

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)

Statement at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR)

19-22 September 2022

Brisbane, Australia

On behalf of ADPC, I congratulate the Government of Australia and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) to host the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) under the theme of **“From Crisis to Resilience: Transforming the Asia-Pacific Region’s future through disaster risk reduction”**

This conference could not be more timely given the COVID-19 pandemic which has shown the importance of addressing prevention and preparedness in a changing risk landscape where risks are becoming increasingly complex and interrelated. At a time when we need to take a much more integrated view of development, that is sustainable and resilient, APMCDRR provides an important platform and reference point for addressing the drivers of risk in a more systemic way.

We are at a critical midpoint implementation of the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda with retrospective and prospective changes in our disaster and climate resilience approach by uncovering context shifts, and build coherence with other frameworks, to better address the systemic nature of risk and so to realise regenerative and sustainable development.

The “Bali Agenda for Resilience” during the seventh session of the GPDRR outlined the world's 'broken risk perception' and inspired for greater resilience with Risk to Resilience to Sustainable Resilience, a common Agenda for Our Future.

ADPC has been at various discussion tables with Member States, Development Partners, Civil Society, Academia and Media in addressing disaster risk reduction through sustainable development by promoting global, regional and national frameworks of resilience building.

Addressing these issues ADPC recognizing the importance of the role economic resources has in the ability of households and communities to build resilience, the complexities and uncertainties climate change coupled with economic shocks and

unplanned or poorly planned development poses. ADPC recognizes that investment in DRR/DRM and building climate resilience is a key component for accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals. ADPC's effort will be guided by its values of inclusiveness, empowerment, equality, cooperation and access.

Through the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC)¹, ADPC has been supporting the implementation of the SFDRR and the other global frameworks in Asia and the Pacific region. The **Sejong Statement** issued at the end of the 16th RCC meeting which was co-hosted by the Ministry of the Interior and Safety, Republic of Korea in September 2021, recognized the continued relevance of public and private financing and investments, and the benchmarking of existing initiatives of ex-post and ex-ante climate and disaster risk financing tools, frameworks, and mechanisms, and the engagement of development partners in supporting the required enabling environment for resilient development. It also stressed for systematically synergizing existing and innovative technology to address data coverage for climate and disaster risk-informed development through accessible decision-support systems from the local to the national level.

Building on the momentum generated from the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the APMCDRR, the 17th RCC meeting is planned to be held in Manila in December 2022, under the main theme of **“Accelerating the implementation of the Sendai Framework through inclusive governance, innovation, finance, and local action”**, along with the sub-themes of: a) Strengthening climate and disaster risk governance through inclusive and innovative approaches; b) Accelerating local action on resilience through good governance; and c) Advancing ex-ante financing for disaster risk reduction and climate resilience.

The ADPC delegation in Brisbane during this APMCDRR is contributing to the main and sub-themes of the 2022 APMCDRR (**investing in resilience and preparedness**; strengthening **shock-proofed infrastructure and systems**; and supporting the **resilience of communities** against disasters and climate change, as well as the cross-cutting themes of **localization**; **inclusion**; and **science, technology and knowledge**), through the following:

¹ RCC is one of the key institutional organs of APDC, which was established in 2000 with more than 20 countries from Asia and the Pacific region with the aim of promoting regional cooperation and collaboration on DRR. To-date, 16 annual RCC meetings have been co-hosted by RCC member countries to share best practices and strategize future actions for inclusive DRR and climate resilience.

- a. Under the thematic pillars of **“Investing in Resilience and Preparedness”**, **“Shock-proofed Infrastructure and Systems”** and **“Resilient Communities”**, ADPC’s contribution comes from a unique partnership between ADPC, NASA and USAID for implementing the SERVIR-Mekong project, which is helping Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam in using information provided by Earth observing satellites and geospatial technologies to manage climate risk. Some of the key achievements include the development and operationalization of Air Quality Explorer, Rainstorm Tracker, and Crop Yield Information module.
- b. Another flagship initiative of ADPC is a 5-year project on **Climate Adaptation and Resilience or CARE for South Asia**, which supports the region in building resilience to climate change by improving the availability of regional data and knowledge, developing guidelines, tools and capacities, and promoting climate-resilient decisions, policies and investments across key sectors such as agriculture, transport infrastructure, and finance, policy and planning. Supported by the World Bank Group, the project is initially focusing on Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan and directly working with more than 25 Ministries and Departments
- c. Likewise, the project funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development (Norad) on **“Urban Resilience to Climate Extremes in Southeast Asia”** is being implemented in Myanmar and Viet Nam with the goal of strengthening the urban systems and communities to current and emerging climate extremes, disasters, and emergencies.
- d. Two other key initiatives of ADPC supporting the thematic pillars include **Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response in South Asia or PEER** and **Strengthening Earthquake Resilience in Bangladesh is known as SERB**. A major achievement of the PEER is the integration and institutionalization of training courses in the public-sector emergency preparedness and response training systems, annual programs and the budget-making processes. SERB, on the other hand, is assisting the Government of Bangladesh in enhancing earthquake response skills by building the capacity of emergency response agencies. A number of capacity-building interventions under the project have led to scaling up and institutionalization of hospital-safety interventions in highly vulnerable districts in Bangladesh.

- e. On the cross-cutting themes of the 2022 APMCDRR, ADPC's **Asian Preparedness Partnership or APP** has been supporting countries in South and South East Asia in a bid to promote localization for preparedness and response through multi-stakeholder partnerships and dialogue between governments, local humanitarian organization networks, and the private sector. Supported by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, APP provides a platform to all the key actors to plan and implement priority actions in disaster preparedness, humanitarian response, and recovery through mobilizing internal resources and external humanitarian funding. With a regional scope, APP is providing country-specific capacity building support to Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

- f. In the area of inclusion, gender equality and human rights, the program on **"Building Inclusive and Climate-adaptive Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia-Pacific (BRDR)"**, supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), has developed a tool called "Framework for Integrating Rights and Equality" which is being tested with the relevant government agencies and civil society organizations in Nepal and the Philippines. Similarly, ADPC has developed a **Gender Equality Monitoring Platform or GEM** under SERVIR-Mekong project to help address the gender data gap at sub-national level, and ensure accessibility to gender statistics which is critical to examining and tracking changes in gender inequality.

- g. ADPC is supporting and promoting innovative and disruptive technologies solutions for DRR and climate resilience in the region. For example, under the CARE for South Asia project, the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) has provided funds for a component that is pilot-testing innovations to reduce disaster and climate risk and build communities resilience in South Asia. Of the two streams, the **TechEmerge Resilience India Challenge** is offering solutions that leverage disruptive technologies such as AI, IoT, drones, 3D printing, and digital platforms, etc. Currently, seven solutions are being deployed by the Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) for preparedness and response amidst challenges posed by COVID-19. The other stream of **Climate Innovation Challenge (CIC)** has crowdsourced innovative and disruptive technology solutions

from around the world for resilience in South Asia. Altogether, 16 need-based solutions are being developed for the different sectors in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

- h. The **APP Social Innovation Grand Challenge** of ADPC seeks to identify and support innovations from local actors in the APP countries. The solutions concentrate on addressing disaster risk management challenges focused on risk communications, early warning, and emergency response.
- i. ADPC's **SAR-Climate Knowledge Hub** will host information and knowledge on a range of climate change topics and sectors of South Asia and it will serve as a dependable information resource for interested stakeholders. SAR-Climate will be a comprehensive, accessible, and intelligible knowledge hub covering all the South Asian countries, where users will be able to easily access information and data using effective and fast-searching functions.

Leveraging our International organization status, ADPC will work to enhance these above mentioned efforts and support countries to operationalize the outcome of the APMCDRR at the ADPC's 17th Meeting of the RCC.