



**DRAFT JOINT STATEMENT
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
(ASEAN)**

**FOR THE ASIAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2018 (AMCDRR-2016)**

3-6 July 2018

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

We, the Ministers in charge of disaster management in the 10 Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, composed of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, join our hands as One ASEAN in the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2018 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

We reaffirm our strong commitment to regional and international efforts in reducing disaster risks in order to achieve sustainability and risk resilient development, and we support the effective implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 which offer a solution for

saving lives, livelihoods and assets as well as for reducing the fiscal burden on governments. As the cornerstone of ASEAN's efforts to addressing disasters, we recognize the priorities of the Sendai Framework and its seven (7) global targets.

We also proclaim our support to the implementation of the Asia Regional Plan (ARP) for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in line with the 8 priorities of AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020 and congratulate the development of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration 2018. In connection to this, we remain committed to accelerating action to develop and implement national and local strategies on disaster risk reduction to reduce disaster losses.

With the theme of 2018 AMCDRR on "Preventing Disaster Risk: Protecting Sustainable Development", we acknowledge the interdependence of disaster risks and sustainable development and note that reducing disaster risks would be better achieved through enhancing innovative approaches as enunciated in the ASEAN Leaders' Statement at the 32nd ASEAN Summit in April 2018, that emphasized the theme of building a resilient and innovative ASEAN amidst rapid changes in Southeast Asia and beyond.

The year 2017 marked a defining moment for the region as the ASEAN Leaders adopted the “ASEAN Declaration on Culture of Prevention for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society” which underscores ASEAN’s resolve to promote the overall well-being of its peoples, and the need to promote the culture of resilience and care for the environment with the engagement of the three ASEAN Community Pillars. The Declaration will foster the building of a cohesive ASEAN community that is peaceful and stable which will bring more opportunities for economic growth and socio-cultural development.

We concede the importance of preventing disaster risks through promoting risk-sensitive public and private investments, especially on resilient infrastructure as well as smart and resilient cities, that enable building disaster resilience in the 10 ASEAN Member States.

We encourage the integration of DRR in urban and spatial planning towards resilience-building and promote city-to-city cross-learning among “resilient cities” in Asia-Pacific. We commit to institutional preparedness that is necessary to ensure business continuity of basic services and critical infrastructures during disasters or emergencies by incorporating continuity planning in disaster management strategies.

We acknowledge the need for increased investments, capacities, research, and tools development for managing impacts of Climate Change

including extreme weather events, slow-onset disasters such as drought, and other climate-related hazards.

The region is also committed to strengthening coordination and collaboration among education and disaster management stakeholders and other sectors to ensure the implementation of school safety initiative at all levels. The ASEAN Safe Schools Initiative (ASSI) is good practice for regional implementation of Comprehensive School Safety (CSS) bringing together government and civil society organizations (CSOs).

We stress the need for strengthening local capacities to cope with disaster risks and for enhancing community and local resilience against hazards. ASEAN continues to support the establishment of new and strengthening of existing local and national platforms on disaster risk reduction, with the active engagement of local and national stakeholders. In building resilience of poor and vulnerable households to natural hazards, we affirm the commitment of ASEAN Leaders to scale-up the risk informed social protection to address poverty, reduce inequalities and contribute to a higher living standard.

Consistent with this year's ASEAN Theme, we promote innovative technology and research to address localized and community-level risks and the needs of the most vulnerable people, including scaling up effective early warning systems and its translation into early action.

We commit to enhancing the active participation of children, youth, women and other at-risk groups to play leading roles before, during and after disasters. Within the premise of “leaving no-one behind,” ensure the protection of at-risk groups including children, youth, women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and other groups at risk during disasters or emergencies.

We will continue to work together as one ASEAN to “develop with disaster risks in mind” and address “disaster risk with sustainable development in mind” as *building right the first time* is a safer and better investment than *building back better* after a disaster.

This daunting challenge is not a task of our national governments alone but everyone in the region. We therefore encourage the youth and the elderly, women, professionals, the private sector, local and sub-national governments, the academe, the media, differently-abled people international organizations, NGOs and grassroots organizations, think-tanks and our existing and potential partners to work with us so we can prevent and reduce disaster risks in Southeast Asia towards a more sustainable development of our region.

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