholders to strengthen understanding of DRR. In turn, a strengthened understanding of DRR would boost the case for more resources for disaster resilience. It would be important to develop partnerships for disaster resilient strategies in general and infrastructure in particular. There should be more transboundary sharing of data and capacity. Bilateral and regional solutions need to be leveraged through existing treaties and further dialogue.

The session explored country-specific examples of how understanding of DRR was enhanced. It proposed focusing on creative community-based solutions that rely on local knowledge and empowerment as the most effective approach. The importance of increased access to data and information was again emphasized.

Increased investments in mitigation and adaptation should be made through resilience strategies that are aligned with the Sendai Framework. Investment strategies must look beyond traditional conceptualization of disasters. For instance, this needs to include climate change impacts as a factor in future modelling. A stronger understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions will enhance the coherence between the SDGs, COP21, and the Sendai Framework.

## **Chair's Conclusion**

The discussion contributed to a more solid platform of actions to boost the understanding of disaster risk at national and regional level. Risk assessment data must be made publicly available so that both urban and rural areas can adopt more resilient practices and investment strategies. This must include the assessment of extensive risk, i.e. more localized, small-scale disasters that cumulatively are very damaging. Areas that require a greater focus include:

urban risk, agriculture, drought, and food security. This will enable villages, cities and countries to move from a reactive disaster management to a more proactive disaster risk management as outlined in the Sendai Framework.

The panel highlighted a number of milestones to be reached at a regional level, including the challenges related to systematically quantifying risk, and financing risk assessments in the face of escalating climate-related and urban risks. This represents a useful reference for any future changes to the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework. It was recommended that use of different approaches, such as modelling, analogy and statistics,



depending on availability of data, be undertaken. Thresholds should be developed based on such risk assessments.

The session concluded that a better understanding of disaster risk enhances social inclusion while enabling the transfer of data and analysis up to a transboundary level.



## Disaster Risk Governance

### Context

Coherent policies, adequate institutional arrangements, capacities and coordination within and across sectors are important to enable all state institutions at all levels to manage disaster risk and strengthen resilience through risk-sensitive plans and implementation. Sustained mechanisms for participation of communities and relevant stakeholders (such as at-risk populations, volunteers, civil society, the private sector, etc.), to build their capacity and promote leadership, are critical to realize the principle of “shared responsibility” in disaster risk reduction and to build the culture of prevention.

### Session Objective

- Agree on actions to strengthen disaster risk governance in Asia.
- Deliberate on how to achieve the governance related milestones and two year actions proposed in the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of Sendai Framework.
- Share knowledge and experiences in disaster risk governance, taking in account the unique opportunity to make integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into sustainable development practice.

### Main Points of Discussion

To achieve the session objectives and address disaster risk governance from a broad range of expertise, five presentations were made before opening discussions to plenary:

1. ‘What are the Most Critical Disaster Risk Governance Challenge(s) in Asia and How to Address Them to Achieve the Sendai Framework Targets?’
2. ‘Disaster Risk Governance’
3. Impact and Inclusion for Women and Youth in Governance Practice.
4. The Power of Practice; Lessons Learnt from Linking Academia and Governance.
5. Building the Capacity of Local Authorities to Achieve Sendai Framework Target (e).

Interventions from the floor then discussed the importance of creating policies that enable communities to develop DRR-informed plans, as well as the need to explore this in relation to cross-sectoral involvement and inclusiveness of all stakeholders. Participants emphasized the importance of local capacities, and strengthened transparency and accountability mechanisms.

### Challenges Identified

Disaster risk practices need to be reassessed and reinvigorated to address existing and emerging challenges. Governance practices often lack coherent policies and sustained mechanisms for enabling participation from various stakeholders.



An ideological and practical shift needs to move policy from disaster management towards an approach that is risk-sensitive, particularly in terms of infrastructure investment.

Local level actors are largely excluded from the development of disaster risk policy, despite the widely accepted need to proactively engage stakeholders on a community-wide basis. A lack of trust between these actors has emerged; solidarity has not been fostered on an institutional level.

### **Recommendations and Solutions Proposed**

In terms of the need to reinvigorate approaches to current challenges, the session proposed that reviews of existing governance infrastructures be undertaken. This included the need to develop a coherent understanding of hazards and to facilitate the development of stronger networks to share risk data and technical capacities regionally. Information must therefore become more readily accessible and communicable to allow communities to benefit.

Existing governance practices must work closely with the local level and stakeholders; especially youth, who are the inheritors of past and current DRR failures. Solidarity and trust must be established through capacity building and inclusive policy measures. Institutional arrangements must focus towards national and Sendai Framework mandated targets, especially Sendai target e).

Such measures need to reinforce accountability by establishing clear mandates and authorities under which governments and institutions can act. Instruments of accountability need to empower local authorities to coordinate with CSOs in a people-centred and preventative way. These instruments must support local and national DRR policy and should be shared on the regional stage.

### **Chair's Conclusion**

The chair said that solutions identified fed into achieving Sendai target e) and developing cross-sectoral, transboundary and people centred approaches to build capacities and identify institutions and individuals that are accountable.

The panel agreed on the need to improve disaster risk governance by referencing Sendai target e) so that national and local strategies are increasingly DRR informed. This requires a cross-sectoral approach that must be ingrained in the institutional arrangements of countries. Achieving this will build upon the transparency and sharing of accountabilities between actors, as well as coherence in the implementation of disaster risk governance. This cooperation should also be at a transboundary level. An inclusive approach implies increased education on DRR among various stakeholders.

The Technical Session agreed 'Milestones' that included a policy shift from disaster management to disaster risk management to ensure development practice from a governance perspective is sustainable. To integrate DRR and climate change adaptation into sustainable development, various policy, institutional, and inclusive actions need to be formalized into systems and practice at all levels.



Resilience must be at the centre of all disaster risk management efforts. This includes mainstreaming DRR across all sectors as well as the strengthening of risk knowledge including historical data, access to information, and capacity to use tools for risk mapping.



## Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience

### Context

The Sendai Framework says assessing and anticipating the economic, social and cultural dimensions of disasters will strengthen long-term resilience. It advocates for measures to prevent and reduce disaster risk in these areas. This requires all sectors to be 'disaster risk-informed' and for DRR considerations to be integrated into the instruments and processes of decision making in the public sector, private sector and at the local level.

### Session Objectives

- **Share knowledge and experiences** that demonstrates how investing in DRR for resilience saves lives, protects livelihoods, strengthens economic and social resilience and preserves cultural heritage
- **Deliberate** on how to achieve the investing in DRR-related milestones and two-year actions proposed in the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of Sendai Framework

### Main Points of Discussion

To achieve the session objectives and address how to invest in disaster risk reduction for resilience from a broad range of expertise, six presentations were made before opening discussions to plenary:

1. Challenges and Opportunities for Investment in Extremely Disaster-prone States
2. The Importance of Cross-sectoral and Trans-boundary Cooperation
3. The Role of Governance in Investing for Resilience
4. Engaging the Local-level in a Country-Specific Context; Empowering Cultural Nuances and Local Knowledge Systems
5. The Importance of Sharing Information Systems across Sectors
6. The Role of the Private Sector; Cases of Incentivisation

The following interventions from the floor highlighted the socio-economic value of culture in sustainable development, and the need to explore this through coherent frameworks that operate both on the national and global level.

### Challenges Identified

The session identified that in the current context of investing for disaster risk resilience, policy is yet to adopt practices meant to achieve coherence as articulated in the post-2015 development agenda. The overall 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is yet to be wholly institutionalized to enhance inclusive practices. Further, the system is yet to be operationalized on the global level as the majority of investment and policy currently does not go beyond national level.



DRR is inadequately legislated for. A lack of knowledge of DRR standards means there is low awareness and consequently weak incentives for the private sector to adopt risk resilient practices. The flow-on effects of effective disaster risk resilience practice is not wholly understood in terms of the capacity to enhance matters of culture, health, and education. Accountability mechanisms in this respect exist, but have not yet gained the teeth to influence private interests. Instead, resources, cultural knowledge, and DRR practice lose their capacity to positively influence because of a failure to capture and communicate good practice regionally and globally.

## **Recommendations and Solutions Proposed**

The session proposed that solutions will be more effective; the more coherence there exists between the SDG, climate change and DRR agendas. Stronger coherence would enable new policy to more effectively deliver on the overall 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Governments thus need to mainstream practices and knowledge through education and investment in resilience. There should be increased investment in tools to track resources flows, for countries to have nation- al and sub-national focal points, and stakeholders should be investing time into building relationships to ensure this flow.

Operationalization of policy must therefore work between government, the private sector and the community. Economic development must be looked at socio-economically, and accountability mechanisms need to recognize this. Learnings from all stakeholders and actors must be shared and built upon whilst anticipating future risk. The public sector must invest in DRR for resilience whilst also providing avenues for government support. The value of SMEs must be recognized and encouraged.

## **Chair's Conclusion**

The session shared a wealth of experience: country-specific, from the local lev- el as well as the private sector. It highlighted the need to understand investment from the perspectives of all stakeholders. Coordination and collaboration among institutions and sectors, both government and non-government, is critical for effective partnership to strengthen the disaster resilience of socio-economic assets and the lifelines of business and communities, such as roads and utility supplies. Long term and effective partnership is critical to strengthen the level of resilience before, during and after a disaster.

The session recommended that DRR considerations are integrated into the planning process and decision making of the public and private sector. The session illustrated the need to invest for sustainability at both the national and local level so that development is more disaster-resilient and sustainable. More specifically, in order to best contribute to the 2 year outcomes of the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework, the session highlighted that parliamentarians and legislative chambers have a critical role in terms of economic legislation specific to DRR as well as mainstreaming disaster resilience considerations across all pertinent legislation.



It was agreed that DRR be at the core of all resilience building strategies – as reflected in the ‘Bangkok Principles’ for health. Investing in DRR requires an all-of-society approach that in turn requires an effective and comprehensive approach across a broad range of sectors, including health resilience, safe education, and preserving cultural heritage and local knowledge.



## Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response and to 'Build Back Better'

### Context

This session explored strengthening disaster preparedness for effective response and to 'build back better' in recovery and reconstruction in Asia.

The Sendai Framework recognizes the steady increase in exposure to hazards and emphasizes the need for further strengthening of preparedness to respond effectively. It also calls for preparing for recovery ahead of disasters, which can be used as an opportunity to reduce risk and build back better.

### Session Objective

- Share knowledge and experiences of how disaster preparedness for effective response and to 'build back better' in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction saves lives and protects development
- Deliberate on how to achieve the related milestones and two-year actions proposed in the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of Sendai Framework.

### Main Points of Discussion

To achieve the session objectives and address disaster preparedness for effective response and to 'build back better' six presentations were made before opening discussions to plenary. Panellists discussed the broad approach that is needed to prepare for disasters effectively, including the integration of actors and stakeholders across sectors and various levels. This was looked at through the following:

1. Overcoming Regional Geographic Challenges to Implementing DRR.
2. Incorporating Community-awareness into Immediate Post-disaster Strategy.
3. A Community Endeavour: Shared Country-specific Experiences in Preparedness.
4. Country-specific DRR Strategy and Programmes Highlighting the need to Engage Stakeholders and the Private Sector.
5. The need to coordinate within and between Internal and External Bodies.
6. 'Faith-Based Organizations: Contribution and Challenges for Local and National Preparedness'.

Interventions from the floor led to agreement that a collaborative approach leads to the most effective DRR action in all contexts.

### Challenges Identified

The session explored the difficulty of consolidating preparedness and response given the often challenging conditions culturally and environmentally in the region. Communities often do not have the support or resources to adequately test preparedness and response mechanisms. Stakeholders are not often aware of the value of DRR systems despite the risk they face, and are therefore unable to engage or invest in reducing their vulnerability.



Accountability mechanisms were highlighted as being largely top-down. Resources and knowledge have often failed to reach the local level. A lack of multi-sectoral and inter-faith collaboration poses a challenge to developing a community level context within which DRR improves resilience and sustainability.

## **Recommendations and Solutions Proposed**

The session recognized the need to engage stakeholders by developing active networks of information sharing. Disaster response and preparedness must be institutionalised and incentivized in order to strengthen community coherence. Early warning systems must be accessible and people-centred. Accountability measures must be available to be shared regionally.

‘Build back better’ must be an approach that is shared between national and local level governments and institutions. Promoting regional and inclusive collaboration underpins effective risk governance. Coordinated actions in the region would be essential to properly prepare for and promptly respond to disaster risk that often extends beyond the capacity – and borders – of one country. Building a common understanding on risks among pertinent ministers through international dialogue, (i.e. the AMCDRR) is essential.

## **Chair’s Summary**

The ‘build back better’ principle is of major significance in the post-disaster context. Preparation comes from sharing knowledge, and the integration of a cross-sectoral approach that incorporates the concerns, interests and capacities of all levels of actors and stakeholders involved in DRR. There is a gap between policy and community-based knowledge which needs to be filled through recognition of community values and interests, and the development of effective early warning systems. There are many challenges to resilience, including failure to incorporate religious practices meaningfully, and a lack of communication systems on the ground. It is important to address the roles of community, and government, both of whom need to work together to ensure effective preparedness.

Long-term planning that is multi-sectoral, trans-boundary and trans-community is critical. This will strengthen coherence that is a key means to reducing disaster risk. Comprehensive contingency planning must occur across all sectors and at all levels.



## Review and Monitoring of Implementation of the Sendai Framework

### Context

International collaboration to develop a monitoring framework is a work in progress but the Sendai Monitor is nearing completion. It remains important to critically examine and pilot at country level the indicators developed so far. This will test their validity and ensure they are anchored in existing national priorities and adjusted to the country context. The indicators are expected to measure global and national targets. They will also provide information to: steer political action; enhance risk-informed decision making; and promote a broader resilience approach.

### Session Objectives

- Build a shared understanding among Asian countries and stakeholders of the targets, indicators, required data, opportunities and challenges in monitoring of the Sendai Framework, as a result of the Open-ended expert Intergovernmental Working Group (OEIWG).
- Identify and agree on key actions towards operationalizing the indicators and the monitoring process of the Sendai Framework at the national level.
- Identify opportunities for peer learning and cooperation among countries in operationalising the indicators and monitoring and reporting on the Sendai Framework at the national and local level.

### Main Points of the Discussion

To achieve session objectives and look at issues relating to the review and monitoring of implementation of the Sendai Framework, six presentations were made:

1. 'Monitoring Progress in Disaster Risk Reduction in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda'
2. 'Monitoring Progress: Some Reflections'
3. 'Challenges of Geography on the Capacity to Review and Monitor'
4. 'Review and Monitoring of the Sendai Framework Data Requirements and other Viewpoints'
5. 'Review and Monitoring of Implementation of the Sendai Framework'
6. 'Recognizing the Importance of Civil Society'

Following the presentations, questions from the floor explored operational limitations and the need to engage the local community as a primary stakeholder in DRR.

### Challenges Identified

The session identified that challenges lay in the ability of communities to interpret data effectively. Analysis is often not presented alongside hard data which makes it difficult for communities to engage with and contribute to accurate risk information. Further, the



community level is often difficult to reach. Cultural complexities have contributed to difficult conditions for communication. Current approaches to monitoring the Sendai Framework lack coherence between intergovernmental and civil sectors. Regional arrangements are yet to be fully established and institutionalised. Integrating a coherent approach with regards the various multilateral frameworks into all levels of governance and institutional arrangements is an additional challenge. At-risk communities face the difficulty of navigating such complexity while often being excluded from the process of implementation.

## **Recommendations and Solutions Proposed**

Data must continue to be collected, both in hard and soft forms. Information must be reviewed and made readily accessible to the public. This requires investment. Archives must be maintained to assist in the development of future projections. Disaster loss and damage data should comply with the standards of national statistics offices bearing in mind data disaggregation in the line with 'no one left behind' principle of the SDGs. A data readiness review must be conducted in the first quarter of 2017 to be presented at the 5th Global Platform for DRR, in Mexico, in May.

Coherence must be strengthened and built into national frameworks. National targets and indicators, as highlighted in paragraph 18 of the Sendai Framework, must be embedded in national strategies for disaster risk reduction (target e) to enable countries to monitor progress most effectively. A common understanding is required and baselines must be established to ensure countries can monitor disaster risk. Countries must collect data. The data strategy and resulting information must be shared at all levels, including at the Global Platform. This will ensure that capacities are understood, synergies are built, and resources are well utilized. Information must comply with data requirements. It must also take consideration of socio-cultural economic variations so that key local actors and stakeholder groups are included.

## **Chair's Summary**

The session explored the evolution of the proposed indicators for Sendai Framework at the global level as a result of the OIEWG. These indicators represent a positive step towards the establishment of national level baselines. The link between the Sendai Monitor and the monitoring system of the SDGs was emphasized as were the data requirements and timeline for rolling out the monitoring system. It was agreed that there would be opportunities and challenges at the national and sub-national level.

The technical session emphasized the importance of the global indicators being realistic and practical given the reporting burden and challenges faced by states, especially developing countries. The necessary policy space needs to be available for countries to adapt and apply global targets and indicators to their own national contexts.



The implementation of the Sendai monitoring system at the sub-regional level is an opportunity to strengthen coherence of sub-regional frameworks. ASEAN's 2016-2020 ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme was highlighted as one such case. Regional and inter-national co-operation in effective monitoring of the Sendai Framework will be vital.

There is a need to look at capacity-building issues in terms of data collection, collation and analysis at the national and sub national level. It is important to involve citizens – who are the primary bearers of risk – at the outset. This will strengthen citizen ownership of the process and strengthen their awareness and understanding of risk through self-assessment. With local citizens involved, there is a need for local indicators to be outcome based. Loss data needs to cover a range of small scale and 'silent' disasters, such as drought. Outcomes need to take into account local capacities especially human and financial resources. Finally, there is a need to create 'meeting places' for data and analysis. The monitoring architecture needs to 'converge' so that national is an aggregation of local, and local is an aggregation of inputs of all stakeholders. This will strengthen the monitoring and implementation of the Sendai Framework.



## Enabling Governance for Coherence of DRR, Response to Climate Change and Sustainable Development

### Context

The adoption of the Sendai Framework provides a unique opportunity to embark on innovative approaches to address the well-recognized challenges of linking the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) and making all integral to resilient and sustainable development. This is particularly relevant for Asia, the global epicentre of disasters and home to many countries vulnerable to climate change, including five of the top ten in the world. Fast but heavy natural resources-based economic growth, unplanned urbanization and increasing inequalities in Asia are also increasing disaster risks.

### Session Objectives

- Unfold the opportunities as well as challenges in ensuring coherent and mutually reinforcing implementation of the Sendai Framework, SDGs, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change as well as other post-2015 frameworks such as the Humanitarian Core Responsibilities to realize risk-sensitive, resilient and sustainable development in Asia.
- Identify and agree priority actions to achieve this coherence, as part of the implementation of the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework.
- Discuss ways to align monitoring of the Sendai Framework and SDGs to strengthen results on the ground and reduce the reporting burden on member states.

### Main Points of Discussion

To achieve the session objectives and to enable governance for coherence of DRR, response to climate change, and sustainable development, six panellists made the following presentations before opening discussions up to the floor:

1. Tying Policy to Practice
2. Regional Alignment: Challenges and Opportunities
3. Lessons Learnt through the National-strategy Undertaken by Indonesia's BAPPE- NAS in aligning Sendai, the SDGs and Climate Change as Governance Policy
4. Empowering INGOs to Gather Resources and Capacity to Provide Support to Governments as a System of Coherence is established and Developed to the Local Level
5. Challenges to Regional Alignment: Recognizing Broad Socio-economic Values and the effect of Culture on Monitoring Implementation
6. The UN System providing a Platform from which Coherence and Governance can emerge Deliberations with participants highlighted concerns around the capacity to



strengthen coherence, especially at the local level. Discussion explored the strong commitment to this important issue. It noted the close ties between DRR, the SDGs, and climate change as illustrated through common indicators and networks. The UN system provides a solid platform from which coherence can evolve.

## Challenges Identified

The session noted a gap between policy and practice. This is challenging to overcome through regional alignment because of cultural and socio-economic variations. Navigating between the local, national and regional level has proven difficult. Measurement tools and economic value often relies on policy that is too globally focused. Resilience is 'complex' and building it is often hampered by a lack of political commitment.

Actors at the local government level often lack capacity. Deficient financial systems hinder the promotion of coherence. Political rhetoric is often stronger than actual commitment. More meaningful engagement of stakeholders is required to strengthen governance policy and process.

## Recommendations and Solutions Proposed

Good examples of national practice can help inform other countries but strategies and policy need to be tailored to national interests and values. Risk and resilience considerations need to be embedded in the core planning processes of government. The link between plans and budgeting decisions needs to be strengthened. This takes note of a government's budget being the ultimate expression of intent, will and priorities.

The capacities of government actors on all levels must be strengthened through cross-sectional approaches and new financing systems such as insurance schemes and blended financing models. Within this, local actors and stakeholders must be engaged to turn rhetoric into practical action. Information must be fed both top-down and bottom-up through the support of regional mechanisms and governance practices. The approach must be cross-sectoral and collaborative, and based off the strong ties between frameworks that already exist, albeit catered to national and local interests.

## Chair's Summary

The session explored a range of opportunities and challenges for coherence. A wide breadth of experience was shared. Conclusions were drawn based on practical government experiences in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mongolia and the Pacific, non-government experience in the Philippines as well as observations from an international organization perspective.

Deliberations noted that the global frameworks are already well integrated and that it is important to acknowledge that we are not starting from 'ground zero'. There are strong practices supporting convergence in current systems and approaches. The trick is to adapt



and transform them to drive even greater integration and coherence. It was also stressed that there is no 'one size fits all' approach; different countries are charting their own ways to achieve coherence.

At the global level the development of common terminologies, shared capacities, and a convergence of information systems will enable more coherent accountability and implementation. It is from here that countries can adapt these systems to suit their national frameworks and interests.

The session concluded with a sense of optimism. Looking ahead, the session agreed that there was an opportunity to use emerging technologies to invest in strengthening and harmonizing data, statistical and information systems to monitor progress and reinforce coherence. This requires, amongst others, innovative financing. Engaging all stakeholders, especially the private sector based on the principles of shared responsibilities and whole-of-society approach to work alongside governments, will be crucial.



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## Disaster Risk Resilient Infrastructure for Sustainable Development

### Context

There is an increased understanding of disaster risk and risk reduction issues in general. However, in terms of making infrastructure resilient from disasters, barriers remain. Various challenges must be addressed, including the lack of: accurate location specific risk information and assessments; effective policies and regulatory frameworks to reinforce the consideration of disaster risks by investors (e.g. development banks and private investors) and users (e.g. national and local governments).

Opportunities exist to promote resilient infrastructure development from two sides:

- i) at the source of major infrastructure investments, i.e. through development banks and private investors; and
- ii) at the national level through awareness, policy and capacity development. Prevention of new risk through responsible and risk sensitive development requires many partners to join hands.

### Session Objective

- Deliberate on the urgent action required to develop responsibly by minimizing creation of future risks through strong and quality infrastructure development in the region.
- Provide a set of key recommended actions to strengthen policy, technical solutions and advocacy towards disaster resilient infrastructure development in the region and globally.
- Launch a 'Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure', involving the key developers and investors in the region in order to accelerate risk prevention to make infrastructure resilient.

### Main Points of Discussion

Panellists explored the key elements for a coherent approach and those actors who need to be engaged. Five presentations were made that focused on the following:

1. The Evolving Role of the Banking sector, and the Need to Share DRR Knowledge with Core Financial Institutions
2. Fostering Coherence through Fiscal Systems and the Need to Adapt and Invest in DRR
3. Addressing the Capacity of the Social Sector to Overcome Gaps in Policy Implementation
4. The Challenge of Urbanization and Investing in Smart Cities
5. Risk as a Core Component of Financing and how this can Impact the Local Level

Interventions from the floor highlighted the importance of human resource capacity and inclusion of various actors in infrastructure development as well as recognising limitations of preparedness on the local level. The panel responded by emphasizing the need to work



together through what is a long-term process and make appropriate modifications to methodologies of project appraisal.

## **Challenges Identified**

The session identified a large gap between the banking sector, as a key stakeholder, and the issue of DRR. There is a lack of recognition of the potential cascading negative impact of infrastructure development projects that do not account for disaster risk. This limited knowledge has contributed to DRR not being a key consideration of infrastructure development and financing decisions. Investment is often disaster risk blind. As the pace of urbanization increases, many cities are not embracing the spirit and substance of the Sendai Framework and will not be able to meet its targets.

There is a lack of political will to institutionalize pertinent information and capacity. Policy and regulation often do not match the requirements of urbanized cities. Enforcement is often difficult at the local level. Inter-governmental cooperation requires review, and risk assessment. It is yet to be meaningfully quantified. Key stakeholders have not yet been brought into the conversation. In short, cooperation for risk resilient infrastructure must be strengthened.

## **Recommendations and Solutions Proposed**

The session recognized the need to share DRR knowledge with the financial sector to address the gaps in learning. This will help enable risk-resilient infrastructure to prevent and reduce disaster risk as part of a smarter approach to urbanization. Knowledge needs to be accessible. Recognition of the important role the private sector in investment is needed as are associated financial incentives.

Regulations and governance should strengthen coherence, especially with respect to private sector action. Safe practices should be integrated into regional tools. Inter-governmental regulatory bodies should be established to ensure trans-boundary cooperation.

Cooperation between key stakeholders in the field, including local actors and science and technology innovators, should be strengthened. Governments should ensure that regulations reach down and are enforced at the local level.

Social infrastructure was highlighted as a key means of filling any policy enforcement gap at the local level. This approach can work in harmony with globally-inspired DRR innovations from the top level.

All panellists echoed the need for stronger regional level collaboration and cooperation towards more disaster resilient infrastructure. Panellists welcomed the establishment of a 'Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure'.



## Chair's Summary

There is a strong need to share data and DRR systems with financing institutions to ensure risk resilient infrastructure is built. Project appraisal thus becomes a tool for resilience, especially when it works in tandem with innovations of science and technology. The panel called for more coherence on all levels to ensure greater understanding and shared value between stakeholders. Coherent DRR approaches should be applied and adapted at all stages of infrastructure development. Various human resources and capacities need to work with various 'social infrastructure' to ensure this.

The session recognized the value of technology and related policy and recommended that regulatory norms and standards need to be strengthened and upgraded. Infrastructure development is a deep and complex issue. Capacity building on the local level is essential to enforce policy and regulation in terms of the government and banking sector.

Momentum is gathering in terms of the establishment of a 'Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure'. The issue of developing more risk resilient infrastructure needs to be engaged along a broader set of priorities. This shared understanding points to the potential to form such a coalition in future.



## Application of Science and Technology for Prevention of New Risks

### Context

Science, technology and research have brought a deeper understanding of disaster risks and 'how to' reduce them. However, there are gaps in translating this scientific information into evidence and science-based policy making. There is also the need for the research community to formulate applicable methodologies and tools that respond to real-world challenges and facilitate the shift from disaster management to disaster risk management.

### Session Objectives

- Deliberate on the urgent need for a stronger science-policy interface towards science-based policy development in DRR.
- Recommend key actions for scientific and academic organizations and governments to close the science-policy gap and use of science in evidence based policy making.

### Main Points of Discussion

Panellists looked at the role of science and technology in DRR and current limitations in the field via the following presentations:

1. Unpacking Capacity Constraints across Sectors
2. The Challenges of Trans-boundary Information Transfer: A Case Study of Hydro informatics in Thailand
3. Collaboration between Experts and Fields of Science and Technology
4. Strengthening the Bonds between DRR Systems
5. Ensuring Data and Information is Publicly Available and Relevant

Discussions from the floor focused on the importance of communicating with and involving key actors in the utilization of information gathered through science and technology processes. Participants highlighted concerns around how those most impacted by disasters can benefit from science and technology. Strengthening governance and improving early-warning was noted as challenging but are vital to building resilience.

### Challenges Identified

The session recognized various capacity constraints across levels that affect the utilisation of science and technology. Regional cooperation is limited similarly through capacity differentiations between countries. Definitions of hazards and risks are not always regionally aligned, making reporting and assessment difficult.

Science and technology is not yet sufficiently mainstreamed on the local level. Information is often difficult to understand and interpret and thus not accessible to groups outside of the science and technology field. Institutions are failing to overcome this gap through facilitating conversations between local communities and science and technology experts and linking them to systems.



### Recommendations and Solutions Proposed

Problems need sharper definition to galvanize scientific efforts that lead to progress. Initiatives to reduce disaster must be evidence-based and globally scalable, with appropriate resources mobilized. Coherence should be fostered. DRR must be collaborative between governments, stakeholders and IGOs. Science and technology can then be utilized in a way that are not politically aligned or geographically contained.

There needs to be a deeper understanding of how science and technology can effectively address disaster risk at the local level. Stakeholders should establish channels through which information can move with ease, strengthening collaboration. It was agreed that information must be mainstreamed. There needs to be shift in the language used by science and technology experts so that information can become accessible to all stakeholders and on all levels. A more coherent approach to science and technology that addresses disaster risk will in turn make policy making easier and more effective in its implementation.

### Chair's Summary

There is a strong need to continue innovative science and technology research. Communication channels need to be further developed. Information needs to be more readily accessible and easy to understand to benefit at-risk communities. The impact of a stronger science-policy nexus needs to extend positively into communities. This nexus must pay greater attention to a people centred focus if it is to prevent and reduce disaster risk.

Science and technology needs to be more incorporated into regional and national based DRR networks. This will lead to a better understanding of disasters in the region. Such actions should include development of technology that is shared, accessible, and analysed under a shared umbrella of understanding.

The session identified the need for a stronger context analysis and more explicit definition of the challenges that science and technology can help address. A 'global public good' of science-informed DRR should be encouraged as a norm to optimize the use of global capacities. This will involve technical and scientific institutions and universities engaging on local disaster issues. This will facilitate dialogue between users and producers of scientific knowledge for DRR.



## Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Implementation of the Sendai Framework in Asia

### Context

The Sendai Framework specifies activities at regional and global levels across its four Priorities for Action. It highlights the importance of transferring technological innovations and research capacity i.e. skill, knowledge, ideas and know-how. This should be North-South, South-South and via triangular cooperation. There is also the need for adequate, sustainable and timely resources especially for lesser developed countries and countries with special needs.

As countries in Asia implement the Sendai Framework, it is important to assess the effectiveness of existing regional cooperation mechanisms and identify ways for their improvement.

### Session Objectives

- To assess how regional cooperation has contributed to the advancement of disaster risk reduction in Asia and lessons learned;
- To deliberate how to strengthen regional cooperation mechanisms to achieve the goal of the Sendai Framework and disaster resilience targets of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as other post-2015 frameworks;
- To discuss ways to enhance the role of Inter-Governmental Organizations and regional organizations for risk-sensitive sustainable development in Asia.

### Main Points of Discussion

To address how to strengthen regional cooperation to implement the Sendai Framework in Asia, six presentations were made focusing on the following:

1. Reinforcing the Role of Regional Platforms, Inter-Governmental Organizations, and Regional Organizations to Lead and Support Risk-sensitive Sustainable Development in Asia
2. Building on Progress in terms of Promoting Technical Cooperation, Developing Methodologies and Standards, Sharing Information and Mobilizing Resources across Levels
3. Transferring Technological Innovations and Research Capacity
4. How to Leverage the Importance of the Asia Regional Plan to Support Implementation and Lesson Learning
5. Regional Cooperation for DRR and Resilience Considering Shared Vulnerabilities and Capacities
6. The Need to Plan Reporting Systems to Ensure the Progress of Sendai at the National, Local, Sub-regional and Regional Levels



Discussion with the floor highlighted the need to prioritize sharing resources and systems to increase the effectiveness of DRR strategies across Asia Pacific. Participants called for greater collaboration between international and regional organizations to prevent duplicating efforts and maximize accountability to communities; especially in regards to transboundary disaster risk management.

### **Challenges Identified**

The session recognized a gap in the capacity to transfer lessons across national and sub-national levels. Monitoring systems are largely separate, and analysis of hazards often does not extend beyond the national level despite many disasters having an impact across borders. Assessing impact across countries and comparing socio-economic losses is not yet quantifiable given the different ways of understanding losses. As such, regional institutions find it challenging to address DRR.

Methodologies and standards for observation are not coherent. Analysis suffers from the inability to compare and understand country-specific situations. Longer-term resilient strategies suffer from a lack of coherence. Solutions are often only provided on a case-by case basis.

### **Recommendations and Solutions Proposed**

The session called for strengthening regional coherence to ensure the standardisation of methodological and analytical practice. The Asia Pacific region will benefit greatly by sharing lessons learnt on a country level. Regional observation networks and analysis must be implemented and facilitated through IGOs.

The session proposed that networks can be facilitated by establishing 'Transboundary Disaster Risk Management Systems'. This means there must be greater coordination between upper and lower riparian countries in order to facilitate North-South, South-South and trilateral partnerships. Undertaking of regional and sub-regional DRR assessments must occur alongside the need to share innovations, technology and technical capacities between countries in the region, particularly to assist developing states.

Regional and sub-regional organizations need to develop specific plans to provide stronger foundations for the progress of activities carried out at national, local, sub-regional and regional levels. These plans can be shared with and facilitated through UNISDR. Information regarding and coming out of these plans must be accessible to, and integrated on, the local level.

### **Chair's Summary**

The session outlined the need to strengthen the mutual exchange of good practices, shared systems for observation and analysis, trans-boundary disaster risk management systems, and the need to address the challenge of developing a longer-term focus for regional collaboration.



The focus on strengthening coherence revealed a commitment to sharing ideas and lessons. Countries can thus adapt and modify strategies alongside a more coherent understanding of disasters. The transboundary nature of disasters highlights why coherence is essential, as is the need to foster a collaborative space at the local level when undertaking observation and analysis. More work is needed. However, existing mechanisms should continue and strengthen to help countries in the Asia Pacific region prevent and reduce disaster risk.

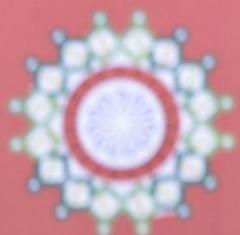
The session agreed that countries in the region need to be more open to exchanging ideas, knowledge, and technologies. IGOs have an important role to improve communication across the region. IGOs help to ensure that knowledge is shared efficiently, which encourages countries to be more accountable to one another. IGOs should adopt more risk sensitive measures, while remaining attentive to country-specific geographies and needs.



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## Closing Ceremony





AMCDRR

2016

Asian Ministerial  
Conference on  
Disaster Risk  
Reduction

03 - 05 Nov, 2016

Vigyan Bhawan,  
New Delhi, India



Ministry of Home Affairs  
Govt. of India

03 - 05 Nov, 2016

Vigyan Bhawan,  
New Delhi, India



The closing ceremony was held on Saturday 5 November. It featured the Inaugural World Tsunami Awareness Day event, film festival award ceremony, and adoption of the AMCDRR 2016 outcome documents.

The ceremony opened by recognizing the role of short films and video journalism in capturing and reporting best practice and stories of human ingenuity to prevent and reduce disaster risk around the Asia Pacific region. The film competition had three categories. One winner was chosen for each, as follows:

1. Best short film on the positive human impact of DRR  
Winner: 'I Play, I Learn, I am Safe', Live & Learn Vietnam
1. Best short film on DRR for development  
Winner: 'The Resilient Ones from the East of Indonesia', Care World Indonesia
2. Best short film on adapting to climate change  
Winner: 'The Catalysts of Change: Adapting to Changing Weather in Ladakh', SEEDS India

A representative from each of the winning film producers was present to accept their award.

The programme of formal proceedings then continued. It included remarks from Mr. Luis Felipe Puente, National Coordinator of Civil Protection of Mexico; Mr. Robert Glasser, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction; Dr. P.K. Mishra, Additional Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India; Shri Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State, Home, India; Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, Minister of State, Home, India; and H.E. Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia.

Closing remarks were presented by Shri Rajnath Singh, Home Minister, India.

## Key Messages

The session opened with remarks from [Mr. Luis Felipe Puente](#), who applauded the outcomes of the AMCDRR 2016 and urged the governments and stakeholders of Asia Pacific to make a major contribution to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Cancun, Mexico, in May 2017.

Mr. Robert Glasser offered a vote of thanks on behalf of the UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon as well as the AMCDRR 2016 co-organizer UNISDR. Mr. Glasser praised the high-level of engagement of a wide array of stakeholders, including CSOs, the private sector, and local leaders who had launched their own forum at the conference. He urged all sectors of society – including women, youth, and people living with disability – to continue to be as engaged as they have been at the AMCDRR. He recognized the growing coherence between the SDGs, DRR and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and how the ambitious outcome documents from this conference would be a big boost to the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the region. Looking forward to the Global Platform for DRR, Mr. Glasser encouraged the governments and stakeholders of Asia to contribute their great expertise and knowledge globally for the benefit of other regions.



Dr. P.K. Mishra thanked all participants and made special mention of local level leaders who had been invited by the Indian Government to the AMCDRR 2016 as part of a major national effort to focus attention on DRR. He highlighted how Prime Minister Modi's 10-point agenda that was outlined in the Opening Ceremony had been explored in many aspects in the various technical sessions, featured events and thematic sessions. He urged the region to follow up these in-depth discussions with action as the region moves towards the next AMCDRR in 2018. The spirit and outcomes of the conference must now be taken back to respective countries and shared with a wider audience of stakeholders. Baselines must be established, systems of data collection strengthened, and the capacity for analysis and evaluation built. Dr. Mishra said the conference had been significant in terms of helping to strengthen national and local governance for DRR while being aligned to regional and global frameworks.

Shri Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State, Home, India, emphasized his Government's commitment to DRR, the success of which is closely tied to India's development strategy. Mr. Rijiju provided a solid overview of the conference, and outlined the outcomes and deliberations of each session, from Ministerial commitments to practical and thematic suggestions. Mr. Rijiju praised the ability of countries, stakeholders and actors to come together at the AMCDRR. They contributed to the development of a solid roadmap for the region that will extend to the AMCDRR 2018, in Mongolia, and beyond.

Remarks by Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, MOS (Home) thanked all the delegates from 50 countries and states, whose presence has made this conference a success. He made special mention of his colleague MoS Hon'ble Sri Kiren Rijiju Ji, Home Secretary and others who have worked very hard at every level possible to ensure a successful conference. Whatever decisions and strategies that were planned in the field of technology especially for research, with the help of the participating members in these 3 days, will be a decisive factor for upcoming generations.

Shri Rajnath Singh gave the closing remarks of the AMCDRR 2016. He thanked all dignitaries and participants for their many fruitful discussions. In particular, he saluted Prime Minister Modi for his dynamic leadership on the DRR Agenda, and reinforced India's commitment to the Prime Minister's 10-point plan that was outlined in the Opening Ceremony. Mr. Singh made special note of five commitments India is making to DRR in the region, to:

1. Build a coalition or centre to promote disaster resilient infrastructure.
2. Provide technical support alongside multilateral agencies to boost construction of disaster resilient houses in the region – envisaging that India's contribution of USD 1 million to UNISDR will be used as seed money.
3. Share space-based capacities for the purpose of disaster risk reduction.
4. Work towards greater inclusion of women in disaster risk management and post-disaster recovery efforts.
5. Keep consulting traditional practices of disaster risk reduction that have evolved and been perfected over time.



The AMCDRR has provided the opportunity to share experiences and best practices to ensure a consensus road map for implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Mr. Singh applauded the two major outcomes – the Asia Regional Plan and New Delhi Declaration – as major steps forward in reducing hazards and organizing efforts on DRR in the region. He called for the strengthening of the role of IGOs and development of innovative partnerships between all stakeholders.

To ensure these important outcome documents have the desired impact and reach, Mr. Singh noted seven points where communities should be assisted:

1. In devising strategies and capacities to assess potential risk for preparedness.
2. In analysis of community resilience, and increased use of reliable technologies.
3. To make risk informed decisions for DRR.
4. To put measures in place to assess potential impacts on local, national, and community based economies.
5. To recognize the risks posed by increased and often unplanned urbanization.
6. To focus on mainstreaming marginalized sectors of the community, who are often the most vulnerable?
7. In sharing a knowledge base and advanced technologies, especially with at- risk communities so that multi-hazard early-warning systems are strengthened regionally.

In conclusion, Mr. Singh expressed sincere gratitude to all participants, and reiterated India's commitment to strengthening disaster resilience practice in the Asia Pacific region.

H.E. Khurelsukh Ukhnaa linked the quality of discussions and deliberations during the AMCDRR 2016 to the strong commitment to reduce disaster risk in the Asia Pacific region. Coherence between the SDGs, climate change adaptation and DRR efforts are paramount. Disaster management systems must shift to recognizing disaster risk to ensure sustainable development. He closed by thanking participants, and issuing a warm welcome to all governments and participants to come to Mongolia when it hosts the AMCDRR 2018.

All dignitaries applauded the success of the conference and the proceedings were formerly concluded.

The full text of the main speeches are available in Annex 3.



# Annex





AMCDRR

2016

## **Annex I:**

### **New Delhi Declaration**

At Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) 2016

We, the Ministers, and Heads of Delegation to the AMCDRR:

Recognize the opportunity to build on past achievements by reaffirming our commitment to disaster risk reduction and resilience.

Re-emphasize that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is complementary to the 2030 sustainable development agenda.

Remain concerned by the increasing level of risk and impact of disasters on the people and economies of the region.

Recognize the urgent need to accelerate the implementation of the agreed global frameworks; it is our primary responsibility to put in place national and local level strategies to ensure the achievement of the seven global targets of the Sendai Framework.

Commit to the principle of a people-centred and whole-of-society approach and the need to strengthen national and local multi-stakeholder platforms, enhance participation and partnership of the major groups and stakeholder groups, and further support the coordination role of UNISDR.

#### **CALL ON ALL GOVERNMENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS TO:**

1. Pursue with a sense of urgency the paradigm shift from disaster management to disaster risk reduction.
2. Ensure that policies and practices reflect an understanding of disaster risk. More specifically, collect and share risk information for pre-disaster risk assessment, risk prevention and reduction through development, and appropriate preparedness for effective response to disasters.
3. Strengthen national and local governance of disaster risk reduction to ensure coherence among policies, institutional arrangements across sectors, with representation of stakeholders in line with national circumstances and policies. Increase public and private investment in capacity building, science and technology, innovation, critical infrastructure and services, to contribute to achievement of community resilience.
4. Increase investment in disaster risk reduction for resilience including in multi hazard early warning systems and dissemination channels; contingency planning that engages all people to further strengthen disaster preparedness. In this regard,

reaffirm that an effective and meaningful global partnership and further strengthening of international cooperation, including fulfilment of respective commitments and official development assistance by developed countries are essential for effective disaster risk management.

5. Encourage meaningful participation and support representation of women, children and youth, and persons with disabilities in leadership role for disaster risk reduction.
6. Improve preparedness for disaster recovery by strengthening institutional frameworks, establishing standards, and enhancing capacities to ensure that disaster recovery integrates risk reduction measures to build back better.
7. Use the International Day for Disaster Reduction and World Tsunami Awareness Day to raise awareness, promote better understanding of risks and develop tools to address them.
8. Adopt indicators of the Sendai Framework being developed by the UN General Assembly Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group (OEIWG) and ensure that they are anchored in national priorities and aligned with the indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
9. Collaborate for promoting disaster resilient infrastructure involving governments, multilateral development agencies, financial institutions, private sector and major infrastructure investors in Asia.
10. Strengthen inclusive collaboration at the local level to build on community initiative, knowledge and resources, and leverage national policies and programmes to achieve resilience.
11. Promote application of science & technology, and research for evidence-based disaster risk reduction policies, practices and solutions, including through international cooperation.
12. Enhance regional cooperation including strengthening the role of Intergovernmental Organizations for coherent implementation of the Sendai Framework and the 2030 sustainable development agenda, fostering innovative partnerships, and North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation in all areas related to disaster risk reduction.

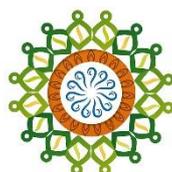
#### **RESOLVE TO:**

1. Timely implement the actions recommended in this New Delhi Declaration- 2016, deliver on our commitments and share the progress in the next Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) in 2018;
2. Mobilize governments and partners to deliver on the 'Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework';
3. Recognize the role of UNISDR in coordinating and facilitating regional efforts to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework;
4. Call on all major groups and stakeholder groups to deliver on their Voluntary Statements of Action and periodically report on progress.
5. Acknowledge global and regional meetings and initiatives hosted by governments in the region including Japan (3rd World Conference on DRR), Thailand

(International Conference on implementation of health aspects of the Sendai Framework and First Asia Regional Conference on Science and Technology for DRR), Bangladesh (First World Conference on Disability and Disaster Risk Management), Iran (Asia Pacific Disaster Information Management Center), Malaysia (Asia Pacific Conference on Resilient Culture Heritage) and Vietnam (Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Gender and DRR).

6. Appreciate the leaderships of the governments of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, the Federation of Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Indonesia and the Royal Thai Government in hosting previous AMC-DRR and the progress in implementing the Declarations of these Conferences.
7. Express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of India for their gracious hospitality in hosting and organizing the AMCDRR 2016, with technical support from UNISDR, and look forward to the AMCDRR 2018 in Ulaanbaatar, hosted by the Government of Mongolia.

ADOPTED on 5 November 2016, in New Delhi, India.



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## **Annex II:**

# **Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**

## **I. Introduction**

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 -2030 (Sendai Framework) provides the way forward to prevent and reduce disaster risk in order to achieve resilient and sustainable development. Under the leadership of national governments and embracing all actors at all levels, the Sendai Framework offers a solution to saving lives, livelihoods and assets as well as for reducing the fiscal burden on governments to bail-out the aftermath of failed 'development'.

The Sendai Framework's primary focus on risk reduction and resilience is a common element highlighted in all the 2030 development agendas adopted by all member states of the United Nations, such as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Agenda for Humanity and New Urban Agenda.

The Sendai Framework highlights the need for agreed regional and sub-region- al strategies and mechanisms for cooperation and for progress to be reviewed by regional and global platforms. At the 6th Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) in June 2014 and ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) deliberations after the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (3WC- DRR), Asian countries and stakeholders agreed to develop an 'Asia Regional Plan for implementation of the Sendai Framework' (Regional Plan) to facilitate the co-operation and collaboration for building risk resilience in Asia.

This regional plan aims to provide:

- a. Broad policy direction to guide the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the context of the 2030 sustainable development agendas in the region;
- b. Long term road map, spanning the 15-year horizon of the Sendai Framework outlining a chronological pathway for implementation of priorities to achieve seven global targets;
- c. Two-year action plan with specific activities that are prioritized based on the long term road map and in line with the policy direction.

The Asia Regional Plan seeks to guide and support the national implementation of the Sendai Framework, but is not a replacement of national plans. It does so by identifying priorities at regional activities to support national and local actions, enhance exchange of good practice, knowledge and information among governments and stakeholders, in addition to strengthening regional cooperation to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework

This regional plan is one of the main outcome documents of the AMCDRR in November 2016 in New Delhi, India. The regional plan has been developed through the IAP and an Advisory Working Group (AWG) mechanism set up by the UNISDR secretariat in Asia Pacific. Three informal Advisory Working Groups were established to ensure the actions for all priority areas of the Sendai Framework are developed with engagement of key partners – the primary implementers of the Sendai Framework from the public, private and local level. This aligns with: the outcome of the 6th Asian Ministerial Conference; and further deliberations in the IAP. The AWG comprised individuals with expertise in public policy, private sector engagement and local level implementation respectively. They consulted governments, stakeholder groups and partners and provided the necessary implementation focus of the regional plan through inputs to the policy direction, road map, and in particular the 2-year action plan.

## **II. Overview**

Asia has enjoyed fast economic growth over recent decades. This has contributed to the progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In the next 15 years, many countries in the region aim to continue this progress and generate higher national income on the way to achieving sustainable and equitable development.

Asia is exposed and vulnerable to a wide range of natural and manmade hazards. In many respects it is the global epicentre for disasters. In 2015, the Nepal earthquake killed more people than any other disaster (8,831). The drought in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea affected the food security of more than 18 million. Four of the top five most disaster-hit countries were in Asia: China (26 disasters); India (19), Philippines (15) and Indonesia (11). In terms of economic losses, China, India and Nepal were among the five worst-hit countries in the world. These figures are consistent with longer term trends over recent decades.

During the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, it was evident from national and regional progress reports that countries in Asia made initial progress in reducing disaster risk at all levels. In particular, the region moved forward on: dedicated legislation, policies and establishment of institutions to reduce disaster risk; establishment of tsunami, cyclone, and other hydro-meteorological early warning systems; improvements in information generation and dissemination, awareness-raising and school education on disaster risk reduction; and strengthened disaster preparedness and response capacity

response at all levels. This has led to a decrease in mortality risk, particularly to hydro-meteorological hazards.

The region has, however, struggled to reduce the underlying risk factors. Rapid and poorly managed urbanization, natural resource exploitation and increasing social inequalities, amongst others, increased risk levels. Underlying risk drivers are either not well identified and understood or adequately addressed because of capacity constraints, lack of priority or a scarcity of resources. This has resulted in development practices that are not fully risk-informed.

The overall impact of disasters on economies and communities is still rising. They are further challenged by the impact of climate change. Exposure of populations and assets in the region has increased faster than vulnerability has decreased. Much of this is because of rapid economic growth and private and public investments in hazardous areas such as tsunami and cyclone-prone coasts, flood-exposed river basins and earthquake-prone cities. This has generated new risk and led to a steady rise in disaster losses with significant economic, social, health, cultural and environmental impact across Asia. For instance, the socio-economic impact of the 2011 earthquake/tsunami/nuclear disaster in Japan, the 2011 floods in Thailand, and 2013 typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines are still being felt in the daily lives of millions of people. Disasters bring challenges to achieving sustainable development.

The Sendai Framework aims to achieve 'The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries' by 2030. This expected outcome will be monitored via indicators against 7 targets. These 7 targets aim to reduce a) mortality, b) the number of affected people, c) economic losses, and d) damage to critical infrastructure; and increase e) the number of national and local DRR strategies, f) level of international cooperation, and g) availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information.

The Sendai Framework set the goal to prevent the creation of new risk, reduce existing risk and strengthen resilience. It highlights the importance of: understanding, assessing and monitoring disaster risk; strengthening disaster risk governance and coordination across relevant institutions and sectors and the full and meaningful participation of relevant stakeholders at appropriate levels; investing in disaster risk prevention and reduction through structural and non-structural measures which are essential to enhance the economic, social, health, cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries and their assets, as well as the environment, also through technology and research; and enhancing multi-hazard early warning systems, preparedness, response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Countries in Asia have made initial progress in implementation of the Sendai Framework and have contributed to the development of indicators to measure its 7 global targets. This underpins the Sendai Framework's stronger focus on risk reduction as a major contributor to sustainable development. Regional level plans and activities need to support national actions.

### III. The policy direction for implementation of the Sendai Framework in Asia

(i) **Coherence and integration:** The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (COP21) all strive towards making development resilient and sustainable. Effective disaster risk reduction is indispensable element towards this end. Integration of risk reduction in development will build resilience and protect development gains. Risk reduction and resilience is a common element across the various frameworks and agreements. This will help establish a more collaborative environment between the disaster risk reduction community and the development sectors. Further, the outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit and the Habitat III underline the significance of disaster risk reduction in their respective sectors, particularly through local actions. The incorporation of disaster risk reduction into the 2030 development agendas will provide an opportunity to break down silo approaches within and between respective sectors.

The Sendai Framework states: ‘The development, strengthening and implementation of relevant policies, plans, practices and mechanisms need to aim at coherence, as appropriate, across sustainable development and growth, food security, health and safety, climate change and variability, environmental management and disaster risk reduction agendas. Disaster risk reduction is essential to achieve sustainable development (Para. 19.h).’

The respective international frameworks/agendas mutually reinforce and depend on each other. For instance, the effective implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement will enable the Sendai Framework to contribute to the overall 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Consequently, countries in the region *need to ensure that all planning on disaster risk reduction is an integral part of the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs while recognizing the need to achieve more specific targets and indicators of the Sendai Framework.*

(ii) **Guiding principles:** The Sendai Framework provides principles for resilient development that emphasize: the primary responsibility of the state to prevent and reduce disaster risks; shared responsibilities across all levels, sectors and stakeholders with an ‘all-of-society’ engagement approach; the integration of gender, age, disability and cultural perspective in all policies and practices, a multi-hazard approach; risk informed public and private investments; ‘Building Back Better’ in post-disaster recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction; effective and meaningful global partnerships; and adequate, sustainable and timely provision of support from developed to developing countries.

Countries should adopt and/or adapt these principles in their national policies and strategic action plans for implementation of the Sendai Framework.

The first 4 of the Sendai Framework targets focus on substantial reduction of disaster losses and the remaining 3 focus on increasing capabilities.

To achieve these targets, countries will need to prioritize actions, outlined under the Sendai Framework's four Priorities for Action. Target (e) requires the development and/or revision of risk-informed national and local DRR strategies by 2020. As such, countries should prioritize, as appropriate, the improvement of multi-hazard risk assessment. The strengthening of national disaster loss databases is also crucial so that the baselines for targets (a,b,c,d) can be set. Effective databases will provide evidence to inform policies and investments to reduce disaster risk and losses, particularly in the most affected sectors.

**(iii) Enabling environment:** For governments, stakeholders and organizations to implement the Sendai Framework actions will be required that create an enabling environment for risk resilient development.

**At the regional level,** a common understanding and approach is needed to tackle regional and trans-boundary issues. Assessment and monitoring of regional and trans-boundary hazards and emerging risks have improved. However, much remains to be done to enhance the understanding of regional and trans-boundary risks. The main inter-governmental regional organizations (IGO) in Asia – ASEAN, SAARC, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Tri-lateral Cooperation Secretariat, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) the Asia Pacific Economic Community (APEC), Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and The UNESCAP - Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) – need to strengthen their capacity to foster the implementation of the Sendai Framework from a regional perspective. This could include: building human and institutional capacity to carry out science-based trans-boundary risk assessments in the region; developing common policies, tools and political commitments towards implementing and monitoring the Sendai Framework; fostering data, information and knowledge exchange in the region; and so on. At the same time, other non-intergovernmental and informal networks need to promote regional cooperation through science, research and knowledge exchange. To enhance the regional mechanisms to ensure effective follow-up and implementation of the regional plan, there is a need to strengthen the biennial AMCDRR and its consultation mechanism the IAP as the principal means of regional disaster risk reduction governance.

**At the national level,** countries will need to align their DRR strategies and plans with the Sendai Framework. Over the coming years in order to expedite the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the region additional emphasis will be given to i) promoting policy coherence among DRR and development in-country; ii) making DRR a development practice to achieve resilient public investment and the SDGs iii) encouraging private sector engagement towards risk sensitive investments; and iv) building capacity and leadership to implement the Sendai Framework at the national and local level. These focus areas also need to be supported by provisioning of adequate capacity and resources at the local level; knowledge and information from the scientific and academic community; and practical guidance and tools. Adopting an inclusive approach – via multi-sector/stakeholder DRR platforms, both at national and local levels – is particularly important. It should embrace the

leadership of persons with disability, women, children and youth and the significant contribution of the business sector.

At the local level, it is important to raise awareness on the Sendai Framework, through local campaigns. Target (e) provides an opportunity to promote local practices through the development and adoption of local disaster risk reduction strategies/plans by 2020. These strategies and plans should be based on improved local risk assessment and capacity to monitor hazards, exposure and vulnerabilities. Strengthening leadership and capacity of local authorities, communities, civil society, volunteers, organized voluntary work organizations and community-based organizations will be critical for them to work together through an inclusive approach. Peer learning and cooperation between local governments play an important role in this regard. At the same time, it is important to allocate resources to local governments as appropriate to implement DRR measures.

#### **IV. The Road Map for implementation of the Sendai Framework in Asia**

The 15-year timeframe of the Sendai Framework together with other international frameworks including the SDG's – provides an opportunity for greater coherence and integration in terms of planning, implementation and monitoring. By providing guidance towards the achievement of the Sendai Framework's seven global targets and by presenting a set of intended results in chronological order, the Road Map contributes to this process of mutual reinforcement in Asia.

The Road Map fits within the overarching policy direction and will steer the two-year action plan.

The below milestones are based on a shared vision across Asia towards risk prevention and resilience building that will achieve the 7 global targets of the Sendai Framework. The milestones are sequenced in a way to enable this. The earlier milestones – such as the development and establishment of countries' disaster risk management status, disaster damage and loss databases, and national and local strategies and plans (target e) – are relevant for other targets, namely a reduction in mortality, people affected, economic losses and losses of critical infrastructure and services.

The regional plan will support progress against all Sendai Targets especially to target

- a) i.e. enhanced international cooperation. It also facilitates achievement of target
- b) i.e. the strengthening of trans-boundary early warning systems and the sharing of disaster risk information. The key milestones of the Road Map are as below.

#### **By 2016**

1. Translation and dissemination of key messages and essence of the Sendai Framework in national languages to increase awareness.
2. All countries have identified their Sendai Framework focal point.

3. 20 percent of countries take stock of their current status of disaster risk reduction.
4. The AMCDRR agreed on implementation of the Asia Regional Plan for implementation of the Sendai Framework which was one of the outcomes of the Conference.

#### By 2018

1. Technical guidance by UNISDR to national indicators is finalized with a link to SDG targets and indicators.
2. 50 percent of countries have prepared a design to establish a national mechanism to collect, analyse and disseminate information on disaster losses and risk aiming to achieve appropriate level of disaggregation for gender, age and disability.
3. 40 percent of countries have revised/ developed their national strategies and/ or plans for disaster risk reduction in line with the Sendai target e).
4. 50 percent of countries have reviewed their initial progress in implementation of the Sendai Framework through the Sendai Monitor.
5. 40 percent of countries have established multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder national and local platforms to foster the dialogue and cooperation between governments, science and technology community and other stakeholders for risk-sensitive development and innovative risk management.
6. 10 percent of countries have developed regulatory or policy frameworks to reinforce risk considerations and risk reduction measures into development initiatives, particularly in the infrastructure sector.

#### By 2020

1. All countries have established methodologies to collect disaster loss data and risk profiles, with gender, age, disability disaggregated data.
2. All countries have revised/developed their national strategies and/or plans for disaster risk reduction with increased focus on local actions, ace).
3. 30 percent of countries have developed regulatory or policy frameworks to re-inforce risk considerations and risk reduction measures into development initiatives, in particular in the infrastructure sector
4. 60 percent of countries have established multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder national and local platforms.
5. Review regional targets under the Asian Regional Plan from 2022-2028, every biennium.

#### By 2022

1. 50 percent of countries have developed regulatory or policy frameworks to re-inforce risk considerations and risk reduction measures into development initiatives, in particular in the infrastructure sector.
2. 60 percent of countries have improved their early warning systems including improved monitoring and forecast systems evacuation procedures, analyses of risk, availability and access to early warning information.

3. All countries have established multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder national and local platforms.

#### By 2030

1. All countries have demonstrated reduction in disaster-related mortality, affected population, economic losses and damages to critical infrastructure and basic services.
2. All countries have reviewed their progress of implementation through the Sendai Monitor.
3. A regional review report of the Sendai Framework is available.
4. All countries have risk-sensitive development planning and practice.
5. All countries have improved their governance and accountability for risk-resilient investment in both the public and private sector.
6. Sub-regional and regional cooperation mechanisms established for transboundary disaster risk reduction efforts.

#### V. Two-year Action plan (2017-2018)

The two-year action plan is in line with the policy direction and contributes to the achievement of the milestones in the long term road map. The action plan is derived from priorities shared by governments and stakeholders during the development of the Asia Regional Plan and in consultations through the IAP. The two-year action plan will be reviewed and updated in line with the biennial Asian Ministerial Conferences and through the IAP forum.

#### Regional level actions

These actions cover trans-boundary issues, regional cooperation mechanisms and so on. They will be implemented through the cooperation of countries and by regional and sub-regional actors such as inter-governmental organizations (IGOs); UN regional entities; other regional and international organizations; networks and consortiums; and stakeholders and partners.

UNISDR, as the secretariat will have the role of facilitating and advocating for implementation of these actions in line with the Sendai Framework. The actions are as follows:

Strengthen the Regional Platform for DRR – i.e. the Asian Ministerial Conference, the ISDR Asia Partnership and its secretariat – by means of enhanced high-level engagement of governments, intergovernmental organizations and partners to support the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework.

- a. Establish a collaborative mechanism of UNISDR, intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) and UNESCAP Regional Coordination Mechanism to support the implementation and monitoring of Sendai Framework in line with the SDGs.
- b. Strengthen existing regional mechanisms to reduce the risk of and enhance early warning and preparedness for trans-boundary disasters.
- c. Strengthen regional cooperation including through public-private partnership for the application of science, technology and innovation in policy making for disaster risk reduction.
- d. Promote and support gender-sensitive DRR actions at national and local level including universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, prevention and response to gender-based violence and women's leadership.
- e. Strengthen the role of inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) and cooperation among them for information and knowledge exchange and concerted support to national actions.
- f. Establish regional cooperation for disaster resilient infrastructure development in the region with an aim of 'preventing future risks'.
- g. Strengthen regional cooperation between private sector organizations and chambers of commerce to promote public private partnership for DRR.
- h. Enhance stakeholder groups' engagement in the Sendai Framework by means of implementation and monitoring of their voluntary commitments.
- i. Implement the 'United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience' and integrate disaster risk reduction into UN country level operations through regional UN Development Group processes.
- j. Strengthen UNISDR to facilitate, coordinate and advocate for the implementation of the Asia Regional Plan by countries, partners, inter-governmental organizations, UN, international organizations and stakeholders.
- k. Promote the provision of human, financial and technical resources by multilateral and bilateral donors to support actions from the Asia Regional Plan. Raise public awareness of Tsunami taking the opportunity of the World Tsunami Awareness Day on 5th November.

### **National and local level actions:**

The following national and local specific actions address priorities of Asia in the next two years and are guided by the Sendai Framework. Bearing in mind that countries will develop or revise their national DRR strategies and plans in the coming years, this set of actions will complement such plans and provide guidance on the setting of priorities. National and local activities can be implemented by governments, stakeholders and partners. The actions are as follows below.

#### **Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk**

- a) Establish/ strengthen consistent and appropriate level of disaggregation for gender, age and disability data disaster loss baseline data at national level with local data.

- b) Assess disaster risk, vulnerability, capacity, exposure, hazard characteristics and their possible impacts (risk profiling).
- c) Establish risk information systems and promote the collection, analysis, management, use and dissemination of the relevant data and information, using space and in situ information including geographic information system (GIS), and information & communication technology and innovations.
- d) Incentivise businesses to strengthen business continuity and conduct location-specific risk assessments of their operating environment and supply chain with a clear understanding of their hazard exposure, vulnerability and risks to hazards.
- e) Integrate disaster risk information into business investment planning and management across private sector entities, in particular Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), through business associations, chambers of commerce and national and local platforms on DRR.
- f) Mobilize public-private partnership initiatives for awareness raising, advocacy and education to strengthen private sector attitudes towards risk-sensitive development.
- g) Consolidate/adapt guidelines for local risk assessments and their use in local development planning, ensuring the complementarities of proven traditional, indigenous and local knowledge and practices, and science and technology.
- h) Institutionalize efforts to build the knowledge and capacity of local and national government officials, civil society, communities and volunteers to monitor hazards, exposure and social vulnerabilities.
- i) Raise public awareness of disasters by taking the opportunities provided by the International Day for Disaster Reduction and the World Tsunami Awareness Day.
- j)

## **Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk**

- a) Review/ revise existing national and local disaster risk reduction strategies/ plans in line with the Sendai Framework, Paris Agreement, SDGs and New Urban Agenda to ensure disaster risk sensitive development.
- b) Establish/ strengthen multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral national and local platforms that are gender responsive and inclusive, with the participation of local community representatives and other stakeholders.
- c) Improve the legal, policy and regulatory environment to incentivize businesses to reinforce DRR.
- d) Build corporate governance and risk-sensitive investment beyond corporate social responsibility, through business associations, chambers of commerce and national and local platforms on DRR.
- e) Develop guidelines for coherent implementation of the 2030 development agendas at the local and national level involving the relevant national authority.
- f) Promote implementation of health aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, including the Bangkok Principles, with a view to ensuring more systematic cooperation, coherence and integration between disaster and health risk management.

- g) Undertake an inventory of available local DRR strategies/plans and work towards achieving the Sendai Framework Target e) on 'risk-informed local DRR strategies/plans' by 2020.
- h) Foster local leadership and forums such as the 'Asian Local Disaster Risk and Resilience Forum'.
- i) Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in disaster risk reduction.

### **Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience**

- a) Establish/strengthen regulatory frameworks to reinforce risk consideration in structural and non-structural investments.
- b) Promote national mechanisms for disaster risk transfer and insurance as appropriate.
- c) Increase resilience and integrate disaster risk reduction into business models, corporate practices, and supply chains through intensified partnerships between the private sector, local government and other stakeholders.
- d) Promote appropriate financial mechanisms to integrate disaster risk reduction considerations and measures to support the building of disaster resilient communities by engaging development funds, banks, private foundations and stakeholders.
- e) Allocate resources to local governments as appropriate to implement DRR measures.
- f) Institutionalize community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) to strengthen resilience of households and communities.
- g) Strengthen education on disaster and climate risk reduction and accelerate the implementation of comprehensive school safety.
- h) Invest in the development of resilient health systems, and design and implementation of inclusive policies to ensure access to social safety nets and primary health care services, including maternal, new-born and child health, sexual and reproductive health.

### **Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction**

- a) Prepare/update disaster preparedness and contingency plans at local, national and regional levels with a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach, ensuring comprehensive and accessible service and referral mechanisms to promote specific needs of women and children, the elderly, people with disabilities and other at-risk populations.
- b) Strengthen multi-hazard early warning systems to ensure last-mile accessibility.
- c) Integrate disaster risk concerns and measures in post-disaster recovery and reconstruction planning and practice, such as developing / revising building codes

and standards in recovery and reconstruction practices at the national and local levels.

- d) Expand private sector engagement in preparedness for response, recovery, and to 'build back better' through more systematic public-private cooperation.
- e) Develop and implement disaster management plans that would include early warning, response coordination, evacuation plans, stockpiling of necessary materials to implement rescue and relief activities.
- f) Build capacity of local authorities, including strengthening leadership of women, persons with disability and youth to develop local disaster recovery plans that include retrofitting, reconstruction, building code enforcement, post-trauma programmes, resilient livelihoods, shelter provision for displaced population etc.
- g) Mainstream ecosystem-based approaches through transboundary cooperation to build resilience.

## **VI. Implementation and monitoring of the Asia Regional Plan**

The regional plan is intended to guide the implementation of the Sendai Framework at national and local level. The application of the policy direction; pursuing the roadmap; and monitoring the 2-year action plan requires some level of dedicated support in terms of advocacy, monitoring and the provision of technical support.

In this regard, cooperation at the regional level through North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation will be important, including through the exchange of experiences and home-grown approaches of countries in the region, such as the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy of Thailand.

The overall roles and responsibilities of international, regional and sub-regional organizations and entities will be in-line with the Sendai Framework (General Assembly Resolution A/RES/69/283).

The IAP forum – under the stewardship of UNISDR's Regional Office for Asia Pacific and with the engagement of governments (via Sendai focal points), inter-governmental organizations, the UN, international organizations, civil society organizations and various other stakeholders – constitutes a regional technical support mechanism.

Among its responsibilities, the regional technical support mechanism will: periodically assess the progress of the regional plan; identify key gaps in DRR in the region from the national perspective; provide or mobilize technical expertise and guidance at the regional level; and advocate for accelerated implementation of the Sendai Framework.

UNISDR is mandated to facilitate implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Sendai Framework. As part of its support to the regional technical support mechanism, UNISDR's Regional Office for Asia Pacific requires strengthening with adequate resources and

capacities. This may include resourcing through various funding mechanisms, including increased, timely, stable and predictable contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction as well as enhancing the role of the Trust Fund in relation to the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

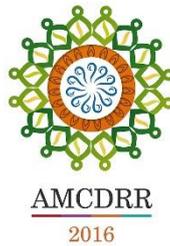
The following factors will support effective implementation of the Asia Regional Plan:

- Regional inter-governmental organizations playing a stronger role in the regional platform for disaster risk reduction and enhanced regional cooperation to enable policy and planning for the implementation of trans-boundary risk assessments; mutual learning and exchange of good practices and information.
- The entities of the United Nations system – including the regional commission, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies – promoting and supporting implementation of the regional plan through technical assistance upon request.

UNISDR's Regional Office for Asia Pacific providing a range of support, including:

- (i) advocating for and facilitating the implementation, follow-up and review of the Asia Regional Plan through partners and the IAP forum including the Advisory Working Group for AMCDRR;
  - (ii) supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework monitoring system at the national level;
  - (iii) providing technical support to countries to establish disaster loss baselines;
  - (iv) convening the Asian Ministerial Conference with governments, regional organizations and partners;
  - (v) mobilizing science and technical work for disaster risk reduction through an enhanced role of its Asian Science and Technology Advisory Group in close cooperation with the Science and Technology Advisory Group of the UNISDR; and (vi) facilitating engagement of the various stakeholder groups, including the private sector, civil society organizations and local actors, in the implementation of the Asia Regional Plan.
- The various stakeholder groups providing support to States, in accordance with national policies, laws and regulations, in the implementation of the Sendai Framework at all levels. This will build on their past disaster risk reduction actions. Stakeholders have consistently provided and reviewed 'Voluntary Statements of Action' at previous AMCDRRs. The Asia Regional Plan and all 'Voluntary Statements of Action' from stakeholder groups will constitute two principal regional instruments for tracking progress.
  - The periodic review of the Asia Regional Plan by governments and partners through the annual meetings of the IAP forum. There will be no separate monitoring system or mechanism specifically for the Asia Regional Plan. The progress will be reviewed through the overall monitoring of the Sendai Framework. The monitoring of the Sendai Framework will follow the internationally agreed set of indicators and monitoring system, expected to be agreed at the Open-Ended Intergovernmental

Working Group (OEIWG) in November 2016 and will be endorsed by the member States at the UN General Assembly. The Asian Ministerial Conferences from 2018 onwards will provide an opportunity for the Regional Plan to be reviewed and revised based on the emerging priorities and needs. Experience sharing and peer learning among countries within the region and beyond, will be promoted toward standardized data and best practices.



### **Annex III:**

## **Statement of Action of Children, Youth and Child-centred Organizations for Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction 2016**

2-5 November 2016

New Delhi, India

We, the Children and Youth Stakeholder Group consist of three major coalitions:

1. *The UN Major Group for Children and Youth, (UNGA created facilitating entity for children and youth in UN negotiations, established through Agenda 21 in 1992)*
2. *The Children in Changing Climate Coalition (CCC) (includes Plan International, Save the Children, UNICEF, World Vision and Child Fund, established in 2007)*
3. *The Asia Pacific Coalition for School Safety (APCSS) (includes ADPC, IFRC, Plan International, Save the Children, World Vision, UNESCO, and UNICEF, established in 2012).*

We are here to contribute to the implementation, and follow up and review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework). The framework specifically states, “Children and youth are agents of change”. We also recognize the important commitments to reducing disaster risk addressed in the Paris Climate Agreement and the SDGs.

Recognizing the Sendai Framework principle of ‘and all of society engagement in DRR’ and given our continued engagement in the Asian region including through the IAP and AMCDRR, we are here to build on commitments in support of the Sendai Framework.

In 2015 nearly half of the disasters recorded globally occurred in Asia. This has devastating impacts on all the three pillars of sustainable development – environment, social and economic. The Asian region bears 42% of the global financial impact, 83% of the global disaster mortality, and 86% of the affected people in disasters. Moreover, climate change is compounding the risks for this generation and the next.

We are here to show that children and youth are not just vulnerable; rather youth and children are part of the solution. Children and youth possess unique capacity to contribute to disaster risk reduction (DRR), respond to disasters and humanitarian crises, and build resilience. They are dynamic, resourceful, innovative and fast learners. Moreover, children and youth have the right for their needs to meet and participate in decisions affecting them.

To get a youth and child perspective, during 2016 several National and Regional Consultations were conducted with children and youth in countries in Asia and the Pacific. Through these, children and youth outlined how they contribute to DRR and CCA, including participatory risk

assessment of the school and their communities, school preparedness, and participation in decision-making and policy design at all levels.

We, the Children and Youth Stakeholder Group, hereby commit to the following actions in support of the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework:

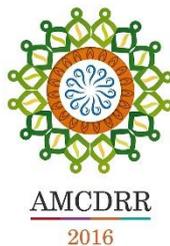
1. Support children and youth to raise awareness of risk and identify practical actions to strengthen resilience including through their active engagement in social media, within their communities and through various networks.
2. Advocate and support boy's, girl's and youth's equal participation in the role out, monitoring and evaluation of the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework at the national and local levels.
3. Provide and support capacity building opportunities and equip children and youth with knowledge and skills on DRR, CCA and resilience.
4. Support government ministries in committing to ensuring education continuity and implementing the three pillars of the Comprehensive School Safety Framework (CSSF);
  - (i) safe learning facilities,
  - (ii) school disaster management,
  - (iii) Risk reduction and resilience education.
5. Support national and local government sector development plans, including child protection, health, education and social protection to be risk informed and contribute to resilient development.
6. Promote boys' and girls', especially the most vulnerable, meaningful and equal participation in disaster risk management policy and decision-making at all levels.

**Specifically, in the next two years (2017-2018), we commit to undertake the following actions and report back at the 2018 AMCDRR:**

1. Spearheading innovative and scalable models and sharing technical expertise on children and youth-centred DRR to build community resilience.
2. To promote comprehensive school safety including through knowledge sharing and tools and technical guidance supporting national and regional initiatives and established networks such as the APCSS.
3. Work with youth organizations, including medical students, young scientists, youth first responders and other youth groups to align their projects and actions with the SFDRR priority areas.
4. Through effective advocacy and generation of evidence-based knowledge we will facilitate the participation of youth as equal stakeholders in the IAP and AMCDRR, regional platforms, High Level Political Forum and other relevant avenues.
5. Work collaboratively towards more systematic and coherent risk assessment that is child-sensitive strengthens existing national and local planning processes and informs sector plans – including health, education, child protection, and social protection.

**To support stakeholders to deliver on our commitments, we call on governments and other partners to:**

1. Strengthen the collection of disaggregated data on loss and damage by age, disability, and gender and promote child/youth sensitive risk assessment to inform policy and programming.
2. Ensure children and youth have access to age-appropriate information on disaster risks, climate impacts and relevant policy frameworks.
3. Strengthen mechanisms and dedicated spaces to ensure the gender balanced and meaningful participation of children and youth, prioritizing the most vulnerable groups, in the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework at all levels.
4. Strengthen national and local development plans so that children and youth enjoy their rights to access basic social services, including child protection, before, during and after crises.
5. Strengthen the integration of DRR into formal and non-formal education and ensure continued access to quality education including drawing on the three pillars of the Comprehensive School Safety Framework.
6. Implement evidence-based and innovative policies that discourage underlying risk factors, such as climate change, conflict, inequality, and unplanned urbanization.



## **Statement of Action of Civil Society Organizations for Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction 2016**

2-5 November 2016

New Delhi, India

We, the civil society stakeholder group led by Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) with support from other networks including GNDR, along with other civil societies from the Asian region:

Refer to Sendai Framework principles of all of society engagement in disaster risk reduction; Draw on continued engagement for DRR in Asia through the IAP and AMCDRR as self-organized stakeholder groups; Build on commitments to the Sendai Framework, as expressed in the Statement of Commitment at the 6th AMCDRR;

For across 2030 development frameworks, a 'whole of society' approach is increasingly recognised. Civil society will play a vital role in their successes through specialised expertise, understanding of local micro conditions and contexts, innovative programming and proven outreach to communities who lack access to large- scale programming. Across Asia, there are already a multitude of documented examples of the successes of such initiatives.

The effectiveness of the Sendai Framework for DRR (and other 2030 agreements) will depend on the meaningful participation and action of local people in the design, implementation and monitoring of relevant policies, standards and plans. This will require a supportive institutional and political environment to facilitate the engagement of local people and actors, together with access to adequate means of implementation for local actions.

### **We hereby commit to the following actions in support of the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework:**

1. Build the overall resilience of communities – looking also at underlying drivers of risk, small and invisible disasters, livelihoods and health.
2. Strengthen the Regional Platform for DRR – the Asian Ministerial Conference, the ISDR Asia Partnership and its secretariat; enhancing high-level engagement of governments, intergovernmental organizations and partners.
3. Strengthen/ establish regional cooperation mechanisms among civil society stakeholder group for more effective early warning of trans-boundary hydro-meteorological hazards.
4. Build the knowledge and capacity of local leaders and communities to monitor hazards and exposure.

5. Assess age, gender, ethnicity and disability-disaggregated data to monitor social vulnerabilities in all initiatives.
6. Foster local leadership and forums on DRR.
7. Promote formal and informal education on disaster and climate risk reduction and enhance the implementation of comprehensive school safety framework.
8. Institutionalize community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) to strength- en resilience of households and communities.
9. Strengthen capacity in all critical areas of response and recovery.
10. Promote and engage in 'networked' response in the region.
11. Local level assessment on implementation of Sendai Framework.

**Specifically, in the next two years (2017-2018), we commit to undertake the following actions and report back at the 2018 AMCDRR:**

1. Develop a leadership guide for the 2030 sustainable development agenda.
2. Create and develop the Asian Local Leaders Forum for Disaster Resilience.
3. Strengthen and nurture DRR platforms at all levels.
4. Strengthen coordination across sectors.
5. Document, validate and share best practices on DRR.
6. Research-based action on innovations to create an accessible knowledge base for local resilience. Innovations include grass root, affordable, sustainable and scalable solutions.
7. Work with UN-ISDR to establish a civil society advisory group.

**To support delivery of these commitments, we call on all governments and partners to: Leverage the unique opportunity of the new sustainable agenda**

Communities do not perceive or experience risks in isolation. Problems on the ground are multi- faceted and inter-linked, failing to fit neatly into sectoral boxes. This has meant that some of the key issues exacerbating vulnerability have previously fallen through the cracks. These include preparedness for non-conventional disasters, including nuclear disasters, and the 'quiet' disasters which do not make the headlines, but whose recurring, often seasonal impacts gradually accumulate. The results are often economic development initiatives which increase the risks and vulnerabilities of local communities. Governments in Asia must ensure that Sendai action plans strengthen coherence with the Sustainable Development Goals, Paris Agreement, World Humanitarian Summit and Habitat III to address underlying risk drivers and build resilience of communities and their environment. This includes alignment of targets and indicators, and complementarity of budgets and activities across all relevant public agencies.

**Actively include and safeguard the interests of the most at-risk people**

The implementation of Sendai action plans must be done in partnership with those most at risk and should begin at the community level. The participation and leader- ship of

disproportionately at-risk groups is essential – including children, the elderly, people with disabilities, minority groups, LGBT and migrants. Inclusion needs to be addressed as a cross-cutting issue of shared concern and responsibility. Policies and systems must prioritize their specific needs and address the last-mile gap, including continuous engagement, capacity building and empowerment. Practical and standardized tools and approaches must be adopted to implement disability-inclusive DRR (DiDRR).

### **Build local leadership to innovate DRR**

It is at the local level where risks and disaster impacts are felt most acutely. Every community faces varied levels of risks and triggers, but also have inbuilt coping mechanisms and wisdom that can be tapped. Local leadership, especially of women, including delegation of financial and monitoring powers, is essential. For imported solutions often fail to differentiate local context and take local capacity into account. The global vision of the Sendai Framework for DRR therefore needs to become a reality at the national & sub-national level.

Direct and sustained investments from private and public sources are required to build CSO capacities to design, plan, run, manage, and review Asian Regional Plan related Disaster Risk Reduction projects at local level.

### **Finance DRR at the local level**

Consultative participation alone provides little scope for equitable partnership. There must be local level access to information, technologies and capacities, appropriate demand-driven budget and funding allocations and flexibility for need-based use. States should ensure that DRR activities are financed and DRR is integrated in all development programmes at local level to diminish underlying causes of risk and vulnerabilities. Multiple-year funding commitments are required to strengthen local institutional capacity. Non-traditional donors – including private sector, impact investors, social entrepreneurs and private foundations – also have a role to play in providing innovative local financing mechanisms –such as pooled funding. Operational procedures for fund release must also be significantly simplified and localised to reach communities at risk in time.

### **Build an evidence-base for planning and implementation**

Decision-making must be informed and risk sensitive. Approaches to integration and mainstreaming of DRR and CCA into development must be guided by re- search and knowledge based institutions should be involved to do so. Countries must build and make evidence-bases easily accessible, including land-use planning and ecosystem based mapping of vulnerabilities. Effective and standardized mechanisms to collect and use disaggregated data should be set up for all vulnerable groups, particularly disability, age and gender. A regional level platform for collection and dissemination of data on key DRR indicators should be established.

## **Ensure enforcement, governance and accountability for DRR action**

Even where strong policies were in place, lack of enforcement have often rendered these ineffective. DRR action plans must contain meaningful accountability and enforcement mechanisms. Time- bound and quantified national targets should be broken down into clear and publicly accessible local indicators, milestones and reporting on progress. Transparency mechanisms must be put in place to enable citizens to track this and hold governments and other stakeholders to account to deliver with quality on their commitments at all levels – local to global.

## **Establish inclusive platforms at all levels for meaningful dialogue between public agencies and civil society for monitoring Sendai Framework implementation**

Inclusive platforms are critical to integrate a bottom-up approach to planning, linking community plans up to national in a systemic way. While platforms are often created, these must be given due recognition, legitimacy and adequate space for meaningful contribution. The mapping and institutionalization of these networks into the system of DRR monitoring is essential.

## **Enhance south-south cooperation**

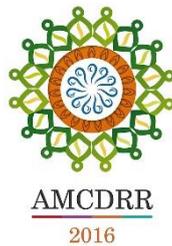
Where national and sub-national capacity is weak or overwhelmed, regional organisations and networks can play a valuable role as forums for knowledge sharing, innovation exchange and surge capacity for action. Logistically, culturally and financially, south-south cooperation and cross-border engagement can deliver greater collective outcomes. National and regional civil-society and business networks should be strengthened based on existing best practices from the region. The regional cooperation mechanisms for DRR should be strengthened to disseminate early warning information across countries since disasters and hazards are not bound by political boundaries.

Statement drafted by Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) with support from Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR).

Inputs and endorsements for advocacy statement gratefully received from:

1. ActionAid India
2. ADRA
3. AIDMI
4. BRAC International
5. CARE society, Maldives
6. CARE Nepal
7. Caritas India
8. Centre for Disaster Preparedness, Philippines
10. Chetonamok Bangladesh
11. Christian Aid
12. Coast Trust
13. Community Development Association
14. Coordination of Afghan Relief – COAR
15. CPDDR
16. DCA Myanmar

17. DCH Trust
18. Disability Stakeholder Group represented by:
  - a. The Disability-inclusive DRR Network (DiDRRN): ASB; CBM;
  - b. Centre for Disability in Development (CDD);
  - c. Handicap International (HI);
  - d. Malteser International (MI);
  - e. Pacific Disability Forum;
  - f. South Asian Disability Forum;
  - g. International Disability Alliance (IDA);
  - h. The Nippon Foundation (NF);
  - i. Rehabilitation International (RI);
  - j. Disability Rights Fund; UNESCAP.
  - k. Disaster Risk Reduction Network-Philippines
19. DoctorsForYou
20. Doers Foundation
21. DP-Net
22. DUS Bangladesh
23. EcoNepa
24. HI-Nepal
25. Hope '87
26. Institute of Disaster Management, Bangladesh
27. International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (Myanmar)
28. IRGSC Indonesia
29. Islamic Relief India
30. JAD Foundation
31. JANIC
32. JCC-DRR
33. Krisoker Sor (Farmers' voice)
34. Lighthouse
35. MARS Practitioners Network
36. NSET
37. OIC PENRO (Cebu Provincial Government)
38. OATH Pakistan
39. Oxfam
40. Practical Action South Asia Office
41. PGVS
42. Save the Earth Cambodia
43. SEDF
44. SEEDS
45. SOS Children's Village
46. Sustainable Development Foundation
47. Unnati
48. VSO
49. Welthunger Hilfe
50. World Vision India



## Statement of Action of Individuals and Organizations Concerned with Disability for Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction 2016

2-5 November 2016  
New Delhi, India

The Disability Stakeholder Group represented by:

- *The Disability-inclusive DRR Network (DiDRRN): ASB; CBM; Centre for Disability in Development (CDD); Handicap International (HI); Malteser International (MI); Pacific Disability Forum (PDF); South Asian Disability Forum (SADF)*
- *International Disability Alliance (IDA)*
- *The Nippon Foundation (NF)*
- *Rehabilitation International (RI)*
- *Disability Rights Fund*
- *UNESCAP*

### I. Preamble

The realization of an inclusive and all-of- society approach to disaster risk reduction (DRR) requires transforming the commitment of governments and stakeholders made in Sendai into regional, national and local actions, and setting the course to accelerate implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework for DRR (SFDRR) 2015-2030.

Inclusion and due recognition of disproportionately at risk groups including women, children and youth, older people and persons with disabilities, as key contributing stakeholders to DRR at all levels is fundamental for building resilient societies, nations and communities. Therefore, inclusion needs to be addressed as a cross-cutting issue of shared concern and responsibility within DRR and resilience building.

While the SFDRR establishes broader recognition of the disproportionate risk that persons with disabilities face and acknowledges persons with disabilities and Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) as lead actors in DRR, the disability stakeholders are concerned that after the first year of the SFDRR, progress towards transforming commitments to an inclusive and all-of-society approach to DRR into action has been hesitant at best. While there are notable initiatives towards strengthened collaboration between the governments and DPOs to implement inclusive DRR in the region, the existing systems at local, national and regional levels still need to ensure the meaningful participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in decision making processes within DRR.

Additional policy initiatives provide impetus for governments for timely action. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) position persons with disabilities as one of the key groups, and its goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities is linked to disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction. In Asia and the Pacific, the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific supports 58 governments to take forward disability-inclusive development. Its stand-alone goal 7 on disability-inclusive DRR requests member States to mainstream the disability perspective in disaster risk reduction measures. In 2017, all ESCAP member States are expected to submit Incheon Strategy indicators for the midpoint review of the current Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities.

The predominant challenge remains in translating the policy into practice and removing barriers to reduce the impact of disasters on persons with disabilities. The importance of linking disability-inclusive DRR with the SDGs based on the understanding that inclusion builds the resilience of the whole society, safeguards development gains and minimizes disaster losses, also needs to be further emphasized.

Furthermore, the importance of data disaggregated by disability needs to be fully addressed within the Asia Regional Plan as without fulfilling the SFDRR commitments to disability-disaggregated data, disaster risk cannot be understood, and the realisation of the inclusive and all-of-society approach to DRR will be severely curtailed.

In order to provide guidance for practical implementation of the SFDRR and the Asia Regional Plan for DRR, the role of persons with disabilities and DPOs as contributing actors and recognized SFDRR stakeholders should be emphasized. Outcome documents of international and regional events that support the implementation of the Sendai Framework are notable in this regard. In particular, the Dhaka declaration supports SFDRR implementation by identifying concrete actions to roll-out the framework with meaningful participation and contribution by persons with disabilities and their organizations in DRR planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting processes.

## **II. The Disability Stakeholder Group action statement and call on governments and partners for the joint commitment and actions**

We, the Disability Stakeholder Group,

Refer to Sendai Framework principles of all of society engagement in disaster risk reduction;

Draw on continued engagement for DRR in Asia through the IAP and AMCDRR as self-organized stakeholder groups;

Build on commitments to the Sendai Framework, as expressed in the Statement of Commitment at the 6th AMCDRR;

Hereby commit to the following actions within the next two years (2017-2018) in support of the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework and report back at the 2018 AMCDRR:

**1. Provide technical support to governments and other mainstream actors for fostering cross-sectoral engagement and planning, implementation and monitoring of disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction (DiDRR) from community to regional levels.**

Indicators:

- 1.1 At least 5 national and sub-national level DRR-related policies, strategies, guide-lines and plans reviewed for disability-inclusion
- 1.2 At least 3 multi-stakeholder mechanisms/ platforms established and/or supported for cross-sectoral engagement for inclusive-DRR
- 1.3 Initiatives to institutionalize disability-inclusive DRR into the national training curriculum/ systems begin in at least 3 countries

**2. Strengthen capacities of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to support their meaningful contribution to DRR-related policy development, implementation and monitoring.**

Indicators:

- 2.1 At least 3 countries create pool of resource persons on DiDRR including facilitators and trainers with disabilities
- 2.2 Accessible DiDRR training tools made available in at least 5 countries
- 2.3 Progressive qualitative and quantitative increase in the meaningful participation, and representation, of persons with disabilities in regional, national and sub-national DRR platforms and forums, reporting and monitoring processes

**3. Contribute to building evidence through setting up effective mechanisms and standardized tools for collecting and using data on disability, gender and age for risk sensitive decision making.**

Indicators:

- 3.1 At least 2 countries in the region set up an effective mechanism and guidelines to compile gender, age and disability disaggregated data to be used for DRR planning and programming
- 3.2 Research and knowledge sharing on disaggregated data and the relation between disability and disaster risk initiated at national, sub-national, regional and global levels

**4. Strengthen community resilience through promoting meaningful participation of persons with disabilities, including women, children and older persons in community-based DRR initiatives.**

Indicators:

4.1 At least 2 countries develop or adapt inclusive community risk assessment and DRR planning frameworks

4.2 Resource materials on inclusive-CBDRR available in accessible formats and their use promoted in at least 5 countries

4.3 Progressive qualitative and quantitative increase in meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in community-based DRR initiatives

**5. Promote Universal Design and assistive technology in DRR for accessible physical infrastructure, communication and services to ensure participation and reduce risk for all.**

Indicators:

5.1 At least 2 countries in the region take action to enforce accessible and resilient infrastructure models including schools, hospitals and shelters following the principles of universal design

5.2 Progressive qualitative and quantitative improvement in access to DRR information, communication and services (e.g. early warning systems, evacuation plans, etc.) for persons with disabilities

5.3 At least 2 countries in the region ensure support to replicate accessible and affordable technology, device and equipment for inclusive DRR

**6. Promote disability-inclusive disaster preparedness for effective response and to “build back better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.**

Indicators:

6.1 Good practices in inclusive BBB documented and promoted

6.2 At least 2 countries ready to practice inclusive BBB

6.3 At least 3 national level policies and plans for preparedness for response are made inclusive

6.4 First responders sensitized and trained on disability-inclusive response in at least 3 countries

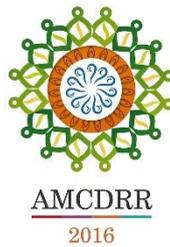
6.5 Persons with disabilities included in post-disaster assessments

Means of verification for the above 6 commitments:

- Sub-national and national reporting on SFDRR implementation

- UNCRPD and Incheon Strategy progress reporting by member states
- CRPD country and shadow reports, CRPD committee recommendations
- Stakeholder group reporting to government in-country
- ISDR progress and thematic reports
- Programmatic interventions and analysis of I/NGO, DPO, etc. reports
- SDG country reports
- Surveys, focus groups, interviews, literature review and academic research

We further call on governments and other partners for the joint action to support the aforementioned commitments as a contribution to the implementation of the SFDRR and the Asia Regional Plan towards an inclusive, people-centred and all-of-society approach to resilience building.



## **Statement of Action of Individuals and Organizations Concerned with Women and Gender Issues for Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction**

New Delhi, India  
2-5 November 2016

The meaningful participation of women is a critical ingredient in building disaster resilience. Sendai Framework called for “a gender, age, disability and cultural perspective in all policies and practices; and the promotion of women and youth leadership; in this context, special attention should be paid to the improvement of organized voluntary work of citizens.” Furthermore, Sendai Framework emphasized that “women and their participation are critical to effectively managing disaster risk and designing, resourcing and implementing gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes; and adequate capacity building measures need to be taken to empower women for preparedness as well as build their capacity for alternate livelihood means in post-disaster situations.” (V.36 a i).

The Stakeholder group of organizations and individuals concerned with Gender and Women’s issues in DRM and resilience building in Asia Pacific’ (GSHG) was constituted in 2012 as part of the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) Asia Regional Platform for DRR, to provide concerted focus and coherent guidance on this theme. The GSHG has continued to be engaged since then in the preparation towards Sendai, and afterwards in translating the commitments made in the Sendai Framework to practical steps through dialogue, consultations, analysis and documentation.

Drawing on continued engagement for DRR in Asia through the IAP and AMCDRR as a self-organized stakeholder group, and building on commitments to the Sendai Framework, as expressed in the Statement of Commitment at the 6thAMCDRR; we call on governments and other partners to:

- Systematically collect and update sex, age and disability disaggregated data (SADDD) followed by gender and diversity analysis to fully understand the diverse capacities, vulnerabilities, exposure to disaster risk, needs and priorities of women and men in diverse groups as a basis to inform DRM policies, plans, programmes and progress monitoring at local and national levels.
- Secure the increased and meaningful representation, participation and leadership of women and persons from all minority, marginalized and diverse groups in every aspect of disaster risk reduction.

- Allocate gender responsive disaster risk reduction budgets and ensure that resilience building investments strengthen gender equality and social inclusion through targeted provision of access to resources, information, skills and social protection of the most vulnerable.
- Create the foundation for effectively addressing gender inequality gaps in national and local disaster risk reduction legislation, policies, strategies, guidelines, plans and actions, including universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services;
- prevention and response to gender-based violence; and providing access to basic infrastructure, livelihoods and productive assets.
- Base disaster preparedness and response, recovery and reconstruction on build- back better principles, including addressing the root causes of vulnerability to ensure equitable economic, social, health and cultural resilience of all women, girls, men and boys.
- Ensure that rigorous monitoring and evaluation and accountability mechanisms are in place to assess implementation and impact of measures, and ensure targets and indicators for gender inclusion are developed and tracked.

And hereby commit to the following actions in support of the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework:

- 1) Use the Guidance Note developed by the GSHG to advocate and ensure the integration of gender and diversity issues specifically in the proposed Two Year Action Plan (2017 – 2018) of the Asia Regional Plan for implementation of the Sendai Framework at local, national and regional levels.
- 2) Actively provide guidance and support to the governments and other stakeholders to enable the implementation of the Asia Regional Plan gender and diversity inclusive;
- 3) Support related actions of the Asia plan by strengthening capacities and monitoring progress against agreed deliverables for the two years.

Specifically, in the next two years (2017-2018), we commit to undertake the following actions and report back at the 2018 AMCDRR:

### **1: Sensitization, Awareness raising and Capacity Building**

Sensitization, awareness and capacity building on gender responsive DRR are essential for meaningful participation of women for transformative leadership for inclusive DRR at all levels. We commit to support this process with national and local actors, sectoral agencies, policy makers and other key stakeholders through programmes on:

- Use of sex, age disability disaggregated data (SADDD) across the programme cycle.
- Gender and Diversity responsive DRR
- Universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including the
- Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) in emergencies

- Community-based disaster preparedness and leadership particularly for women and girls.
- Prevention and response to gender and gender based violence in emergencies
- Resilient livelihood and women's economic empowerment
- Gender mainstreaming policy development

GSHG group – specifically - JICA, AIWC, ARROW, VSO, IFRC, Help age, UNFPA, ADPC and IPPF, DN, REGA GBV AoR.

## **2: Developing guidance/formats/tools**

In order to be able to put into practice gender responsible DRR, countries and stakeholders require tested tools and guidelines that can provide the means within which these practices can be put into place. To aid with this process we commit to:

Using existing guidelines and indices developed in the region, macro data sets, and vulnerability and capacity data for analysis of gender and age specific effects and impacts to aid with monitoring and improving gender sensitive planning and implementation.

- a. Developing guidelines and tools and templates to collect SADDD disaggregated data and sharing with policy makers
- b. Assisting with capacity building of stakeholders groups engaged in DRR based on the analysed data and available tool kits.

GSHG group –specifically - OXFAM, Bangladesh MOWCA and NDMA, UN women, IFRC, Action Aid).

## **3: Status Mapping and setting baselines for gender monitoring**

We are committing to support national governments and relevant stakeholders in establishing baselines, which will enable monitoring of progress on addressing gender inequality through the Asia Regional DRR Plan and the overall Sendai Framework. Specifically, we commit to provide support in undertaking the following action on baselines:

1. Assess the current status of sex and age disaggregated data collection and use including disaster related mortality rates, vulnerability to disasters, participation of women in DRR processes.
2. Standardize methodologies/mechanisms for collecting SADD and gender analysis to enable national and regional monitoring of progress on gender equality in disaster risk reduction.
3. Develop capacity of NDMOs, gender ministries and other actors in the collection, use, analysis, and management of sex and age disaggregated data

4. Establish responsible agencies within NDMOs for the collection, use and management of SADD and monitoring progress on gender and DRR and in order to institutionalize use of SADD.
5. Encourage governments to begin mapping the status and setting baselines at its earliest through the IAP process
6. Support the review of gender sensitive DRM Laws and provide research support for DRR and Law Checklist work GSHG group –specifically DN, UN Women, SDMC (Jharkhand), IFRC, ADPC.

#### **4: Information and Knowledge Sharing**

Given the importance of awareness and knowledge to address disasters effectively, and in order to ensure that issues related to gender are adequately addressed we commit to the following:

1. Strengthening regional coordination mechanisms on Sexual and Reproductive Health through Multi-Stakeholder Regional Consultations.
2. Information dissemination through various means at local levels on addressing the language and socio economic barriers Vis a vis Gender inclusion including sexuality education.
3. Regular Coordination amongst stakeholder groups at National and Sub National Level for interchange of Gender information (on gaps, analytic findings, vulnerabilities, gender data, gender budgeting)
4. Lobby for and promote the integration of gender-inclusive socio economic and development information into plans
5. Collect document and disseminate Good Practices and case studies on women leadership and action in disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction
6. Identify entry points to integrate Sexual and Reproductive Health and Gender Based Violence in National DRR plans and policies
7. Collate lesson learnt and good practices across and within countries including development/strengthening of knowledge hubs
8. Collect information on innovative technologies that can support gender and disability inclusive planning and implementation.

GSHG group –specifically - Interagency working Groups on Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA), ADPC, SATHI Network, IPPF, UNFPA, Janathakshan, Sphere India, DN, IFRC, JICA.

#### **5: Increasing Women’s Participation and Leadership as well as representation of gender issues**

In order to increase women’s meaningful participation, representation and leadership, we will:

1. Reach out and encourage greater participation of women and girls in community-based civil society organizations to become involved in DRR and strengthen their leadership capacities
2. Advocate for and monitor increased gender responsive budgeting in national institutions
3. Identify and engage women leaders in community and in elected governance positions who can promote gender-responsive DRR
4. Provide leadership training and promote sharing women's experience and knowledge across all levels of DRR decision-making
5. Support building capacity of both community and elected women representatives
6. Convene a women's parliamentary forum on Gender and DRR
7. Sensitize decision-makers on gender-based violence in emergencies and support leaders in efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in humanitarian situations
8. Promote women's innovation and share good practices including use of technologies as a tool for empowerment of women
9. Engage academic sector in research on gender and DRR, as well as generating knowledge sharing platforms
10. Identify and train local women as 'DRR champions' in a pilot project
11. Support gender machineries to conduct capacity gap analysis and develop targets and indicators for increase women's participation in DRR decision-making
12. Support building capacity of gender machineries in gender and DRR
13. Support women being represented at fora including community events, discussion on DRR
14. Promote linking gender machineries, NDMOs and civil society to build gender-responsive DRR

*GSHG group –specifically - Christian Aid, UNFPA, ADPC, UN Women, Jawaharlal Nehru University's (JNU) Disaster Research Group; UNFPA, IFRC*

*Note: This Statement incorporates comments from the consultation leading up to and from the Pre-Conference Consultation.*



## **Statement of Action of Mayors and Local Government Authorities for the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction,**

2-5 November 2016  
New Delhi, India

We, governors, mayors, local authorities and associations of local governments from Asia, attending the first Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) in the era of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015- 2030 in New Delhi, hosted by the Government of India, 02-05 November 2016;

Represent other local authorities, national governments and other stakeholders, who have provided inputs to this Statement of Action through series of consultations, such as: the event organized by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), United Cities and Local Government Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC), Huairou Commission, RC-CEHUD Asia-Pacific during the PrepCom3 of HABITAT III in Surabaya, Indonesia; the event organized by UNISDR and UCLG-ASPAC at the UCLG AS- PAC Congress in Jeollabuk-do, Korea; CityNet Disaster Management Cluster Seminar in Taipei.

Reiterate commitments made by Mayors and Local Governments Stakeholder Group at the 6th AMCDRR in 2014 including, amongst others: undertake local risk assessment and planning for DRR implementation; strengthen capacity to main- stream risk assessment into spatial planning and local development; increase local governments' access to finance for DRR; work with communities to set up community funds for disaster resilience, work with the private sector for smart and resilient investments and engage youth.

Welcome and recognize the opportunity to boost local actions in disaster risk management for resilient and sustainable development, provided by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in its coherence with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs), Climate Change Agreement, New Urban Agenda and other frame- works. Sendai Framework set a target to adopt and implement local DRR strategies

- *It emphasizes the importance of empowering and capacitating local authorities, defining clear actions at the local level while reiterating the principle of all state institutions at all levels and all stakeholder engagement in DRR.*
- 

Acknowledge that local authorities and associations of local governments have an important role to play in implementing and monitoring the Sendai Framework to prevent and reduce risks and build long-term resilience of our people and communities.

Hereby, commit to undertake the following actions in line with Sendai Framework priorities and in support of the 'Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework'.

### **Priority 1 – Understanding disaster risk**

- Undertake or update comprehensive and risk assessment on needs and regular basis (annually or bi-annually) and ensure dissemination of disaster risk information to citizens, especially vulnerable communities.
- carry out self-assessment of DRR capacity which provides information on capacity gaps for the development and implementation of local DRR strategies and plans.
- Ensure gender equality and integrate grassroots women perspectives when doing local assessments process.
- Involve children, youth, and elderly and disable people in planning and implementation process of risk assessments especially on evacuation plans.

### **Priority 2 – Disaster Risk Governance**

- Ensure risk sensitive land use planning with particular concerns for resilience to earthquake. Reinforce the principles of good governance, community participation, and commitment and accountabilities of local leaders for disaster resilience and other targets of the 2030 sustainable development agenda.
- Implement principles of transparency, strengthening information through local government/city website, open data and cooperation with various stakeholders to increase the trust of citizens and enhance partnership between local government and stakeholders.
- Foster community participation to prevent and reduce disaster risk and strength- en resilience.
- Provide multi-stakeholder's platform for promoting partnership especially for resource mobilization.

### **Priority 3 – Invest in DRR for Resilience**

- Strengthen partnership with the private sector to better prepare communities to cope with disasters and to promote risk-sensitive and safe business as well as transparent and accountable private financing mechanisms. Work with communities, national government and other partners to set up community funds especially for women empowerment programs that include disaster risk reduction.
- Allocate funds from local government budget for disaster risk reduction and management.
- Strengthen the resilience of local health system and the design and implementation of inclusive policies to ensure access to social safety net and basic health care services, including maternal, new born and child health, sexual and reproductive health, food security and nutrition, and housing and education.
- Maximize and support the potential of risk insurance schemes as risk transfer mechanisms for vulnerable households.

#### Priority 4 – Enhance preparedness for effective response and to Build Back Better

- Create technical guidelines for evacuation route, shelter, and identification of evacuation sites.
- Integrate DRR into school curriculum with focus on knowledge and skills for emergency response and first aid.
- Conduct at least one capacity building and training of trainer (ToT) on DRR in each city/municipality.
- Develop local/city disaster preparedness plan that helps coordinate with all stakeholders.
- Provide and strengthen early warning system at the local level for several aims, including the reduction of cost.
- Strengthen capacity of local governments in disseminating early warning system and advisory services regarding disaster especially to the most vulnerable community.
- Capacity building on disaster recovery framework for building back better.

*Recognizing* the importance of demonstrating coherence in implementation of Sendai Framework, SDGs, Climate Change agreement and New Urban Agenda at the local level, we commit to:

- Familiarize ourselves with 2030 global agendas and frameworks through, for example, joining the Making Cities Resilient Campaign.
- Strengthen local capacity and expertise to implement these frameworks.
- Apply lessons learned in disaster risk reduction to boost the implementation of other agendas and frameworks. For example, the development of the spatial plan that integrates disaster risk reduction as done in Banda Aceh after the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.
- Participate in the monitoring of Sendai Framework and synergize it with the New Urban Agenda and other global indicator systems.
- Support and engage capacity development of civil society and community groups for them to work effectively in disaster risk reduction and risk-sensitive development.

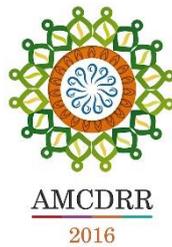
*By the next AMCDRR in 2018*, we will ensure that as many as possible local governments and concerned actors undertake the following actions to support the ‘Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of Sendai Framework’, particularly priorities identified in its two-year action plan.

- Develop and adopt local DRR strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.
- Sign up to the “Making Cities Resilient” campaign of UNISDR and employ its available tools.
- Improve coordination and functioning of local governments units to work effectively in disaster risk reduction and management.

- Strengthen both internal and external partnerships, and prioritize the involvement of the business/private sector.
- Advocate for the importance of building critical infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, transportation, bridges, and energy systems, by first conducting an inventory of existing assets for better management and plans.
- Build capacity of local government units to utilize risk assessment/risk information in spatial and local planning and implementation (including culture and heritage conservation, protection of eco-systems, etc.) – cascading the DRR sector, bridge the gaps between national government (technology) and local government (community bases at the specific area).
- Create and gather data from different institutions within and local government departments and amongst other local governments for territorial cohesion development.
- Identify vulnerable community or households prior to risk assessment for better addressing the most suitable policies and programmes.
- Carry out practical programmes and/or projects on disaster risks management that can be reported in 2018.

*Recognizing* challenges for local authorities to deliver on the above committed actions, we call on national governments and other stakeholders to:

- Promote the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction implementation from national to local level and by all stakeholders.
- Provide capacity building for the development and/or update of local disaster risk reduction strategies and plans.
- Provide adequate financial resources and technical assistance to local governments in their pursuit to create a reliable, dependable and fully equipped local authority.
- Include disaster risk reduction and management in budget allocation to local governments, and where it is already in place, periodically review the allotment (in particular, how it is utilized and if it is sufficient to address the local government's needs in DRR).
- Promote peer-to-peer learning amongst cities and local governments to enhance local resilience and partnerships/alliances between local governments.
- Equip local governments with the necessary guidance, tools and equipment to improve local disaster preparedness, response and recovery and reconstruction.
- Encourage various educational and scientific institutions concerned on disaster to establish training and research facilities dedicated to local capacity building in DRR.



## Statement of Action of Media Stakeholder Group for Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction 2016

2-5 November 2016  
New Delhi, India

Climate change affects every aspect of human life - food and water, energy security and international security, from the health of the global economy to the health of our children. Climate change and disaster risk reduction are closely linked as future extreme weather events have the potential to increase in number, frequency and scale. At the same time, it is also an opportunity to rethink our ways and build a better, more sustainable future for all peoples and societies. The challenges of this opportunity will require our collective efforts, and *we, the broadcast media*, recognize our responsibility to use our reach across continents and into the most remote communities, to communicate, educate and inspire to collective action. Disaster Risk Reduction and saving human lives is one of the most important functions of the broadcast media.

Following the Jakarta Statement of Commitment, which was the outcome of the inaugural ABU Media Summit in 2014, and in consistency with the four priority areas highlighted in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Voluntary Commitment statement from the Media Stakeholders Group in Sendai 2015 and the Krabi Media Action Plan adopted by the participants of the 2nd ABU Media Summit on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, May 2016, the Media Stakeholder Group represented at the Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR in New Delhi, India, commit:

- To the best of our financial, technical, and professional capacities, and to comply with any and all applicable statutory and regulatory obligations, *we, the broadcast media*, pledge to serve our viewing and listening audiences, especially the most vulnerable - *the poor, women and children, older people, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, migrants and those that reside, labour, or earn a livelihood in "high risk" areas due to limited opportunities* - through widened access to and dissemination of information, messaging and early warning pertaining to the impacts and facets of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction most appropriate for our respective audiences;
- *We, the broadcast media*, have a key role and a moral and ethical responsibility to communicate information to assist individuals, communities, nations, and regions to reduce, prevent and manage risk and build resilience among communities to disasters, including those aggravated or induced by human activities, and with the relief and recovery efforts following a disaster;

- *We, the broadcast media*, will be proactive in staying abreast of the ever-evolving understanding of Climate Change and the science of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and subsequently communicate such to our audiences in a manner that is timely comprehensible, accurate, and actionable;
- *We, the broadcast media*, will initiate or continue the Climate Change/DRR conversation with our business and broadcast partners and affiliates, including the local, national, or regional organizations to which we ascribe;
- *We, the broadcast media*, will foster and strengthen our relationships with Climate Change/DRR stakeholders and practitioners, including governments, United Nations' agencies, International Organizations (IOs), non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and Community Support Organizations (CSOs), as well as private sector initiatives and public-private partnerships (PPPs), while maintaining our independence;
- *We, the broadcast media*, will avail our technical expertise and capacities to stakeholders, practitioners, or communities in the development, production, and broadcasting of Climate/Change/DRR informational stories, news pieces, and announcements;
- *We, the broadcast media*, will build on the voluntary commitment statement from the Media Stakeholders Group in Sendai 2015 and will advocate with our respective governments to ensure that they deliver on the Sendai Framework for DRR; and,
- *We, the broadcast media*, should encourage stakeholders to ask media outlets to assign "Environmental Correspondents or Units." Direct, personal links are invaluable in raising the profile of all climate change issues.

### **Media Stakeholder Group Action Plan**

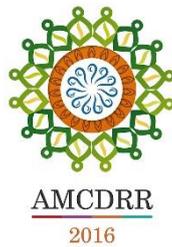
Develop concrete projects for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the following four key areas:

- A. Media is not well utilized by Disaster Management Authorities, other stakeholders and international organizations for dissemination of information and good practices on risk management and resilience. Therefore,
  1. Governments, scientists, civil society and public in general need to be sensitized to the increasingly crucial role of media in disaster risk management as well as disaster management communications.
  2. The role of Radio, especially in disaster situation, should be advocated to all influential stakeholders in order to include radio in their communication plans as a medium of last resort.
  3. Advocacy for governments to include media component in all DRR activities and allocate resources for training journalists and.

4. efforts to engage commercial media, advertisers and marketers in promoting disaster risk management in engaging and entertaining formats.
  5. Advocacy for improved connectivity especially during disasters in order to keep as many communication channels open as possible.
- B. Media organizations are not prepared to fulfil their crucial role for building resilient societies neither in attitude nor in capacity. Action to be taken to address this weakness:
1. Advocacy among top management of public service and commercial broadcasters to include risk management perspective in all content and formats.
  2. Encouraging organizational change from re-active to pro-active attitude to disaster risk management to use the quiet time between disasters for climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness of wide audiences.
  3. Establishing an in-country network of media personnel, including representatives of all media houses and sensitize them on DRR through capacity-building.
  4. Create organizational SOPs, which should be ingrained in all personnel through training and regular drills.
  5. Establish rapid reaction units to cover disasters, rescue and relief efforts.
  6. Establish specialized units on climate change and disaster preparedness with well trained reporters and editors.
  7. Create special regular programmes on climate change and disaster preparedness to educate the general public about climate adaptations and disaster preparedness.
  8. Encourage innovative radio and TV formats to mainstream DRR in all content.
  9. Public Service Broadcasters to take lead to disseminate information and knowledge about the Sendai 2030 targets and action plans and monitor government efforts to implement them.
  10. Building skills for disaster coverage and climate change and disaster preparedness should be a continuous and sustained effort not one –off training.
  11. Include in university curriculums courses on climate change, its coverage and risk reduction through media.
  12. Better use of new media and social media, twitter, FB and WhatsApp not only for early warnings but for disaster literacy.
- C. Developing close cooperation with Disaster Management Authorities.
1. Regular meetings and coordination between media and DMA for coverage of events and disaster literacy to the population through media.
  2. Training of DMA and Disaster issuing authorities in communication of complex scientific data in understandable manner.
  3. Developing mechanisms to get reliable information in real time across the country affected by disasters.
  4. Need of international standards of broadcasting materials for different hazards. Establishing a system to disseminate information coming from only one authorized government source in order to avoid conflicting information and rumours.

D. Adopting “Leaving no one behind” approach by working with communities and other stakeholders.

1. Establish strong cross linkages between media and all other stakeholders.
2. Need to promote indigenous knowledge of early warnings and resilience.
3. Work with other stakeholders groups to create appropriate channels of communications and relevant messages.
4. Media should link with other stakeholder groups to promote and disseminate best practices in all areas of intervention to reduce risk.



## **Statement of Action of National Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent for Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction 2016**

2-5 November 2016  
New Delhi, India

Resilience can and must be built at all levels, from the individual to the community, from the locality to the nation. For the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), representing twenty-two National Societies in Asia, our greatest strength is working with and for communities to strengthen their resilience even further in the face of more frequent and complex disasters and crises.

Through our volunteer and youth networks, we are part of our communities, able to address needs over time of all women, men, boys, girls and at-risk groups. Our strength is also derived from our auxiliary role to Governments, as well as in the resources, expertise and solidarity found in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;

Fulfilling the Sendai Framework Principle of “all of society engagement” in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), we are committed to continued action on DRR in Asia through the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) platform and the Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) as a self-organized stakeholder group;

Building on prior commitments we have made to the fulfilment of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals, Paris Climate Agreement and World Humanitarian Summit:

We hereby commit to the following actions in support of the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework and in line with the global and regional strategic directions of the IFRC, including the IFRC Asia Disaster Risk Management Strategy 2016 -2020, the IFRC Gender and Diversity Strategic Framework 2013-2020 and the IFRC Youth Engagement Strategy:

1. Increase our investment in local action and local actors ahead of disasters and crises, to build resilience and anticipate shocks which will help protect the lives, livelihoods and dignity of the world’s most vulnerable people. This is in line with the “Grand Bargain” of the World Humanitarian Summit, which championed the allocation of 25 per cent of global humanitarian funding to local and national responders by 2020;
2. Build stronger, more resilient communities by saving lives today, protecting livelihoods tomorrow and providing economic and social stability in the years to come;

3. Work along a continuum of preparedness through early warning, early alert, followed by early action to better respond, facilitate recovery and build resilience, so we can truly bridge humanitarian, development and climate agendas;
4. Through the One Billion Coalition for Resilience, bring together partners from all sectors, from local to global, to motivate, inform, mobilize and support communities to take action, to be safer and better able to withstand shocks as well as support a stronger and more diverse humanitarian ecosystem;
5. Support the development of an enabling environment where good governance is exercised through application and respect for disaster laws which ensure participation and empowerment of local communities;
6. Identify potential and actual issues of gender and diversity based discrimination, as well as opportunities to promote equality and act upon these through all the full program cycle and across the whole disaster risk management spectrum;
7. Ensure youth engagement by investing in youth leadership on disaster risk reduction and foster an enabling environment to facilitate youth-led initiatives to build resilient communities;
8. Support National Societies to work closely with their governments to strengthen national and local DRR platforms, as well as in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Action on Disaster Risk Reduction, in coordination with other relevant frameworks.

Specifically, in the next two years (2017-2018), we commit to undertake the following actions and report back at the 2018 AMCDRR:

#### Regional Level Actions

- Contribute to strengthening Regional Platforms for DRR, including the Asian Ministerial Conference, the ISDR Asia Partnership and its Secretariat through enhanced engagement of our National Societies, youth, volunteers and partners to support the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework.
- Promote and support gender and diversity-sensitive and climate-smart DRR actions, including prevention and response to gender based violence, at national and local level through regional policies of intergovernmental organizations.
- Strengthen the connection of our National Societies with intergovernmental organizations and cooperation among them for coherence of regional, sub-regional and national laws and strategies; information and knowledge exchange on specific DRR and response aspects; and concerted support to national actions.
- Enhance the capacity of national and regional Red Cross Red Crescent Youth Networks to foster information and knowledge sharing on Youth-led initiatives for DRR, in order to capitalize innovative solutions.

## National and Local Level Actions

### *Priority Area 1: Understanding Disaster Risk*

- Assess disaster risk, vulnerability, capacity, exposure, hazard characteristics and their possible effects across different time and geographical scales;
- Build the knowledge and capacity of one million local government officials, civil society, communities and volunteers including women, youth, girls and boys to monitor hazards, exposure, risk and capacities; collect and analyse sex, age and disability-disaggregated data and inform all risk assessments through gender and diversity analysis to monitor social vulnerabilities.

### *Priority Area 2: Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance to Manage Disaster Risk*

- Support the revision of existing national and local Disaster Risk Management laws, strategies and plans, including through ensuring meaningful community engagement and the leadership of women and minority groups, in line with the Sendai Framework, the Paris Climate Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals to ensure disaster risk sensitive development in 8 Asian Countries.
- Enable a supportive policy environment to establish and strengthen multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral national and local platforms with the participation and leadership of local community representatives which include women, youth and minority groups and other stakeholders.
- Support local authorities in the development and dissemination of guidelines and their coherent implementation of the 2030 development agendas at local level involving the national authority that are responsible for local administration in 8 countries in Asia.

### *Priority Area 3: Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience*

- Institutionalize Community-based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) to strengthen resilience of women, men, girls, and boys and at risk groups in at least 5 countries in Asia,
- Develop and test mechanisms and a youth-friendly toolkit to formalize volunteer and youth roles in DRR programs as well as in comprehensive school safety programs by 2018.
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### *Priority Area 4: Enhancing Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response and to “Build Back Better” in Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction*

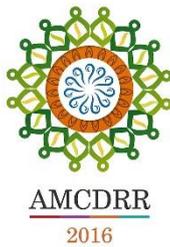
- Provide capacity building for local authorities, community members and volunteers to develop gender-sensitive and climate-smart disaster preparedness plan including

early warning systems, response coordination, evacuation plans, stockpiling of necessary materials to implement rescue, relief and recovery activities.

- Strengthen resilience of critical infrastructure including facilities for disaster preparedness such as schools and emergency shelters.
- Promote the safety and security of women, girl and boys in disasters, ensuring gender based violence risks are understood and measures taken, based on IFRC standards, to prevent, mitigate and respond to gender-based violence in preparedness and recovery programmes.
- Train 400 key volunteers and Youth leaders as Agents of Behavioural change (YABC) and equip with skills to reduce risk in its own communities, and further facilitate the pool of existing 1400 YABC peer educators to take active part in developing youth-led initiatives in its own communities with its peers to build a safe and resilient community by 2018.

**To support stakeholders to deliver on our commitments, we further call on Governments and other partners to:**

1. Increase investment in local actors and responders in Asia to ensure people-centred approaches;
2. Convene and participate in coalitions from the corporate sector, academia, civil society and governments at local, national and international levels to share common ambitions, risks, accountability and successes in building resilience and contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;
3. Strengthen gender and diversity and socially inclusive approaches under the principle of leaving no one behind and ensure an all of society approach which engages and empowers women and minority groups in disaster risk reduction processes;
4. Review and strengthen sub regional, national and local climate-resilient development, through stronger and more coherent governance frameworks (laws and policies) for integrated and inclusive disaster risk management;
5. Further strengthen formal and non-formal education for youth to take an active part in School Safety and disaster risk reduction activities in their own communities, which recognizes their key role as agents of behavioural change. Further provide opportunities to engage youth at all levels of design, discussion and decision making to build resilient communities;
6. Find innovate ways to change the way we work to better anticipate and prepare for early action, including through forecast-based financing;
7. Explore ways for the humanitarian and development systems to respond predictably and effectively to protect the most vulnerable when shocks hit, including through social protection and safety nets;
8. Prioritize work to improve the resilience of urban communities, including institutional and legal preparedness.



## Statement of Action of Parliamentarians for Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction 2016

2-5 November 2016  
New Delhi, India

We, parliamentarians from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indian, Japan and Nepal participating at the 2016 Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction on 2-5 November 2016 and representing the voices of people; Commit to addressing the challenge of increasing risk in Asia-Pacific, in the context of fast economic growth; Recognize the unique opportunity to achieve risk-resilient and sustainable development through the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030; Reiterate the great difference parliaments and parliamentarians can make in reducing risk and building resilience through our role in policies and legislation, bud- get allocation and oversight for accountabilities;

*From Sendai to Delhi: we commit to the following Asian Parliamentarians Roadmap to Implement the Sendai Framework*

- Strengthen leadership and institutionalize our role in disaster risk reduction.  
We will promote ownership of parliaments of disaster risk reduction and resilient development. The Nepal Parliament's national campaign for disaster risk reduction that enhances oversight of reconstruction after the 2015 earthquake and promotes DRR is a good example. Sensitization of fellow members of parliament, sharing information and knowledge as well as engaging and promoting interaction of Speakers on the topic will be essential.
- Reiterate People-Planet-Prosperity-Peace- Partnership and Parliament in coherent implementation of the Sendai Framework, SDG, Climate Change agreement and other relevant 2030 agendas.  
This requires due consideration of the well-being and happiness of people and conservation of natural resources in making careful choices for growth.
- Move from advocacy to actions with continuous political will and a good understanding of benefits of actions and cost of in-actions.
- Ensure a good understanding of disaster risks among parliamentarians and society at large, building on the learning from past disasters and preparing for future disasters. This emphasizes disaster risk reduction education, sharing information and knowledge for example through the World Tsunami Awareness Day.
- Strengthen legislation across development sectors to reinforce the consideration of risks and measures to prevent new risk, reduce existing risk and strength- en resilience. The IPU and UNISDR through the Asian Advisory Group of Parliamentarians for Disaster Risk Reduction will jointly organize a regional training for legislators from

- Asia-Pacific on “Developing legislation that effectively reduce existing risk and prevent new risk”.
- Ensure integration of disaster risk reduction in development planning by
  - 1) a protocol by parliaments to ensure that risk and risk reduction is considered in investment planning and
  - 2) Guidelines on how to prioritize DRR in national budgeting process are needed. Invest in disaster risk reduction is a “smart” investment.
- Continue our efforts to raise awareness and educate people, in particular the youth on disaster prevention to not forget past disasters.
- Engage all stakeholders in disaster risk reduction, particularly the private sector, whose investment can play a significant contribution to prevention of new risks.
- Strengthen sub-regional and regional cooperation among parliaments for disaster risk reduction and the SDGs.
- Implement the IPU Parliamentarian Action Plan on Climate Change in the region.

### **From Delhi to Cancun: Parliaments Making a Difference at the 2017 Global Platform for DRR**

Issues of important that parliamentarians would like to be addressed at the Global Platform for DRR include:

- Reinforce common understanding of DRR, reconfirm direction for policies and ensure coherence of legislation for continued commitments and actions.
- Ensure continued awareness raising on DRR at all levels, highlighting the importance of education, particularly of youth for the sustainable future.
- Build back better.
- Further emphasize the importance of prevention vs. management of disaster.
- Accelerate sector interventions

Parliamentarians from Asia-Pacific will:

- Showcase parliamentarians concrete actions in implementing the Sendai Framework at the 2017 Global Platform.
- Form parliamentarian caucus to elevate commitments and initiatives from regional to global levels.
- Include disaster risk reduction as part of the main theme of the 136th IPU Assembly and Related meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh in April 2017 to consolidate actions and prepare for MPs participation in the 2017 Global Platform for DRR.
- Support the Asia-Pacific Summit of High school Students on DRR and share the results at the 2017 Global Platform
- Integrate disaster risk reduction in the agenda of the Summit of South Asian

Speakers in Indore, India 23-24 February 2017.



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## Statement of Action of Private Sector for Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction 2016

2-5 November 2016  
New Delhi, India

### I. Preamble

Over the 15 years of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the private sector in Asia Pacific will invest trillions of dollars in their own business assets, processes and operations as well as rural and urban infrastructure – including the ‘lifelines’ of business such as roads, water and power – often in partnership with the public sector.

The more disaster-risk resilient this investment is, the more resilient and sustainable development will be for individual enterprises as well as at a more macro local and national economic level. The private sector has the capacity to protect the investment of individual businesses and the wider economy that compliment government efforts to reduce disaster risk, and is also a solution provider that works jointly with both public sector and academia towards innovation.

The Sendai Framework highlights the *lack of regulation and incentives for private disaster risk reduction investment* as an underlying risk driver and called for business to *integrate disaster risk into their management practices*.

UNISDR has a thriving regional and global partnership with business via the UNISDR Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE), which works with private sector leaders who ensure the safety of long-term investments and plan ahead to protect industry and society from disasters. The partnership has produced many initiatives and tools that show how disaster risk reduction is an investment and a business opportunity rather than a cost.

In short, business representatives agree that investment in disaster and climate risk management is an opportunity to strengthen resilience, competitiveness and sustainability, not a cost per se.

### II. The Private Sector Stakeholder Group action statement and call on governments and partners for the joint commitment and actions

We Private Sector Stakeholders Group Refer to Sendai Framework principles of all of society engagement in disaster risk reduction;

Draw on continued engagement for DRR in Asia through the IAP and AMCDRR as self-organized stakeholder groups;

Build on commitments to the Sendai Framework, as expressed in the Statement of Commitment at the 6thAMCDRR;

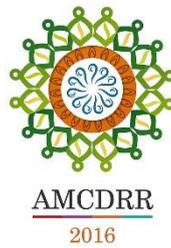
Hereby commit to the following actions in support of the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework:

1. Increase DRR awareness at enterprise level
  - § By September 2018, develop on-line tools for training, education and certification
  - § By September 2018, build platforms for information sharing and best business practices, such as ARISE Networks
2. Build corporate resilience
  - § By September 2018, influence own organization or company, industry, and business communities to adopt resilient practices, e.g. Business Continuity Management (BCM), disaster risk assessment, and risk sensitive investments
3. Contribute to building a disaster resilient community
  - § By January 2017, develop funding mechanisms to enable private sector to support DRR initiatives at the community level
  - § By September 2018, facilitate Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as tool for better DRR impacts assessment
4. Promote Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP) by growing the number of DRR-aware and resilient private sector
  - § By September 2018, build awareness and creating platforms for PPP initiatives by increasing the number of ARISE Networks in Asia
  - § By September 2018, engage other stakeholders such as development banks, international government organizations, donors, etc. via ARISE Networks and other means

To support stakeholders to deliver on our commitments, we call on Governments and other partners to create an enabling environment, as recommended in the Asia Regional Plan, by establishing multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder national and local platforms to foster the dialogue and cooperation between governments and other stakeholders, including the private sector, and utilize our experience, knowledge, and core business strengths towards the building of disaster resilient communities.

The Private Sector Stakeholder Group represented by:

- § UNISDR Regional Office for Asia Pacific's Private Sector Advisory Working Group
- § ARISE Network Japan
- § ARISE Philippines



## **Statement of Action of Science, Technology and Academia Stakeholder for Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction 2016**

2-5 November 2016  
New Delhi, India

### **I. BACKGROUND**

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015 - 2030 prioritizes an effective and efficient management of disaster risk that is based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of exposures, vulnerabilities and hazards. SFDRR also recognizes the important role of science and technology to DRR including development of science-based risk knowledge and methodologies as well as enhancement of scientific and technical work on DRR to strengthen interface between science and policy. As a result, a Global Science and Technology Conference was organized by the United Nation Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) together with a wide range of stakeholders to further discuss a roadmap defining the expected contribution of science and technology to the implementation of the SFDRR in Geneva in January 2016. A 'Science and Technology Roadmap to Support the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030' was produced by the scientific and technological community as well as other stakeholders shortly thereafter.

Subsequently, in August 2016, the 1st Asian Science and Technology Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (ASTCDRR) was organized by UNISDR and its partners to discuss the key issues and opportunities in the application of science and technology in DRR policy development in support with the implementation of the SFDRR in Asian region. An outcome document, which consists of twelve recommended actions aligning with and contributing to the 'Science and Technology Roadmap', has been agreed as the result of the conference.

### **II. SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ACADEMIA STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

UNISDR has established the Asia Science Technology Academia Advisory Group (ASTAAG) in May 2015 with the following objectives:

- 1) strengthening the capacities of science technology and academia communities in disaster risk reduction,
  - 2) supporting governments in science based decision making to implement SFDRR, and
  - 3) enhancing networks among academic community and other stakeholders in Asia.
- ASTAAG will work with IRDR, Future Earth -IRGP and other partners in the science technology academia stakeholder group to achieve the above-mentioned objectives.

The Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) serves as a forum for stakeholders including scientists, policy-makers, insurance industry and mass media to make actionable commitments towards implementation of the SF- DRR. Particularly, the stakeholder group offers a platform to foster collaboration among trans-disciplinary and multi-sectorial alliances. The Science Technology Academia Stakeholder group has the following specific objectives in terms of disaster risk reduction:

- **Research:** Promote, prioritize and advance research on natural, social, engineering and technology aspects of disaster risk in an integrated environment; enhance team efforts in hazard and disaster monitoring and research, building on existing networks, universities and initiatives; synthesize top-down bottom-up approaches in research; integrating various stakeholder needs on all levels; develop an initiative for Asia and Pacific science plan on Disaster Risk Reduction with the consensus from nations in Asia and Pacific region.
- **Higher education:** Strongly promote multi-disciplinary disaster risk reduction in university education as well as professional training. This will ensure human resource development in the DRR field.
- **Integration:** Ensure that disaster research programs, policies, and applications are integrated across disciplines, and contribute to enhancing policy-making and capacity building for the effective DRR and sustainability; strengthen international research programmes as the think tank on disaster risk reduction and national and regional security.
- **Global / Regional Standards:** Develop and coordinate globally / regionally standardized open source information and data, event documentation and analysis procedures, guidelines and frameworks for integrated and effective disaster risk management and sustainable development.
- **Awareness:** Raise awareness of decision-makers and the public by promoting effective, integrated, demand-driven, evidence-based disaster risk initiatives and increased advocacy.
- **Increase Funding:** Motivate funding sources (public, private, humanitarian, development, scientific, etc.) to allocate priority funding to address the urgent need for applied and basic integrated research on disaster risks.

### III. ACTIONS FOR SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ACADEMIA STAKEHOLDER GROUP

The 1st Asia Science Technology Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (ASTC- DRR), which was attended by more than 300 senior policy-makers, practitioners, researchers and academics, civil society and the private sector representatives, have agreed on twelve priority actions under four SFDRR priority areas as follow:

#### Priority 1 Actions – Understanding Disaster Risk

1. Enhance disaster loss and damage accounting, national and local disaster risk assessment and communication of disaster risk, with a specific focus on urban risks.

2. Use space and disaster risk mapping, and modelling technologies and strengthen the capacity of its users.
3. Strengthen regional exchange on disaster risk information and science.

*Suggested indicators:*

- Several cities in Asia have risk assessments and mapping completed through participation from the science technology community, working closely with the local authorities.
- Several countries have enhanced capacities of space based disaster risk reduction.
- Science technology communities pro-actively participate in the multi-stakeholder regional forum.

**Priority 2 Actions - Disaster Risk Governance**

1. Strengthen science-policy-practice nexus at all levels.
2. Develop inter-disciplinary national science and technology plans to support implementation of the Sendai Framework. This includes actions by academia/universities to develop their own disaster risk management plans.
3. Enhance collaboration between local governments, academia and other partners to promote local communities' knowledge and traditions and to sustain and replicate many good practices that exist locally for science-based decision making.

*Suggested indicators:*

- Science technology academia community pro-actively participate in the local platform, enriching knowledge base, and support local governments as well as other partners to implement science based disaster risk reduction measures.
- Several countries in Asia have developed National Science Technology Plan for the implementation of SFDRR.
- Local and traditional knowledge is validated and the principles are widely disseminated and applied.

**Priority 3 Actions - Invest in DRR for Resilience**

1. Make DRR an area of focus within education including networking between universities.
2. Ensure risk-sensitive investments.
3. Develop young professionals in the field of multi-disciplinary disaster risk reduction.

*Suggested indicators:*

- 
- Several universities have started and successfully implemented multi-disciplinary higher education degree program and/ or diploma/ training programs (based on the local needs and market) in disaster risk reduction.
- Several universities and academic institutions have undertaken assessment and planning for the safety of their own campus and facilities.
- Investments in different fields are supported by appropriate scientific data.

**Priority 4 Actions - Enhance disaster preparedness for effective response and to Build Back Better**

1. Promote the role of inter-disciplinary science and technology in effective pre-disaster planning, preparedness, response, rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction to build back better.
2. Develop an efficient and effective cooperation among the science community and business sector by utilizing the advancements of the fast developing information and communication technology (ICT) including big data.
3. Research into innovative solutions to promote the whole-of-society engagement.

Suggested indicators:

- Several cities/ provinces/ local governments developed science based pre-disaster plans for effective responses.
- Several innovation projects are initiated between science technology and business communities.
- Concrete innovative solutions are provided through field based innovation forum, which is co-designed by different stakeholders.



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## **Annex IV:**

### **Opening Remarks, Shri Kiren Rijiju, MoS (Home), Government of India**

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji, Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister Republic of Mongolia, Mr. Khuelsukh, Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal, Shri Bimlendra Nidhiji, Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singhji, Mr Toshihiro Nikai, Secretary General LDP of Japan, Mr. Robert Glasser, Special Representative to United Nations Secretary General, Shri Rajiv Mehershiji, Minister of State for Home, X, Home Secretary.

Excellency's, Governors, chief Ministers, Ministers, Representatives of United Nations, International Organizations, Senior Officials, Media, Distinguished guests.

On behalf of the Government of India and the people of India, I welcome all the distinguished delegates and representatives.

It is indeed a great honour and privilege for Government of India to host the 1st Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction after adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

187 countries at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, in 2015. The Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction 2016 will provide a unique opportunity to shape the implementation and monitoring of Sendai Framework for Asia. On behalf of Government of India I am thankful to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for their continuous support on organizing this conference and express my sincere gratitude for acknowledging India's efforts in disaster risk reduction and designating me as disaster risk reduction Champion for Asian Region.

In the last few decades, Asia Pacific Region has experienced exponential increase in disasters. These have often impeded the achievement of development goals.

The harshest impact is often on the most vulnerable and marginalized people. The impact of natural disasters has been growing rapidly due to global population growth, urbanization, and increased social economic activity with a tenfold increase in losses from disasters since 1970. Sendai is a forward looking and ambitious framework aimed at reducing the number of people, damage to critical infrastructure from disasters by 2030. Successful implementation of Sendai Framework at the national and local level calls for critical attention to its guiding principles and seven global targets.

Countries will need to adopt the guideline and guiding principles while prioritizing action towards seven global targets.

These will entail creation of enabling environment on all levels towards effective and accelerated implementation of the Sendai Framework with the collaboration and cooperation of all governments and stakeholders.

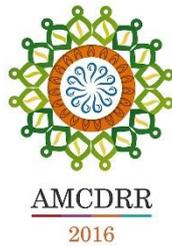
India is amongst the first countries to frame national disaster management plan under the able governance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Our endeavour in the National Disaster Management Plan is to take all the stakeholders along in our effort to build a resilient India. We believe that while government's have to play a central role, Civil Society Organizations, professional bodies, Scientific and technical institutions, and private sector have very important roles to play in this effort.

We need to move from disaster management to disaster risk management approach and to look at it as development governance issue.

This conference will provide a unique opportunity to share the efforts towards disaster preparedness and risk management for effective response and to 'build back better' in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

This conference will provide single platform for meaningful exchange of information and sharing of ideas and also coordination amongst the stakeholders to bring better synergies in the efforts by all stakeholders based off their experiences. I urge all stakeholders to discuss and work together for reducing disaster risk and make Asia region a safer place for sustainable development.

I once again welcome you all to India and wish this conference all the success. Jai Hind.



## **Opening Ceremony Remarks, Mr. Robert Glasser, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction**

Mr. Prime Minister, Ministers, Ambassadors and distinguished delegates, it is an honour to be here today to address you at this Opening Ceremony.

This is the first Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction since the UN World Conference hosted by Japan in March last year when the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted.

The Sendai Framework emphasizes the importance of moving from managing disasters to managing disaster risk if we are to achieve substantial reductions in disaster losses.

In this region, many countries have integrated disaster risk reduction into their overall development planning and there is growing understanding of the importance of a risk sensitive approach to major infrastructure investments in both the private and public sectors. In order to achieve a substantial reduction in disaster losses by 2030, there is a clear need to build on Asia's success in reducing mortality from floods and storms in particular.

And as we look towards the deadline of 2020 for the delivery of a substantial increase in national and local plans for reducing disaster risk, we must embrace the other elements of the 2030 Development Agenda.

There is a clear opportunity to avoid duplication of effort by ensuring that plans for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction complement each other and make the best use of available resources.

Success in building sustainable cities will help reduce disaster losses and Asia is already home to 53% of the world's urban population.

Well managed, hazard-resistant cities offer great opportunities for economic development and access to basic services including health and education.

The Sendai Framework recognizes the importance of regional platforms such as this and its supporting mechanism the ISDR Asia Partnership.

This regional collaboration is vital for strengthening disaster risk governance, a key Sendai priority.

Understanding disaster risk is also vital. We need policies and practices that take account of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, and exposure of persons and assets. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience requires both private and public sector participation and engagement.

Good disaster preparedness is not just about effective response but also about ensuring that the recovery phase is well-planned and risk-aware.

In summary, these are the priorities for action of the Sendai Framework and delivering on those priorities is what has brought us here this week.

On behalf of UNISDR I would like to thank our host the Government of India for its hospitality and for making this important gathering possible.

The expected outcomes of the Conference are:

- An Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework,
- A Political Declaration that reiterates the commitment of governments to disaster risk reduction; and
- Stakeholder Action Statements containing various initiatives to reduce disaster risk

These outcomes will re-affirm the region's leadership on disaster risk management and provide important input to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which will be hosted by the Government of Mexico in May 2017.

I look forward to engaging with many of you in the coming days on this exciting agenda. Thank you for your attention and I wish you a successful Conference.



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## Opening Remarks, Shri Rajnath Singh, Home Minister, Government of India

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji, Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Khuelsukh, Republic of Mongolia, Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal Shri Bimlendra Nidhiji, esteemed colleagues on the dais, distinguished delegates from Asia and Asia-Pacific countries, representatives of United Nations Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, Representatives of Local Bodies from India, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On the occasion of the seventh Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to India. I am grateful to the Ministers, distinguished delegates and representatives of local self-governments who, despite their busy schedule have accepted our invitation to participate in this event. The gathering today collectively represent commitments for a safe and secure world. I hope my Ministry has made all possible efforts to make your stay comfortable here in New Delhi. I hope you all will have a pleasant stay here, and that your visit will be fruitful and rewarding in terms of outcomes and learnings.

Disasters, both natural and man-made are occurring with increased frequency and intensity. The Asian region is especially vulnerable. Eight of the ten disasters in the world occur in Asia, making two-thirds of the world's population vulnerable. We believe that disaster resilience is the collective responsibility of all segments of society, including governments, business community, non-governmental sector, and individuals. If we all work together with a united focus and a shared sense of responsibility to improve disaster resilience, we will be far more effective than the individual efforts of any one sector. This is, therefore, a timely and important conference, a critical first step in implementing the Sendai framework in our region.

Disasters seriously affect our economy, are a set-back to our development efforts and, most of all, cause untold grief to the families who lose their near and dear ones. Moreover, a grieving family is simultaneously faced with loss of both home and livelihood. Minimizing the possibility, and then the impact of this human tragedy at its worst is, in my opinion, amongst the most critical part of the compact between the State and its citizens. It is gratifying to note that the agenda of the conference covers a wide diversity of subjects ranging from risk governance, making world heritage resilient to business and private sector engagement in Disaster Risk Reduction.

I belong to, and have been Chief Minister of a State that is threatened by both earthquakes, and floods. I have witnessed, first hand, the suffering that such disasters bring, and am aware that our activities, such as unregulated building, is adding to the already greater risk, caused by factors such as climate change. It is, therefore, a matter of great satisfaction to me that

our focus is shifting from disaster management, to disaster risk reduction. There is now international acknowledgement that efforts to reduce disaster risks must be systematically integrated into policies, plans and programmes for sustainable development and poverty reduction. We all know, of course, that disaster risk recognizes no political boundaries. This includes risks caused by human actions: disasters in one region can, and will, impact other regions. It is, therefore, also satisfying that today we realize that both disaster risk reduction, and disaster relief need to be supported through bilateral, regional and international cooperation, including partnerships. It is with this spirit of regional and international cooperation that India has supported, and is always ready to support, other countries, especially its neighbours, in disaster mitigation and management efforts. We offer the best we have in terms of technology, capacity building and relief expertise to all those in need. We are uncompromisingly committed to regional and international cooperation in this regard.

In India, our ancestors gave us the concept of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’, which means that the whole planet – with all its human beings, plants, animals, birds and natural resources – is one family. This ancient realization of our inter-connectedness is even more relevant and urgent today. I would like to urge this august gathering to embrace this significant notion and enhance international cooperation through sharing of technology, expertise and necessary resources. Here I would also like to reiterate the commitment made by our Hon’ble Prime Minister in SAARC Summit last year of ensuring India’s help and expertise to its neighbouring countries.

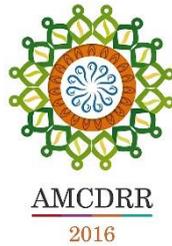
There is a clear need to discuss specific aspects of multilateral dialogue and cooperation such as, establishment of clear channels of communication, sharing scientific knowledge, creation of a database of disaster response capabilities, and pre-positioning of material to shorten response time.

Disasters in India are being handled at all levels – at the National, the State and the District levels. Comprehensive and holistic policies for management of all disasters supported by plans, legal framework and financial arrangements are essential elements of any strategy for their management. The role of the States is crucial in this, as they face the immediate brunt from disasters. We are, of course, committed to doing the utmost to support their endeavour. India has taken up several initiatives to substantially reduce disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, business, communities and countries. On the first day of June 2016, India and Asia’s first ever National Disaster Management Plan was released by the Prime Minister. The Plan outlines a framework for strengthening disaster risk governance at various levels. The Plan also provides a framework for disaster risk reduction through mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development plans.

The AMCDRR is a unique opportunity to come together and provide a sense of urgency to the implementation of Sendai Framework. We have invited a number of officials from our local and State Governments who will have a lot to share with and learn from you. In the run up to the AMCDRR a number of our educational and training institutions have organized

Raiser Events to broaden the engagement on disaster issues and mobilize the capacities of all sections of society.

Before concluding, we pledge our support to 'Asian Regional Plan for implementation of the Sendai Framework', its goals and priorities. We commit ourselves to work with countries in the region to achieve the goals of Sendai Framework towards a safer and resilient Asia and the world against disasters.



## **Inaugural Address by H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister, India**

Distinguished dignitaries on the dais, Ladies and Gentlemen, I welcome you all to New Delhi for this landmark conference, the first after the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

I commend the national disaster risk management agencies, their governments in the Asia-Pacific region, the United Nations, and other stakeholders for coming together for this important cause.

Friends,

2015 was a momentous year! Apart from the Sendai Framework, the international community adopted two other major frameworks to shape the future of humanity:

- the Sustainable Development Goals,
- and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The spirit of inter-connectedness, highlighted in the film, is the hallmark of these global frameworks. The success of each one of these depends on the success of the other two. Disaster Risk Reduction has a pivotal role in supporting adaptation to climate change as well as sustainable development. It is in this context that this conference becomes timely and relevant.

Friends,

Over the last two decades, the world, and especially our region has undergone many changes – most of them positive. Many countries in our region have transformed their economies and become engines of global economic growth. Hundreds of millions of our people have been lifted out of poverty. The Asia-Pacific region has been a global leader in more ways than one. But we must not take this progress for granted. There are challenges as well. Over the last twenty years, more than eight hundred and fifty thousand people died from disasters in the Asia-Pacific. Seven of the top ten countries in the world in terms of number of deaths due to disasters are in the Asia-Pacific.

I have seen for myself the human suffering caused by disasters. I witnessed the Gujarat earthquake of 2001, and later, as Chief Minister of the State, I worked with my people to support post-earthquake recovery. It was distressing to see the suffering of the affected people. But I was also inspired by their courage, ingenuity and resolve to recover from the

disaster. In my experience, the more we relied on people's own leadership, the better were the outcomes. This was not limited only to owner driven reconstruction of houses, but also to construction of community buildings. For example, when we entrusted the community the task of reconstructing a school, the earthquake-resistant building was completed in time, at a lesser cost, and the savings were returned to Government. We need to support such initiative and leadership through policies and practices.

Friends,

We in Asia have learnt from disasters. A quarter century ago, only a handful of Asian nations had national disaster management institutions. Today, over thirty Asian countries have dedicated institutions leading disaster risk management efforts. After the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004, the five worst affected countries brought in new laws for disaster risk management. In a couple of days, we will observe the first International Tsunami Awareness Day. This would be an occasion to celebrate the huge improvements we have made in tsunami early warning. In December 2004, the Indian Ocean Tsunami caught us unprepared, and there was no warning. We now have a fully functional Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System. Along with its Australian and Indonesian counterparts, the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services is mandated to issue regional tsunami bulletins.

The same goes for improvements in cyclone early warning. In India, if we compare the impact of cyclone events in 1999 and 2013, we can see the progress we have made. Similar progress has been made in many countries. For example, after the 1991 cyclone, the Government of Bangladesh launched a large community-based cyclone preparedness programme. It led to a significant reduction in loss of lives from cyclones. It is now recognized as a global best practice.

Friends,

This is just the beginning. There are daunting challenges ahead. The Asia-Pacific is rapidly urbanizing. Perhaps within a decade more people in the region will live in cities than in villages. Urbanization will pose greater challenges for disaster risk management, by concentrating people, property and economic activity in smaller areas, many of them in disaster prone locations. If we do not manage this growth, in terms of both planning and execution, the risk of economic and human losses from disasters will be higher than ever before.

In this context, let me outline a [ten-point agenda](#) for renewing our efforts towards disaster risk reduction:

**First**, all development sectors must imbibe the principles of disaster risk management. This will ensure that all development projects - airports, roads, canals, hospitals, schools, bridges – are built to appropriate standards and contribute to the resilience of communities they seek to serve. Over the next couple of decades, most of the new infrastructure in the world will

come up in our region. We need to ensure that we build it to best available standards of disaster safety. This is a smart strategy, which pays off in the long term.

All our public expenditure must take into account risk considerations. In India, the 'housing for all' programme and 'smart cities' initiative represent such opportunities. India will work with other partner countries and stakeholders to build a coalition or centre for promoting disaster resilient infrastructure in the region. This will help generate new knowledge for hazard risk assessment, disaster resilient technologies and mechanisms for integrating risk reduction in infrastructure financing.

**Second**, work towards risk coverage for all – starting from poor households to small and medium enterprises to multi-national corporations to nation states. Currently, in most countries of the region, penetration of insurance is limited to only middle and upper-middle income groups. We need to think big and also think innovatively. States have an important role in not just regulating but also encouraging coverage for those who need it the most. In India, we have taken bold steps to ensure financial inclusion and risk insurance for the poorest. The Jan Dhan Yojana has brought millions of people into the banking system. The Suraksha Bima Yojana provides risk insurance to millions who need it the most. We have launched the Fasal Bima Yojana, which will provide risk cover to millions of farmers. These are the basic building blocks of resilience at the household level.

**Third**, encourage greater involvement and leadership of women in disaster risk management. Women are disproportionately affected by disasters. They also have unique strengths and insights. We must train a large number of women volunteers to support special needs of women affected by disasters. We need women engineers, masons and building artisans supporting reconstruction, and women self-help groups assisting livelihood recovery.

**Fourth**, invest in risk mapping globally. For mapping risks related to hazards such as earthquakes we have widely accepted standards and parameters. Based on these, in India, we have mapped seismic zones, with five as highest seismic risk and two as low risk. For disaster risk related to other hazards such as chemical hazards, forest fires, cyclones, different types of floods, we need to evolve similar globally accepted risk categories. This will help us ensure that we have a common understanding of the nature and severity of disaster risks in different parts of the world.

**Fifth**, leverage technology to enhance the efficiency of our disaster risk management efforts. An e-platform that brings together organizations and individuals and helps them map and exchange expertise, technology and resources would go a long way in maximizing our collective impact.

**Sixth**, develop a network of universities to work on disaster issues. After all, universities have social responsibilities too. Over the first five years of the Sendai Framework, we should develop a global network of universities working together on problems of disaster risk management. As part of this network, different universities could specialize in multi-

disciplinary research on disaster issues most relevant to them. Universities located in coastal areas could specialize in managing risks from coastal hazards, and the ones located in the hill cities could focus on mountain hazards.

**Seventh**, utilize the opportunities provided by social media and mobile technologies. Social media is transforming disaster response. It is helping response agencies in quickly organizing themselves, and enabling citizens to connect more easily with authorities. In disaster after disaster, affected people are using social media to help each other. We must recognize the potential of social media and develop applications for all aspects of disaster risk management.

**Eighth**, build on local capacity and initiative. The task of disaster risk management, particularly in rapidly growing economies, is so huge that formal institutions of the state can at best be instrumental in creating the enabling conditions. Specific actions have to be designed and implemented locally. Over the last two decades, most community based efforts have been confined to disaster preparedness and contingency planning for the short term. We need to expand the scope of community based efforts and support communities to identify local risk reduction measures and implement them. Such efforts reduce risk and create opportunities for local development and sustainable livelihoods. Localization of disaster risk reduction will also ensure that we make the most of traditional best practices and indigenous knowledge.

Response agencies need to interact with their communities, and make them familiar with the essential drill of disaster response. For example, if a local fire service visits one school in its area every week, it would sensitize thousands of children over a period of one year.

**Ninth**, ensure that the opportunity to learn from a disaster is not wasted. After every disaster there are papers and reports on lessons learnt that are rarely applied. Often the same mistakes are repeated. We need a more vibrant and visual system of learning. The United Nations could start an international competition of documentary films that record disaster events, their scale, and relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and recovery afterwards.

Post-disaster recovery is an opportunity to not just 'build back better' in terms of physical infrastructure, but also in terms of improved institutional systems for managing risk. For this we need to put in place systems that can quickly provide risk assessments. India will work with partner countries and multilateral development agencies to establish a facility for technical support to post-disaster reconstruction of houses.

**And finally**, bring about greater cohesion in international response to disasters. In the aftermath of a disaster, disaster responders pour in from all over the world. This collective strength and solidarity could be enhanced further if we work under a common umbrella. The United Nations could think of a common logo and branding under which all those who are helping with relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction operate.

Friends.

Armed Forces protect nation states against external security threats. But to deal with disasters, we need to equip society with the right education.

We have to wholeheartedly embrace the spirit of Sendai, which calls for an all-of-society approach to disaster risk management.

In India, we are committed to walk the talk on the implementation of Sendai Framework. In June this year, India's National Disaster Management Plan was released which is aligned with the priorities set out in the Sendai Framework.

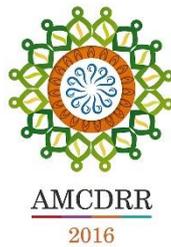
In our effort to build disaster resilience, we stand shoulder to shoulder with all the nations of the region. Regional and International Cooperation has an important role in providing an added push to our efforts.

Last year in November, India organized the first-ever South Asian Annual Disaster Management Exercise. In the spirit of regional cooperation, India will soon launch the South Asia Satellite. The capabilities of this satellite and other space-based technologies can support the full disaster risk management cycle – risk assessment, risk mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. India is ready to make its space capabilities available to any country for purposes of disaster risk management.

As we implement the Sendai Framework, we would welcome new opportunities for regional and international collaboration.

I am sure, this conference will energize our efforts and the outcomes of the conference will provide a solid blueprint for collective action.

Thank you.



## **Annex V: Closing Remarks, Mr. Luis Felipe Puente**

Your excellency Mr. Rajnath Singh, Home Minister of India. Your excellency Mr. Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State for Home Affairs. Dr. Robert Glasser, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. Distinguished heads of delegations. Distinguished Ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corp. Representatives of the public, private, and social organisations. Ladies and Gentleman. Please receive our warm greeting to the world from the President of Mexico, Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto.

The country and culture of Mexico attaches very high importance to DRR. Mexico and countries of Asia share many of the same hazards, and to overcome them we must work together.

I would like to take the opportunity to appreciate the role of the United Nations in facilitating work the field of disaster risk reduction. I wish to express a special thank you to Dr. Robert Glasser for your leadership and enthusiasm that has helped develop the field of disaster risk reduction and the recognition of the hardships of disasters in the international agenda. Also, I would like to thank the Government of India for their hospitality and for presenting the opportunity to bring together the leaders of Asia and provide a platform to discuss disaster risk reduction. We feel proud in joining with you to experience the inaugural International World Tsunami Day.

In Mexico, we are no strangers to natural phenomena that may become disasters. We are a country exposed to a series of geographical and social factors that raise our level of risk. Just to mention some examples, five tectonic plates of high and permanent activity surround us. Each year we face an average of 24 cyclones of various categories and we also have 16 active volcanoes.

To address these hazards, we created a National Civil Protection System for our people, and now it has generated a culture of preparedness focusing on saving lives and giving rights to the Mexican people.

One of the main lessons we have learnt through this is the necessity to maintain and implement disaster risk reduction principles across all levels of government. This fosters a sense of preparedness against hazards.

We know that dealing with preparedness and risk goes beyond what we alone know. One of the messages learnt is that we need to adapt and to adopt the Sendai Framework.

The Sendai Framework is the main tool to create public awareness and political will and the incentives needed for the public and private sectors to reduce disaster risk. To contribute to a worldwide effort, it is essential to create a culture of resilience in order to save lives.

Disasters do not recognize frontiers. We also know that countries working together, supporting each other, can create more possibilities for disaster risk reduction. We can confront any challenge.

Next year on May 22, we will have the honour of hosting the 5th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cancun, Mexico.

In the name of President Enrique Peña Nieto, the Secretary of the Interior in the Cabinet of the President, Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong and I would like to cordially invite you all to join us at this important event to help develop the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

It will be a pleasure to work with you on the Global Platform and we look forward to invitees enjoying the culture and values of the Mexican people. Our diverse culture is full of colour, flavour, sounds, and Mexican hospitality. Please be very welcome in Cancun. We hope to see you there.

Thank you very much.



AMCDRR  
2016

## **Closing Ceremony Remarks, Mr. Robert Glasser, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction**

Ministers, ambassadors, distinguished delegates and conference participants,

On behalf of the UN Secretary General and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction I would like to extend a sincere thanks to the Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, the Home Minister, Mr. Rajnath Singh, the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mr. Kiren Rijju, the Home Secretary, Mr. Rajiv Mehrishi, and all colleagues at the National Disaster Management Authority, for their gracious hospitality and kind collaboration in making these last three days so memorable and rewarding.

Prime Minister Modi set the tone for this Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction when he urged us all to embrace wholeheartedly the spirit of the Sendai Framework.

Today when I see the outcomes from the Conference and the scale of your ambition over the next 14 years for implementing the Sendai Framework, I think the Prime Minister can rest assured that his appeal did not fall on deaf ears.

There have been many outstanding elements in this Conference.

I was very struck by the level of participation from civil society and this came through in many ways from the high level of private sector engagement to the launch of the Local Leaders Forum.

There was an emphasis in many sessions and discussions on the importance of engaging with local actors and empowering groups which are sometimes mistakenly thought of as only vulnerable when really they bring strength and insights into the business of disaster risk management which are not available from other sections of the population.

The Sendai Framework clearly acknowledges the primary responsibility of Government in reducing risk and disaster losses but real success in achieving that depends on an inclusive, all of society approach which gives pride of place to leadership at community level.

Reflecting on how we engage with local groups including women and girls, people living with disabilities, elderly persons, children and youth is important as we prepare to meet the 2020 deadline for a substantial increase in national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction.

An important caveat was highlighted yesterday during the technical session on review and monitoring implementation of the Sendai Framework. And it is that we must also ensure that resources are made available at the local level to enable the implementation of those strategies. There is little point in having a strategy if there is not means and the political will to implement it.

The debate and discussions we have had here on the indicators for measuring progress on achieving the seven targets of the Sendai Framework will enrich the final session of the intergovernmental working group which will meet in Geneva in two weeks from now to decide on a final set of global indicators.

We expect their recommendation will be adopted by the UN General Assembly in early 2017. This will be followed by a readiness review at national level in time for the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction next May in Mexico.

We aim to have full monitoring of the implementation of the Sendai Framework underway by 2020, three short years from now.

It is good to note that several of the Sendai Framework indicators will also serve as indicators for achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Similarly, I am confident that there will be significant complementarity between those national disaster risk reduction plans and the national plans for climate change adaptation which will be developed now that the Paris Agreement has been ratified.

Coherence between DRR, the SDGs and the Paris Agreement has been a strong theme running through this Conference.

The DRR community realizes more than any other how much climate change is affecting disasters and that we will be dealing with the consequences for many years to come given existing levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

This region now has a road map which is ambitious and completely aligned with the Sendai seven targets and the priorities for action.

The milestones until 2030 are clear; from the early establishment of national disaster loss data bases to achievements in the reduction of mortality, numbers of people affected, economic losses and damage to critical infrastructure.

And the region has already a great well of expertise to draw on when it comes to further improvements in access to multi-hazard early warning systems.

In this regard, it was encouraging to hear of India's offer to make its new satellite available for the purposes of improving disaster risk management across the region. I am sure there is plenty more scope for such sharing of technology and expertise.

There is clear recognition in this hazard-prone region of the fact that disasters know no borders and therefore require strong regional cooperation and collaboration such as we have seen here over the last three days. This is the true spirit of Sendai in action.

This region also knows to its cost that some disasters have no season. Today we are commemorating World Tsunami Awareness Day for the first time and we are reminded that no other single disaster over the last twenty years has caused as much grief and suffering as the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004 which cost 230,000 lives in countries across the region including those of thousands of visitors.

Japan has done much to make World Tsunami Awareness Day a reality and we have been honoured this week to have so many distinguished guests from Japan here with us to share their experience, knowledge and understanding of this rare but deadly threat.

A report just released by Tohoku University examines 400 years of tsunami data which demonstrates that the historical record shows that few regions of the world have not experienced this phenomenon.

The worst disasters that could happen have not happened yet. Reducing the risk of them happening is more important in Asia than any other region of the world given the high levels of exposure to disaster risk.

The three outcome documents of this Conference are vital to that effort and build on the guidance to be found in the Sendai Framework. They are:

- The Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework,
- The Delhi Declaration that reiterates the commitment of governments to disaster risk reduction; and
- Stakeholder Action Statements containing various initiatives to reduce disaster risk

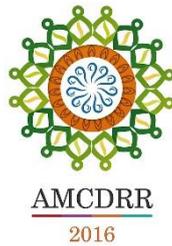
They capture perfectly the spirit of Sendai and provide a major stimulus to achieving not just the targets set out in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction but the overall 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Disaster risk reduction plays an important role in eradicating poverty and empowering disaster-affected communities.

In two years we will have another opportunity to discuss progress at regional level, hosted by the Government of Mongolia. The road to resilience has taken us from Sendai to New Delhi and the next stop is Ulan Bator.

I hope to see you all there, alive and well and bursting with the same kind of enthusiasm for this important work as was shown by the Indian Prime Minister in his rousing speech on the opening day of this Conference.

I thank you all for your participation and wish you safe travel home.



## **Closing Remarks, Dr. P. K. Mishra, Additional Principal Secretary to Prime Minister of India**

Hon'ble Home Minister of India Shri Rajnath Singhji. Other dignitaries on the dais, distinguished delegates and participants. It is indeed a privilege for me to participate in this closing ceremony of this landmark conference.

The enthusiasm in which more than 4000 participants from all sort of society participated in this conference illustrates that the practice of disaster management and disaster risk reduction has come up in our region. The very fact that so many people are also here in this closing ceremony, normally when the valedictory of the closing ceremony is held the number becomes much less. But here the enthusiasm which is visible today is itself an indication that there is so much of commitment to the cause of disaster risk reduction.

I had the opportunity of being present at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015 in Sendai, where our Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singhji, had announced that India would host the first AMCDRR in the context of the Sendai Framework.

Today all of us look back with a sense of satisfaction that the conference had overwhelming presence and was very successful. And the presence of Shri Rajnath Singhji in this closing ceremony itself is an indication of the commitment of Government of India to disaster risk reduction. The credit of the success of the conference goes to Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs, the UNISDRR and all of you who have actively participated.

The quality of discussion during the conference was very high.

I had the opportunity to chair the featured event on disaster resilient infrastructure. I was impressed not just with the ideas put forward by the panellists but also with the kind of response during the discussion we had from the participants. The level of engagement, the exchange of ideas and the intense deliberations on different aspects of implementation of the Sendai Framework leave us with a sense of great optimism and a sense of hope that we will be able to do much more than we have done so far.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as was highlighted by our Prime Minister, Asia is disproportionately affected by disasters. There is a trend of increasing losses, but trend is not destiny. The trend can be arrested and even reversed provided we stay on the course that we have chartered for ourselves during the conference.

If we stay on the path we have defined through the Asia Regional Plan we can hope to celebrate the achievement of Sendai targets and in particular reduction of losses in terms of mortality, number of affected people, economic losses, infra-structure losses by 2030. In his inaugural address, our Prime Minister highlighted a 10 point agenda and emphasized the whole-of-society spirit of the Sendai Framework.

I am told that these ideas found a lot of resonance throughout the conference in various technical and thematic sessions. Given the multiple dimension of disaster risk and the process lying underneath the accumulation of disaster risk, it is important that we continue to enlarge the discussion on disaster risk management.

I hope all of us will carry back to our respective countries and reach out to multiple audiences and stakeholders within the countries to truly make disaster risk management everybody's business.

An example is this conference itself. Normally in similar conferences the participants are mostly delegates and those who are invited. Probably for the first time in such a global level conference, people of this country of course because they are near, from district and sub-district level, those who are functionaries of the government agencies, and even elected people were invited and all of them participated in large numbers. Some of them I met yesterday and they were extremely thrilled and enthusiastic and they felt they have gained a lot from this conference.

At the technical level, we are very pleased with the finalized of the Asia Regional Plan and agreement on its implementation.

Its intended spirit is to provide a sense of urgency and establish specific milestones on the road to 2030.

Ladies and Gentlemen, various aspects of disaster risk reduction have been discussed over the past few days. We have an important task before us over the next couple of years. These are foundational years for the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

We have to agree on an indicator framework, as was also mentioned by Mr. Robert Glasser, as well as a system of measurement of progress.

This will require not only global and regional level work but also national and local level work. We have a lot of hard work ahead of us in terms of establishing baselines, strengthening or establishing a system of data collection as well as developing capacities for analysis and application.

The task of establishing baselines and setting up systems for collection of data is in a sense a backroom function of implementation of the Sendai Framework.

These activities neither yield immediate benefits, nor provide visibility to those involved in implementing them. However, if we want to truly know the effectiveness of our policies and plans, and if we truly want to enter the next generation of disaster risk reduction, this work absolutely fundamental.

In this regard I hope this conference has helped foster a sense of community of disaster risk practitioners across the Asia Pacific region and that we will have the opportunity to work together on this important endeavour.

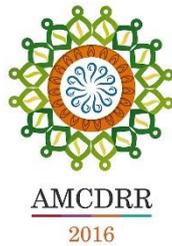
There are other strains of work emerging from this conference that will require follow-up. Each of the featured events came up with specific follow-up actions. As a follow-on to the event on disaster resilient infrastructure, we will work with all partners to give shape to our coalition, or similar arrangement, on disaster resilient infrastructure.

We look forward to continuing our engagement in the follow-up to all six technical sessions as well as thematic sessions.

We hope that when we meet in Mongolia in a couple of years, we will have a lot to share in terms of progress made in laying the foundations for implementation of the Sendai Framework.

We look forward to seeing you again in the forthcoming events.

Thank you very much.



## Closing Remarks, Shri Kiren Rijiju, MoS (Home), Government of India

After three days of extensive deliberations, we have come to an end of this eventful Conference. This is truly an international event, where delegates of 51 countries and 9 UN agencies and numerous International Organizations were present. Besides, representative of civil society, private sector and Local Self Governments, Disaster Management Authorities, and State Governments from India have also participated in the Conference. More than 4000 participants attended the inaugural session.

We started the Conference with an inspirational speech from the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. He introduced a 10 point agenda for renewing the effort of disaster risk reduction. The 10 point agenda focuses on imbibing the principle of disaster risk management in all developmental sector, work towards risk coverage for all starting from poor households to small and medium enterprises to multinational companies, greater involvement and leadership of women in disaster risk management, investment in risk mapping, leveraging technology to enhance efficiency of our disaster risk management efforts, developing a network of universities to work on disaster issues, utilizing the opportunities provided by social media and mobile technologies, building on local capacity & initiative, learning from a disaster and greater cohesion among international agencies in response to disasters.

In the three [Ministerial Sessions](#) each participating country outlined their line of action for fulfilling the objective of disaster risk reduction under the Sendai Framework. We have seen that all the countries are committed towards implementing the objective of Sendai Framework.

The deliberations during three Featured Events have provided insightful and practical suggestions on preventing new risks from being created in the Asia-Pacific region. The first featured event on "Risk Resilient Infrastructure for Sustainable Development" has emphasized the need for strengthening and developing standards & norms for new infrastructure, need for capacity building for enforcing standards, risk assessment of new infrastructure being created, use of latest scientific and technological knowledge for reducing risk and evolving a mechanism for continuing collaborative efforts in future to come. The second featured event of "Application of science and technology for prevention of new risks" has outlined the need for applying new scientific and technological tools and knowledge for disaster risk reduction. The third featured event on "Strengthening regional cooperation for implementation of the Sendai Framework in Asia" has deliberated on how regional cooperation has made a difference in advancing DRR agenda in Asia.

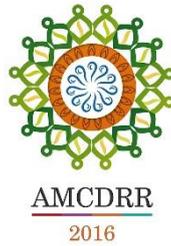
We also have 22 thematic events during the Conference, where stakeholders from governments, civil society and private stakeholders have dwelt on issues such as Gender sensitive DRR, Child-centred DRR etc., at length.

Recently, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted a resolution to designate 'November 5' as World Tsunami Awareness Day every year. The purpose of tsunami day is to raise awareness among people in the world of the dangers of tsunami and stressing the importance of early warning systems in order to mitigate damage. I am glad that we have observed the [first Tsunami Awareness day](#) during this Conference.

This Conference has provided a regional platform to all stakeholders to share their ideas for making the whole region disaster resilient. Involvement of all stakeholders is very much required for fulfilling the goal and objective of the Sendai Framework. I am glad that all the stakeholders have been part of this conference and made the stakeholders' statement.

The next AMCDRR Conference will be hosted by the Republic of Mongolia. I wish them all the success.

With these words, I thank you all for participating in the Conference and making it a great success. I hope that deliberations in the Conference would be useful in managing the risk from natural disaster in better way. I hope your stay in Delhi was pleasant and you will return again to this historic city.



## **Closing Remarks, Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, MOS (Home), Government of India.**

Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh Ji, Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia, Delegates sitting on the dais, all ministers, and member delegates from different countries and ladies and gentlemen.

On the occasion of the closing ceremony of this conference which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi Ji I am delighted to mention that your presence in this conference has been remarkable. I would like to thank all the delegates from 50 countries and states, whose presence has made this conference a success, I am grateful to you. I would like to make special mention of my colleague MoS Hon'ble Sri Kiren Rijiju Ji, Home Secretary and others who have worked very hard at every level possible to ensure a successful conference. I am grateful to you all.

This conference is based on the framework decided in Sendai where around 187 member countries participated and decided the next course of action in terms of disaster risk reduction, based on which we organised the AMCDRR 2016. Whatever decisions and strategies that were planned in the field of technology especially for research, with the help of the participating members in these 3 days, will be a decisive factor for upcoming generations.

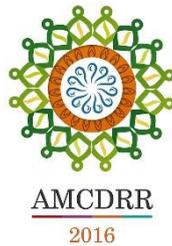
This conference made us understand that we all have to face disasters and we all together should be fully prepared to overcome the situation. The thoughts and the guidelines put forward by our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji can serve as a pilot not only for our country but also for the world, to join hands in mitigating disasters.

I am extremely happy that we all have gathered here to alleviate disasters, as these disasters not only harm people and animals but also are a threat to our natural resources and infrastructure. I thank you again for making this conference a success, especially today when we are celebrating the International Tsunami Awareness Day as the programme comes to a close.

It is an honour for us to host the AMCDRR 2016, where so many delegates participated, and I hope this conference proves to be a path breaker for you.

Many thanks to all of you present here.

Jai Hind.



**Closing Remarks of H.E. Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia, for the closing ceremony of the 2016 Asian ministerial conference on risk reduction.**

Dear Ministers and heads of delegations,

Dear guests and delegates, ladies and gentlemen  
Good morning!

On behalf of the Government of Mongolia and myself, I extend my sincere gratitude to the Government of India and UNISDR for successfully organizing the first Asian ministerial conference on disaster risk reduction in New Delhi!

As a result of three days full of deliberations and discussions, we have adopted the Asian regional action plan to implement the Sendai framework on disaster risk reduction, and the New Delhi Declaration which reflects our commitments for reducing disaster risks in our region.

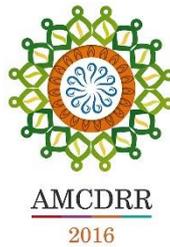
The issues addressed by the Asian ministerial conference and our goals enshrined in the Asian regional action plan are the strong indication that we have much work to do ahead of us. We have jointly recognized the vital necessity to strengthen the coherence between the Sustainable development goals, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction efforts, and to shift from the disaster management system towards the disaster risk management system in our vision to ensure the sustainable development of our region.

Dear ladies and gentlemen:

The Government of Mongolia in cooperation with UNISDR will host the second Asian ministerial conference on disaster risk reduction in Ulaanbaatar city in 2018, and we look forward for your support and partnership in organizing this event successfully.

On behalf of the Government of Mongolia, I extend our heartfelt invitation to our beautiful Mongolia! I wish all of you the best!

Thank you, India! Welcome to Mongolia! Thank you for attention.



## **Closing Remarks, Shri Rajnath Singh, Home Minister, Government of India**

Three days of an eventful and, I hope, fruitful journey has come to an end today. I thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for his dynamic leadership in the successful organization of this Conference. We should specially take note of the suggestion and announcements made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, especially the following:

- India's offer to build a coalition or centre for promoting disaster resilient infrastructure.
- India's offer to work with partner agencies and multilateral agencies to establish a facility for technical support to post-disaster construction of houses. I hope India's contribution of US 1 million dollars will be used as seed money towards this.
- India's offer to make its space capabilities available to any country for the purpose of disaster risk management.
- Focus on the greater involvement of women in both disaster risk management and post-disaster management.
- Consolidating traditional practices of risk reduction, evolved and perfected over centuries.

We are also fully committed to fulfil the 10-point agenda outlined by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

As you are all aware, the Sendai Framework focuses on preventing new disaster risks, reducing existing disaster risks and strengthening disaster resilience. It also calls for various measures to prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability, and increase preparedness for recovery. This requires a shift from stand-alone disaster management to a more holistic risk resilient development practice supported by regional and international cooperation. By hosting the First Regional Platform, this Asian Ministerial Conference of 2016, India has underlined its commitment to such cooperation.

This Conference has provided us a platform not only to share our experiences and best practices but also arriving at a consensus roadmap to implement the Sendai Framework in our region. Six Technical Sessions based on the priorities of the Sendai Framework were organized during the Conference. During Thematic Sessions issues of "Promoting Educational Continuity and Resilience of Children", "Application of Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction" and "Strategies and Actions for Build Back Better" were discussed. The first major outcome is the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The other major outcome is the New Delhi Declaration, which commits use of enhancing regional cooperation. This includes strengthening the role of Inter-governmental Organizations for the coherent implementation of the Sendai Framework, as

also the broader 2030 sustainable development agenda, and of fostering innovative partnerships.

Having made a good beginning, we should now ensure that our nations and communities are enabled:

- In devising strategies on knowledge sharing, risk information system development and assessment of potential risks to make preparatory movements in advance;
- Analysing community resilience and promoting hazard safe sectoral development, with greater use of reliable technologies;
- To make risk-informed decisions to prevent and reduce future hazards;
- Put in place methods of assessing the potential impacts of disasters on national, local economies, communities and the business sector;
- Recognize the perils of growing and often un-planned urbanization induced by the path of economic development that we have adopted;
- Focus on mainstreaming the marginalized sections, who are most vulnerable and suffer irreparable losses in natural or man-made disasters;
- Sharing the knowledge base and advance technologies especially with the under developed economies; and enable investments in multi-hazard early warning systems.

To conclude, I would like to express my sincere thanks to UNISDR for organizing this Conference in India. I would also like to congratulate all our Teams, Ministers, Officials, agencies from my own Ministry and our sister Ministries, Officials and Staff of National Disaster Management Authority, Delhi Police, National Disaster Response Force and National Institute of Disaster Management, NDMC, Delhi Fire Service and the Defence Exhibition Organization, who worked assiduously to make this conference a grand success.

My heartfelt thanks to all the participants for joining their hands together towards making the Asian Region disaster resilient. I hope your stay in India was comfortable, and you will take time off to experience the wondrous experience that multi-cultural India is.

