



**GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA**

**OFFICIAL STATEMENT**

**ASIA-PACIFIC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE FOR DISASTER RISK  
REDUCTION**

**(APMCDRR 2022)**

**“FORM RISK TO RESILIENCE: TRANSFORMING THE ASIA-PACIFIC  
REGION’S FUTURE THROUGH DISASTER RISK REDUCTION”**

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First and foremost, Malaysia would like to take this opportunity to commend the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) for the successful convening of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction as well as the Government of Australia for hosting this august event.

This year’s conference is a pivotal one, as we have come at a critical juncture in our efforts to make a huge difference in the world we live in. No longer can we afford to make mere promises, but each and every nation needs to make concrete deliverables to make our world safer in order to protect our economy, the environment and most importantly humanity.

Since the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) we are still grappling with the effects of climate change ranging from floods, storms, droughts due to human activities and as demonstrated by the current COVID-19 surging world population has also brought upon pandemic and epidemic diseases.

Environmental changes driven by climate change coupled with an insatiable exploitation of the world's resources have rendered people and the ecosystem ever more vulnerable thus increasing the scale of hazards as well as its frequency. Hazards, intertwined with exposure as well as economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities generates an intricate filigree of disaster risk. This creates a systemic pattern of disaster risk that have eroded years of development processes across all sectors.

The projected global climate temperature increase of 3.2°C is expected to trigger “once-in-one-hundred-year” disaster events to occur every decade and threatens to reduce existing risk management strategies obsolete. Therefore, it is imperative for us to reflect and re-evaluate the mid-term review of the SFDRR and come to a collective agreement on tangible way forward to address disaster risks and in solidarity, build our resilience.

Compared to other countries, Malaysia by reason of its geographical location has always been considered less vulnerable. However, of late, our exposure to a range of climate-related disasters has intensified in part, due to climate change. Weather extremes are occurring more frequently and with higher intensities causing huge losses in light of rapid development and booming population in urban areas. Compounding this is the prevalence of the COVID-19 pandemic that compels us to review Malaysia's existing disaster risk policies and strategies.

The governance of DRR and climate change action are vital to ensure coping-capacities of nation and societies and this is attainable through involvement of all actors within multiple levels of government and sectors through progressive leadership. The establishment of strong networks and partnership at national, regional and global levels is also required for efficient and effective performance of DRR. This includes fostering relationship with various stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive and multi-sectorial approach to DRR that include Civil Society Organization (CSO) dan Non-governmental Organization (NGO).

Seven years following the adoption of SFDRR, Malaysia has now fully utilised the Sendai Framework Monitor (SFM) to evaluate our progress in terms of achieving the seven global targets, as well as to reflect on the

progress of the implementation of the SFDRR. The tools under SFDRR are important for Malaysia to improve the management of disaster risks, and to fully transform from a mere reactive disaster management approach to one of managing disaster risks. Since the launch of the online SFM in 2018, Malaysia has reported a strong level of publicly accessible disaster damage and loss database dating back to 2005.

The Government of Malaysia has also continually learnt from the shortcomings, challenges, and problems encountered following significant disaster incidences to further improve the country's disaster risk governance in terms of policy, mechanism, as well as institutional capacity and capability. Efforts are also made in line with increased understanding of hazards, risks and vulnerabilities in the context of changing landscape of disasters exacerbated by rapid urbanization and climate change.

Recognising that community awareness is fundamental and their role is a necessary starting point for any disaster risk reduction (DRR) initiative, the Government continuously encourage the participation of communities in Community-Based Disaster Risk Management programmes to nurture a safe, sustainable and resilient environment for the local community. Developing the community-level disaster resilience plan needs to be facilitated and special groups including women, children, youth and those with special needs have to be empowered to actively participate in DRR.

In order to achieve the goals set out under the SFDRR and attain a more holistic disaster risk management, policies and strategies need to be focused on 'avoiding or reducing' the threats of catastrophic risk to communities and property, rather than to 'control' the disaster. This includes reviewing the National Security Council Directive No. 20: The Policy and Mechanism for National Disaster Management to meet the SFDRR 2030 and other global agenda, and to ensure its consistency with the current systemic risks that evolved from time to time.

At present, the Government is also taking tangible steps to strengthen DRR governance through the establishment of the National Policy on DRR and drafting of the DRR Act. Towards realising a disaster-resilient community and empowerment of DRR management at all levels, the Government is aiming for local governments to adopt and implement their

local DRR policies and strategies in line with national level policy, strategies, action plans and programmes. We are aligned with the approach of bottom up, to ensure the policy design is of relevance at all level.

It is important to ensure Malaysia's development trajectory is not reversed by disasters. Growth resilience is important to ensure the increase in standard of living will continue to flourish. The Government since 1972 have spent billions under the various "Five Year Malaysia Plans" to reduce losses from flood disasters. In the latest 12<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan, green growth will be bolstered to ensure sustainability and resilience. This will be undertaken by implementing a clean, green and resilient development agenda through the "whole-of-nation approach".

Malaysia's 2022 budget is about bolstering economic recovery and building resilience and driving reform following the strict lockdown measures that were imposed. Themed "Malaysian Family, Prosperous and Peaceful", the government provides an additional MYR4 billion (approximately USD910.232 million), specifically to the Ministry of Health to continue the measures to address the COVID-19 scourge. This amount includes MYR2 billion (approximately USD455.116 million) for vaccination programme and to increase the capacity of public health service facilities.

In order to address the challenges of climate change impacts, disaster and climate risk-related data is leveraged to assist in conducting risk and vulnerability assessment, prioritising investment for resilient development as well as to support sustainable development and risk-informed land use planning.

Finally, to reaffirm our commitment towards the implementation of SFDRR, Malaysia wishes to highlight that we will continue our efforts in reducing the existing risks and preventing development of new risks as well as strengthening resilience to disasters. We hope that the deliberations here will be a success and would yield tangible and concrete plans that can be implemented for the benefit of all member states.

Thank you.