Statement for the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference for DRR
by the Japan Women’s Network for Disaster Risk Reduction (JWNDRR)

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The JWNDRR has been active to advocate the Government of Japan for the revision of DRR policies and mechanisms with a gender and diversity perspective, since its inception in March 2011, after the great earthquake and tsunami hit eastern Japan. Also, the JWNDRR has made specific policy proposals regarding the formulation of the Sendai Framework for DRR from a gender and diversity perspective as a member of global Women Major Group.

To realize the Sendai Framework, we, the JWNDRR, have organized a series of seminars and workshops with development partners, such as JICA, the World Bank, UNWomen; the private sector, and CSOs. Also, the JWNDRR has been conducting research works of recovery efforts from a gender and diversity perspective.

Through these activities we recognize that the inclusive consensus-building and dialogic democratic process is required to and crucial in DRR efforts at all stages of disaster preparedness, response, recovery, reconstruction, and prevention. At the stages of recovery and reconstruction, in particular, the voices of diverse groups should be reflected into urban planning and reconstruction of houses and seawalls. It is important for citizens, local government, and private sectors to make efforts to discuss such issues and reach consensus on them not only post-disaster period, but from ordinary times. As seven years have already passed since the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, the importance of inclusive consensus-building has come to be recognized as one of the most critical challenges for gender-responsive DRR.

Furthermore, we would propose the following points:

(1) Each government and international communities should improve disaster-related data collection by sex, age, disabilities and other social attributes. These become foundation for any activities.
(2) Each government and international communities should promote capacity building of women and people with disabilities, in particular. These groups need to be engaged in DRR planning and management to play the leading roles in DRR.
(3) We should strengthen collaboration among CSOs and governments, UN organizations and international organizations, and share lessons of these issues in Asia through learning events, such as seminars and workshops at all levels.

http://jwndrr.org/en/