Statement of Action of Local Authorities
3-6 July 2018, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

1. We, governors, mayors, local authorities and local government associations in Asia Pacific, having met in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 3 to 6 July 2018 on the occasion of the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR),

2. Represent other local authorities who have provided inputs to this Statement of Action through consultations and surveys conducted by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC),

3. Affirm the outcome documents of the 2018 AMCDRR, the Ulaanbaatar Declaration and 2018-2020 Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the SFDRR 2015-2030, that states the important role of local authorities in achieving the targets of SFDRR, and specifies their expected contributions, actions, needs, and identified opportunities,

4. Reiterate our recognition of the need to enhance local actions in disaster risk reduction and management through the SFDRR, and in parallel with actions towards achievement of global agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals, New Urban Agenda, Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development,

5. Uphold the progress of local authorities in the first review period, based on the “2016 Statement of Action of Mayors and Local Authorities” that was produced in the 2016 AMCDRR in New Delhi, India. There are notable achievements on local authorities’ development and adoption of local strategies aligned with the SFDRR, on the coordination within local government units, engaging vulnerable communities and households to better inform policies and programmes.

6. Highlight the challenges that persist and constrain actions on the commitments, including the change in local leadership to ensure continuity of agenda, varying degree of understanding of roles, sustaining partnerships with stakeholders, concrete steps beyond advocacy on building
resilient infrastructure, lack of standard data and coordination for territorial cohesion development, and financial limitation.

7. Hereby, we commit to undertake the following actions in line with Sendai Framework priorities and the 2018-2020 Asian Regional Plan for Implementation of the SFDRR 2015-2030,

7.1 Establish new and strengthen existing local platforms on disaster risk reduction, ensuring collaboration with surrounding local authorities on the four thematic areas (prevention, and mitigation, preparedness, response, rehabilitation and “build back better”)

7.2 Develop, implement, and regularly update local strategies on disaster risk reduction to reduce disaster losses, to further advance in achieving Target (e)¹ of the Sendai Framework by 2020;

7.3 Enhance the role of women in local governments and foster their full and equal participation in ensuring gender-sensitive risk reduction policies, plans and programmes are in place;

7.4 Secure and effectively manage the necessary resources, especially inclusive finances, through conventional and innovative ways, to implement local disaster risk reduction strategies;

7.5 Conduct regular capacity building of local government personnel and communities in all aspects of disaster risk management;

7.6 Build up local participation and community-level actions that strengthen local capacities to cope with disaster risks and enhance resilience against disasters;

7.7 Initiate dialogue and knowledge sharing with neighbouring local authorities on cross boundary DRR issues;

7.8 Enhance cooperation and participation among a broad range of national and local stakeholders, including children and youth, private sector, educational and health institutions, persons with disability, older persons, and those in vulnerable situations such as poor and marginalized people, in policy making, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

7.9 Promote and strengthen the protection of livelihood and productive assets (including livestock, working animals, tools and seeds);

7.10 Increase and expand partnerships with local governments and their associations, regional and international organisations to hasten progress and complement works towards shared goals;

7.11 Deliver on our commitments, monitor and share the progress at the next Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2020.

8. To support and accelerate the delivery of our commitments, we urge the national governments and other stakeholders to,

¹ Target E – Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020
8.1 Create an enabling environment through national legislation and policies to promote local leadership and financial innovation in disaster risk reduction planning and implementation;
8.2 Boost financial resources and ensure optimised use by providing managerial and technical assistance to local governments to equip them with the capacity to meet local targets;
8.3 Promote the role of women in local governments and increase women’s representation towards strengthening gender-responsiveness and inclusiveness;
8.4 Strengthen and reinforce the capacities of local and regional governments to deliver efficient public services to their citizens;
8.5 Collaborate with local governments and their associations to foster sense of shared responsibility in building resilience.