



JOINT STATEMENT  
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)  
FOR THE GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2019 (GPDRR-2019)

*13 – 17 May 2019*

*Geneva, Switzerland*

*(To be delivered by the Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement,  
Myanmar on behalf of Chair of ACDM 2019)*

1 We, the Members of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), composed of the 10 Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations: Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the 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 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland.

2 Guided by the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and its Work Programme

2016-2020, and supported by ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) we continue to accelerate our efforts in building a disaster resilient region with the capability to prevent, mitigate, respond, and build back better.

3 We are concerned about the significant impact of Climate Change and extreme weather events in ASEAN countries, including drought and other slow onset disasters. In this connection, ASEAN and UNESCAP have recently launched a report of the joint study on enhancing drought risk assessment and early warning services in CLMV (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam) countries. In relation to the mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), ASEAN adopted the Work Plan for Strengthening Institutional and Policy Framework on DRR and CCA Integration, working towards promoting gender mainstreaming and elevating the role of women as key humanitarian actors in DRR and CCA.

4 Building upon the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) where we proclaimed our support to the implementation of the Asia Regional Plan (ARP) and the Ulaanbaatar Declaration for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030, ASEAN remains committed to accelerating action to develop and implement national and local strategies on DRR to reduce disaster losses as guided by established ASEAN frameworks. Regularly organize the ASEAN Day for Disaster Management (ADDM) jointly with the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR).

5 ASEAN continues to gain footholds in addressing the various challenges in the implementation of the SFDRR by (i) incorporating DRR not only into disaster management but, also other sectors such as education and health, and (ii) enhancing coordination and engagement among various stakeholders with more focus on the importance of prevention and mitigation of disasters.

6 Strengthening local capacities to cope with disaster risks and enhancing resilience against hazards, we work closely with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and the International Community on national capacity building initiatives. We also continue to strengthen new and existing local and national platforms on DRR with the active engagement of both 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 initiatives to address poverty, reduce inequalities and contribute to a higher living standard.

7 In line with the theme of 2019 GPDRR on “Resilience Dividend: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Societies”, we recognise the importance of preventing disaster risks through promoting risk-informed sustainable development in all of its different dimensions. Cognizant of Thailand’s theme for its Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2019, we will continue to achieve a people-centered ASEAN Community that leaves no one behind through substantive and meaningful partnership. To this end, ASEAN has developed programmes such as the ASEAN Safe

Schools Initiative (ASSI), ASEAN Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (DRFI) Roadmap, and the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue in Thailand as a means toward risk-informed development policies.

8 ASEAN will continue its efforts towards building a disaster resilient community in the 10 AMSs, as well as an inclusive ASEAN community. We commit to enhance the active participation of various stakeholders to work with us to ensure that disasters risks in Southeast Asia are reduced holistically, pragmatically and in a coordinated manner, so we can achieve a more sustainable development in our region.

9 Lastly, we reaffirm our commitment that building resilience to risks and addressing underlying vulnerability is a unifying goal of ASEAN, and we remain committed to support the regional and international efforts in reducing disaster risks for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and support the effective implementation of the SFDRR 2015-2030 across the ASEAN region.