



ASIAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

□ PREVENTING DISASTER RISK: PROTECTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT □

● 03 – 06 July 2018 ● Ulaanbaatar ● Mongolia

Statement of Action:

Joint Faith Based Organizations' (FBOs) Statement for the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

(Members of the Asia-Pacific Faith Based Coalition are:

Action by Churches Together Alliance (ACT Alliance); Arigatou International; Islamic Relief Worldwide; Soka Gakkai International (SGI) & World Vision International)

1. Major Achievements and Challenges Observed

We, the Asia Pacific Faith-based Coalition for sustainable development (APFC), are a regional coalition with all member organizations having a presence in the Asia-Pacific Region. We are a learning, sharing and action-oriented coalition of FBOs of different faiths committed to sustainable development. At the core of the mission of FBOs is the will to address the root causes of vulnerabilities and to bring hope and well-being to the communities at the margins of society. Our work embeds us in communities-at-risk.

FBOs are deeply rooted in communities and nations, with a unique reach to poor and vulnerable people through development, humanitarian, diaconal and spiritual action. FBOs are present in remote and hard-to-reach areas, where sometimes no other institutions work. This, in combination with vast experience in development and humanitarian work, provides FBOs with a unique understanding of the needs and capacities of the poor and the marginalized. This is an asset for the effective implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) which places a strong focus on reducing the risk and protection gaps among the most vulnerable.

Faith-based groups play a crucial role in the localization of risk reduction, resilience building and humanitarian action. They are always among the first to respond in emergencies, providing shelter during evacuation and meeting other basic needs (i.e. food, water, clothing) of those affected. They are often a source of community-based and managed social capital for healing and recovery. Furthermore, FBOs are active in the contribution of substantial material as well as financial and social resources for risk prevention, reduction and humanitarian action worldwide, and particularly in Asia.

FBOs can complement other aid sectors' activity at the grassroots level, by contributing as vectors to localize humanitarian response and preparedness.

They can enhance mainstreaming of risk reduction and response preparedness measures in development programming as well.

2. Key Opportunities Identified

In order to effectively support the implementation of the SFDRR in the Asia and Pacific region, we, the Asia Pacific Faith Coalition have identified the following key opportunities and call on Governments and Partners to:

- A. Recognize the value of empowerment in the enhancement of social capital and social safety nets in order to address climate and disaster-related risks and the role of LFCs in such enhancement. Investing in entitlements which affirm human rights and dignity is key to reducing vulnerabilities to evolving and powerful natural and human-induced hazards which the humanity now faces.
- B. Strengthen the synergy between the implementation of the SFDRR, the Paris Climate Agreement, the WHS Commitments to Action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by giving priority to reduction of vulnerabilities and resilience building. Affirm the importance of implementing these frameworks in a manner that is inclusive, ambitious, equitable, gender sensitive and cognizant of human rights.
- C. Address root causes of vulnerabilities such as socio-economic inequality and exclusion through public and private sectors' investment in risk prevention and reduction, resilience, and sustainable development.
- D. Provide an enabling environment for innovation, policy dialogues, and access to technologies which address practical and strategic climate and disaster-related risks such as water security in the face of droughts or slow-onset hazards as well as displacement and loss or damage of economic and non-economic assets due to rapid onset events affecting Asia-Pacific.

3. Commitments to Implement the Action Plan 2018-2020

In order to effectively support the implementation of the SFDRR in the Asia and Pacific region, we, the Asia Pacific Faith Coalition have identified the following commitments to implement the Action Plan in furtherance of which we call on Governments and Partners to:

- A. Support the meaningful and substantive engagement of FBOs and Local Faith Communities (LFCs) in SFDRR processes to provide the opportunity to reach the most at-risk communities, even in remote conditions, and engage them in resilience-building and decision-making processes.
- B. Collaborate with FBOs and LFCs and use their capacity to communicate with local communities with the aim of raising the level of understanding and awareness on and the benefits of investments in DRR and climate change so as to avoid losses of lives and damage to assets.
- C. Involve FBOs and LFCs at all levels (international, national and local levels) to assist in the monitoring of the DRR impact based on the SFDRR indicators as

well as the Asia Regional Plan for implementation of SFDRR for the purposes of better risk governance.

- D. Use and encourage the collaborative networks of LFCs/FBOs across the region to respond to the causes and impact of disasters and climate change by raising investments for resilience at the local, national, regional, and global levels.
- E. Allocate resources to FBOs and LFCs to develop and implement DRR measures, both in terms of risk mapping, prevention/mitigation and resilience building projects/activities, as well as preparedness activities and early action against disasters.
- F. Engage and support FBOs in relief and post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation to galvanize local humanitarian response / preparedness and to facilitate effective and efficient initiatives which will enable communities to BUILD BACK BETTER.