



# PHILIPPINES

## ASIA-PACIFIC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

**BRISBANE, 19-22 SEPTEMBER 2022**

The Philippines extends its gratitude to the Government of Australia and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) for their efforts in bringing together governments and stakeholders from the region and from all over the world for this year's *Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR 2022)*.

The APMCDRR is all the more crucial as our region is beset by intense disasters, extreme weather conditions, economic crisis, and changes in exposure patterns brought about by climate change. This meeting comes at a pivotal juncture as we continue the meaningful dialogue of the *Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction* last May 2022, and build on the momentum towards the *Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* in May 2023.

The Philippines takes to heart the aspirations of the Sendai Framework, which guides our own national disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) blueprint, as set out in the *National DRRM Framework and Plan 2020-2030*. Our vision of “*safer, adaptive, and disaster resilient Filipino communities towards sustainable development*” is aligned with the priorities, targets, and indicators of the Sendai Framework. Our plan and framework also recognize and establish the links between DRRM, climate change adaptation, sustainable development, and human security.

In its effort to examine the progress, lessons learned, and challenges in implementing the priority areas of the Sendai Framework and the extent of collaboration, cooperation, and inclusion along these Priority Areas, the Philippines takes part in the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework. The Philippines utilized the country's National, Regional, and Local DRRM Councils as the main platform for consultations and stocktaking. Other stakeholders such as the private sector, academe, CSOs, and

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development partners that play a very crucial role in the SFDRR implementation were also engaged. It is worth noting that the Mid-Term Review of the SFDRR was undertaken in parallel with the Short-Term Review of the Philippine DRRM Plan, a demonstration of the alignment of our plan and framework as a means of implementing the SFDRR.

This is all part of our effort to learn and evolve from the disasters that the country has confronted in the past years. We have taken an ‘all-hazards approach’ that comprehensively considers all elements of risks. We have been guided by principles that are centered on risks and conscious of the role of the community, especially as we scale up efforts by putting into place risk-informed investments, increasing gender responsiveness, enhancing the availability and access to data, promoting public-private partnerships, encouraging locally-led initiatives, and adopting ecosystem-based approaches. We are building a DRRM ecosystem that leverages a robust archipelago-wide DRRM network of local government units, civil society and private partners, and grassroots organizations – a true and meaningful take on the whole-of-society approach.

In terms of **understanding risk**, the Philippines showed significant developments in risk identification and assessments, and we are continuously building risk information through a catalogue of innovations and web/mobile platforms, such as GeoRisk Philippines. To bridge the gap between policy planning, and science and technology, GeoRisk Philippines introduces the Plan Smart for Disaster Response and Recovery Application which will aid the Local Government Units in formulating local DRR strategies that are risk-informed. Moreover, there are expanded efforts on hazard assessment for disaster-stricken areas and Environmentally Critical Areas (ECAs), and improvements in multi-hazard early warning systems, and impact-based forecasting. We recognize the need to build our risk information capabilities to pave the way for evidence and science-based decision-making and investments.

In **Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk**, the Philippines' landmark legislation RA 10121 provided enabling environment for risk to be integrated into policies, plans and resources. This facilitated the provision of dedicated plans and their integration to development plans at the national down to the local government and village or *barangay* level, funding, and resources, and the creation of various organizations for policy and operations. Through this, key agencies and local governments made progress in internalizing critical roles in disaster risk reduction through manpower, capacity, and

capability build-up, creation of dedicated DRR units and offices, and the establishment of their Operations Center.

In terms of **investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience**, the midterm review of the Sendai Framework revealed that there is a significant increase in investments and budgets on disaster resilience for structural and non-structural measures in the country. Resources for funding DRRM needs are mobilized through national and local DRRM funds, agency program budgets, and Official Development Assistance. Cognizant of the need to intensify ex-ante investments, the country shall continue to expand the application of disaster risk financing instruments such as risk transfer mechanisms through the improvement of insurance of public assets, identification of products to cover insurance of homeowners and small businesses, the institutionalization of parametric insurance, and establishment of a catastrophe risk insurance pool for LGUs and the private sector, and policies to support anticipatory actions.

As the Philippines calls for international solidarity in addressing climate change, we are harmonizing our DRRM actions with climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts at the national and local levels. We are increasing resilience through prevention and pre-disaster recovery planning. Local communities are at the center of our aspiration for greater resiliency, supported by investments to develop the capacities and empower local authorities and stakeholders. Resilient blue-green infrastructure is also key to hazard-proof communities that are less prone to the increasing cycles of disasters and destruction. To achieve these goals, the Philippines has ensured that disaster investments are an integral part of broad socio-economic planning and has made available disaster risk financing initiatives at both national and local levels.

**Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction**, the MTR SF has seen an improvement in preparedness for a response since the country's adoption of the Sendai Framework in 2015. This is through the establishment of guidelines governing better Response, Recovery processes such as the Pre-Disaster Risk Assessment – Actions, Programs and Protocols and Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, to name a few. There are also opportunities for better response to early recovery, such as the adoption of anticipatory actions and Adaptive Shock Responsive Social Protection (ASRSP). Our institutions will strive to work on key reform areas to ensure planning, prioritization, and investment

programming towards catering to the overwhelming post-disaster rehabilitation and recovery needs from the increasing magnitude of disasters in the country. Based on the SFDRR MTR, some of these key reforms identified are in the areas of resilient infrastructure, housing and shelter options, agriculture, food security, health and livelihood.

We recognize that the intensifying complexity and multiplicity of hazards can and have overwhelmed our national systems and our humanitarian network – a challenge that we expect to increase as we still cope with the socio-economic impacts COVID-19 pandemic. This is compounded by the aggravating impacts of climate change that have become a driver of displacement and migration. As one of the countries that is most vulnerable to climate change, it is now more than ever an existential issue for the Philippines as it is for the international community.

It is imperative that the concerns of the global DRRM community inform the outcomes of the 2022 UN Climate Change Conference or COP27. We must effectively address loss and damage resulting from the adverse impacts of climate change, and provide enhanced support and financing for developing countries in this regard. There should be progress towards concrete climate action that goes beyond rhetoric, promotes climate justice, and protects our *right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment*.

Moving forward, DRRM will continue to be a top national priority as we prepare the next Philippine Development Plan. We are also bringing our vision to our region through stronger collaboration with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), including through the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management.

We encourage other countries and our partners to continue to spotlight our shared DRRM advocacy as we go into the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework. As part of our commitment, the Philippines will continue to be a champion of disaster risk resilience in various multilateral fora, recognizing that the global community must work together as a coordinated whole in order to ensure that we are well prepared to deal with the challenge of our times. **END**