



SCDF
The Life Saving Force
... for a safer Singapore

SINGAPORE CIVIL DEFENCE FORCE



2022 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction ("APMCDRR")

National Statement of Singapore

Excellencies and Colleagues,

Singapore would like to thank the Australian Government and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) for organising the 2022 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

2. Climate change is a clear and pressing threat to us all. In the past year, the world has experienced several extreme weather events. In the Asia-Pacific region, Australia, South Korea and most recently Pakistan experienced intense rainfalls that led to severe flooding. Lives were lost and properties were damaged. As a small island city-state, Singapore is particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change, notably the rise of the sea level.

3. About 30% of our land area is just metres above the current mean sea level. We assess that if the sea level rises by up to four or five metres, it could potentially flood one-third of our country. We are exploring multi-functional and hybrid solutions that combine hard engineering measures and natural protection, such as mangroves and seagrass.

4. In addition, Singapore recognises the importance of investing in infrastructure resilience and early warning systems. In this regard, we welcome the efforts of UN Secretary General António Guterres and the World Meteorological Organisation to introduce a new action plan to achieve universal coverage of early warning systems within five years. As part of Singapore's flood management system, Singapore's national water agency, the Public Utilities Board (PUB) has installed a network of 300 water level sensors around Singapore to monitor water levels in drains and canals.

5. Community resilience is also an integral part of Singapore's disaster mitigation efforts. Since 2016, the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) has been pursuing an



SCDF – A member of the Home Team

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ambitious vision of creating “*A Nation of Lifesavers*” by 2025. To achieve this goal, the SCDF actively engages the community through a wide range of public education programmes to enhance our collective resilience and emergency preparedness. For example, the myResponder mobile application alerts the public to assist with minor fires in their immediate vicinity. This has helped to shape a more resilient and civic-minded community.

6. Beyond our shores, Singapore works with regional partners such as the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF), which was established as an ASEAN+3 initiative in partnership with the Ministry of Finance in Japan and the World Bank. SEADRIF aims to provide ex-ante climate and disaster risk financing solutions for ASEAN countries. It launched its first product in February 2021, a sovereign flood insurance solution to cover flood risks in Laos. This was done through the SEADRIF Insurance Company, based in Singapore. SEADRIF is currently working on its second product, a Public Asset Financial Protection Programme that will enable SEADRIF member countries in the region to better manage the financial risk of damage to public assets and infrastructure.

7. Singapore is also involved in the ASEAN Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance Initiative (ADRFI), which aims to strengthen ASEAN’s capabilities in ex-ante risk financing and risk transfer strategies. ADRFI is now in Phase 2 of its work and has established the ADRIF Dual Programme Office, supported by the ASEAN Secretariat and NTU Singapore’s Institute of Catastrophe Risk Management. ADRFI-2 is establishing a high resolution and objective natural catastrophe database for ASEAN to help the public and private stakeholders assess, understand, and price disaster risks, and collaborate in developing tailored risk financing solutions. ADRFI-2 also provides disaster risk financing advisory services and capacity building to enhance knowledge on disaster risk finance strategies and solutions.

8. Through all these efforts, Singapore hopes to enhance the community’s resilience to disasters.

9. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to share Singapore’s efforts, and look forward to fruitful discussions in the coming days.

Thank you.

COMR Eric Yap
Commissioner, Singapore Civil Defence Force
Head of Singapore Delegation,
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