

**Statement of Commitments
of the UNISDR Asia-Pacific Stakeholder Group of Individuals and Organizations
concerned with Gender (Gender Stakeholder Group)
to the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia 3-6 July 2018**



The Sendai Framework emphasizes that women's participation and leadership is critical to effectively manage disaster risk. It acknowledges that 'overall, women, children and people in vulnerable situations were disproportionately affected from disasters over the decade of 2005-15' and that 'Governments should engage with relevant stakeholders, including women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, poor people, migrants, indigenous peoples, volunteers, the community of practitioners and older persons in the design and implementation of policies, plans and standards'.

The Stakeholder Group for Gender and Women's Issues was first constituted in 2012 as part of the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) Platform for DRR, to provide concerted focus and coherent guidance on this theme. The focus on diversity and social inclusion was later articulated to be aspects the group should also address. However, as this still needs discussion, the Group will continue to primarily engage in gender equality and concerns of women while beginning the larger conversation on social inclusion, and refer to itself as the Gender Stakeholder Group.

The Gender Stakeholder Group continues to engage in translating the commitments made in the Sendai Framework, subsequent recommendations and action plans to practical steps through dialogue, consultations, analysis and documentation.

Notable progress has been made since the 2016 AMCDRR particularly in the area of creating awareness about the importance of addressing gender equality in DRR for resilience building and increasing political will to implement, which is demonstrated in positive steps such as revision of national policies, establishment of data collection mechanisms and developing guidelines. However, there remains a need to translate the political will and intent into concrete actions leading to expected results towards gender equality and social inclusion aiming at transformative changes.

This statement of commitment by the Gender Stakeholder Group is constituted to support the revised Asia Regional Plan for 2018 to 2020 towards achieving this.

The Major achievements and challenges observed in the last two years

- 1) Initiation of new policies or revisions on gender and social inclusion in Disaster Risk Management, including increased partnerships between government and stakeholder agencies on issues such as disaster data and protection.
- 2) Increased capacity development on gender and social inclusion, including recognition of Gender Based Violence and Sexual Reproductive Health in disaster emergency response

- 3) Increased focus on developing guidelines and tools for collecting sex age and disability disaggregated data, conducting assessments and analysis based on this data, as well as increased evidence and documentation on good practices on gender and social inclusion
- 4) Increased opportunities for discussion on gender inclusion as well as representation of women's organizations in National Coordination mechanisms and platforms for DRR

Key opportunities identified

- 1) To proactively make use of the National Sendai and SDGs monitoring frameworks and indicators of progress to track gender and social inclusion in disaster risk management
- 2) To effectively utilize National and local DRR coordination platform to engage women's organizations and other at risk groups.
- 3) At regional level, facilitate dialogues between related stakeholder's groups, for instance those addressing Youth, Gender, and Disability issues

Commitments to implement the Action Plan 2018-2020

The Gender Stakeholder Group has worked intensely in the past years to address gender equality and social inclusion in disaster risk reduction.

Specifically, in the next two years (2019-2020), **we commit to undertake** the following actions in support of the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework and report back at the 2020 AMCDRR:

1: Understanding disaster risk, vulnerabilities and capacities of women and other diverse groups is essential for designing gender responsive DRR mechanisms and interventions. We commit to support NDMO and sectoral agencies, policy makers and other key stakeholders to:

- Facilitate partnership, common understanding and ownership within governments and all related stakeholders on collection and use of sex, age and disability disaggregated data (SADDD) and gender analysis in disaster risk management.
- Carry out capacity building activities on SADD analysis for gender responsive DRM planning (including those relating to SDGs and CC).

2: Inclusive Risk Governance: In order to ensure policies and plans address gender equality and are inclusive of the issues of all at risk groups, we commit to:

- Engage with government and stakeholders to ensure that National Sendai and SDG monitoring frameworks include measures on gender equality and social inclusion (in meeting Sendai Target 'e')
- Leverage existing coordination mechanisms on DRR and humanitarian action for greater advocacy and partnerships for advancing gender equality and social inclusion.

3. Strengthening capacity of and empowering women and socially marginalized is a key to build resilient societies. Specifically, we commit to provide support to:

- Strengthen and develop capacity of women, in all their diversity, and women's organizations to ensure resilience of local women in communities

- Ensure specific needs of women and girls, including prevention and response to Gender Based Violence and Sexual Reproductive Health are included in National and local DRR plans, policies and programmes
- Support women's groups and other marginalised groups to connect successfully with local government DRR processes.

4. Institutional and coordination arrangements: Institutional coordination is a critical issue for effective gender and social inclusion, including having dedicated personnel, institutions and national platforms. We commit to support national governments to:

- Increase participation of women, in all their diversity, and women organizations in regional, national and local DRR coordination mechanisms and platforms.
- Increase capacity of local government on DRR and gender equality and social inclusion (GESI), on implementing policy at local level.
- Ensure the inclusion of milestones and indicators of progress for GESI in the revision of Gender Guidance Note.
- Use the IAP and AMCDRR mechanisms to support targets and plan of action/ roadmap for GESI, including review and report Progress.

To support stakeholders in delivering on our commitments¹, by 2020 we call on Government and other partners to:

- 1) Enable systematic collection of sex, age and disability disaggregated data (SADDD), to be used as the basis for gender and social diversity analysis to inform DRM policies and programmes and monitor progress at all levels.
- 2) Ensure meaningful representation and participation of diverse women and women's organizations and engaging them in decision making in every aspect and at all levels of disaster risk reduction.
- 3) Incorporate gender equality and social inclusion measures into national and local disaster risk reduction strategies in meeting their commitments towards Sendai target 'e'.
- 4) Ensure monitoring and accountability mechanisms include targets and indicators for gender equality and social inclusion as well as resilience of the most vulnerable, with sufficient budgets and personnel allocation in the national monitoring systems of Sendai Framework and the SDG s.
- 5) Base disaster preparedness, 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, and persons of diverse gender identities in all their attributes and diversity, including persons with disabilities; drawing on the support of gender and social inclusion agencies and institutions, both in the development and DRR sphere.

¹ The Gender Stakeholder Group includes representation of national governments, bilateral agencies, UN agencies, the regional IASC working group on Gender in Humanitarian Action, civil society organisations and individuals in the region prioritising gender responsive implementation in DRR. The GSHG group members making the above commitments are specifically – Duryog Nivaran, UNFPA, ADPC, UN Women, JICA, Christian Aid, IPPF, NRA Nepal, CBS Nepal, WFDMSG including FEDO, Practical Action, AIDMI, Janathakshan, CARE.