



ආපදා කළමනාකරණ මධ්‍යස්ථානය அனர்த்த முகாமைத்துவ நிலையம் DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE



විද්‍යා මාවත,
කොළඹ 07

வித்யா மாவத்தை
கொழும்பு 07

Vidya Mawatha,
Colombo 07

Country Statement for Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR)

The Government of Sri Lanka would like to extend its sincere thanks to the Government of Australia and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for convening the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR). We are pleased to share how Sri Lanka has been delivering on priorities that were outlined under four priorities of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Due to Climate Change, extreme weather conditions, unplanned development, rapid demographic changes and urban expansion, disasters become frequent as well as more common in Sri Lanka. During last two-year period, Sri Lanka experienced series of flooding, high winds, and landslides and these days we are experiencing economic crisis situation as well.

Implementation of emergency management initiatives is one of the prime requirements, in response to the rising level of extensive and intensive types of disaster situations. With the international and national partnerships, we were able to conduct programmes to enhance the response capacity of volunteers and communities in vulnerable areas including tri forces, and police. The Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER), INSARAG training are some key activities.

However, we recognized that there is a need to do more to strengthen governance, coordination, and integration while recognizing that emergency management is a whole-of-society priority approach from individual to communities.

With the completion of National Disaster Management Plan; National Strategies for Disaster risk reduction in line with SFDRR priorities in 2022, we ensured the shared vision for resilience, established priorities for collaboration, and aligned collective and individual actions for faster, coordinated, and systemic Disaster Risk Management.

Sri Lanka has made notable progress in delivering on Sendai priorities collaboratively with other stakeholder institutions.

Setting the platform for the implementation of SFDRR at local level we have introduce guideline to prepare Disaster Risk Reduction plans for Local government. The programme is ongoing covering 134 local government in 04 provinces of the country.

Having identified the requirement of mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into sectorial development, a special project has been started focusing on the Kelani River Basin in the Western province of the country.

We continuously engaged in programme to strengthen our preparedness and built the capacity of whole-of-society actors, including public, private non-governmental organizations (NGOs), following guiding principles of SFDRR.

Past experiences on Disaster Risk Management have highlighted the need to engage with everybody to further enhance country's disaster preparedness and capacity to respond to climate change events. This work supports our goal of preventing, reducing disaster risk and ensuring resilience through the implementation of a multi-hazard approach.

Further to enhance the understanding of disaster risk and to support the Sendai Framework's priorities for action one "Understanding Disaster Risk", we are developing our first National Risk Index for frequent hazards. This provides a strategic risk assessment and enhances the capabilities on risk informed decision making.

We believe we have achieved substantial progress since launch of the Sendai Framework in 2015, on community participation in disaster resilience. We know that more must be done in this aspect. It is essentially required to continue to take bold and ambitious steps to build resilient communities in order to ensure meaningful participation of the most vulnerable communities including women, children, and people with different abilities, as they are powerful agents of change. We are ensuring women's participation in decision making, and empowering women and girls through gender equality in national climate and recently introduced guideline to minimize the gender-based violence that could happen during disaster time.

Coming to Sendai Monitoring; we would like to share challenges we experience on Sendai Monitoring.

The Sendai Framework identifies a total of 38 data indicators to measure progress towards success for these seven global targets. We need more technical and financial support to collect, aggregate and report disaster loss data. We are facing a major issue at national level as we do not have proper well-established mechanism due to the lack of connected all-inclusive system for disaster loss reporting. Lack of consistence and systematic data collection and reporting across local to national level as well as standardization of loss data is another serious issue.

Predominantly we are facing lots of challenges in reporting under the Sendai target 4, 5 and 6. Having high demand on risk informed decision making to ensure the uninterrupted lifeline services and critical infrastructure systems to function during adverse disaster condition and quick recover to acceptable levels of service after an event, this information is fundamental to provide above services which is considered as prime requirement of the wellbeing of communities.

Sri Lanka is experiencing an economic crisis at present and we are not in a position to follow a risk-based investment in our developments. One of our prime requirements is economic resilience followed by the risk sensitive investment. We need more support from the friendly nations/ experts to encourage and promote risk sensitive investment in our country.

As Asia Pacific nations, we all face disasters not only the climate induced hazards but also geo technical hazards. So that as a region we have to work together and we believe this is the platform to step up all nations to reduce regional disaster impacts collectively. Hence Government of Sri Lanka would like to propose to enhance the commitments of strengthening collaboration, among all countries in Disaster Risk Management.

Further, we request developed countries to increase the north south cooperation, as developing or least developed countries we are increasingly vulnerable to the effects of disasters, more specifically climate-related disasters. This need is not only on the humanitarian support or response activities but also investing in resilience mechanisms that allow vulnerable countries to prepare for and mitigate the impacts of these events and rebuild from disasters.

Finally, **we would like to express our gratitude** to the UNDRR for organizing, and Australia for hosting, this important event.

Thank you very much.

for safer communities and sustainable development

දුරකථන } 2136136
தொலைபேசி }
Telephone }

ෆැක්ස් (කාර්යාලය) } 2670079
தொலைநகல் (அலுவலகம்) } 2670025
Fax (Office) }

අධ්‍යක්ෂ ජනරාල් } 2670070
பணிப்பாளர் நாயகம் } 2136100
Director General }

Web: www.dmc.gov.lk Email: info@dmc.gov.lk

හදිසි අපද්‍රව්‍ය / அவசர நடவடிக்கை அழைப்பு Emergency Operations Hotline : 2136222/2670002