



MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR AND SAFETY
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Official Statement

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Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

It is a great pleasure to make the official statement on behalf of the Republic of Korea at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR). I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the Government of Australia for their commitment and hard work in hosting the conference.

The Republic of Korea (ROK), a leading country in disaster risk reduction (DRR) in the Asia-Pacific region, has extended its greatest efforts to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework), which was adopted by the international community in 2015.

Notably, this year, we reached halfway through the implementation period of the Sendai Framework. We reviewed the progress and achievements with the stakeholders who have participated in activities to reduce disaster risks and seek more efficient ways to improve the implementation.

I am delighted to share the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (MTR SF) of the ROK with the Asia-Pacific countries. I hope this conference will be an excellent platform for gathering the wisdom and insight from leaders of governments and organizations in the Asia-Pacific region to pave a resilient path forward into the post-COVID-19 era.

MTR SF methodology

The ROK analyzed laws, regulations, policy reports, research papers, surveys, and statistics regarding DRR and listened to diverse stakeholder voices by setting up an advisory group composed of experts and researchers from public R&D institutes and private organizations.

Based on the 13 Guiding Principles of the Sendai Framework, I will present the outcomes of the Korean MTR SF in line with the four Priorities for Action as follows.

The ROK's total commitment to DRR

The ROK has proactively developed and enforced public policies to establish an advanced disaster and safety management system to protect the lives and properties of the people.

- **Understanding disaster risk**

The Korean government establishes a Master Plan for National Safety Management (MPNSF) every five years based on the disaster risk analysis at the national level for integrated and systematic disaster management. The central and all local governments establish and implement their annual safety management plan pursuant to the MPNSF.

Moreover, all public agencies and institutions must establish a Business Continuity

Plan (BCP) to maintain their core functions during a disaster. By providing financial support to businesses with excellent DRR activities, companies are prompted to identify upcoming disaster risks and develop a Business Continuity Management System to prepare for them.

In addition, we are operating 26 risk assessment systems that systematically analyze risk factors caused by natural and man-made disasters before establishing a policy or a development plan and use the derived risk information for decision-making. For instance, the Comprehensive Plan for National Disaster Mitigation (2005) and the Consultation System for Disaster Impact Assessment (2018) are in operation. With these two systems, we can analyze disaster risk factors contributing to disasters in advance to promote mid to long-term prevention projects and to eliminate risk factors before starting a development project.

Korea has taken the lead in raising public awareness to prevent and prepare for disaster risks in advance: operating a Cell Broadcasting Service (CBS), which promptly and accurately sends text messages on disaster situations to the public, and a Public Safety Map providing essential information (public safety, traffic, disaster, etc.) in an easy-to-understand format, and providing education guidelines tailored to each life cycle from infants to the elderly.

- **Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk**

The ROK stipulated organizational principles, roles, and governance functions to organize and operate an efficient inter-ministerial and intergovernmental cooperative system and expand private institutional participation. The institutionalized governance operates an efficient communication system with swift decision-making, which is highly conducive to managing the entire process when a national disaster hits the country.

During a large-scale disaster, the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters (the Headquarters), in which the heads of relevant central government agencies participate, is formed to respond to the disaster. The Minister of the Interior and Safety, taking the helm, oversees the coordinated response between central and local governments and plays a pivotal role in all-out efforts at the national level.

Local governments also have disaster and safety countermeasures headquarters to oversee and coordinate all the activities relating to disaster recovery in the jurisdiction. Like the central government, regional headquarters establish a disaster management plan to enforce relevant ordinances and policies and operate disaster management systems reflecting local peculiarities.

However, government roles are limited where the frequency and scale of disasters are increasing due to climate change. To overcome the problem, the Korean government strengthened an organic public-private cooperation system by legally stipulating the participation and roles of private organizations such as the Regional Autonomous Disaster Prevention Corps. Further, major non-profit organizations such as the Korean Red Cross and Korea Disaster Relief Association, sharing the burden with the government, proactively led various DRR activities, including damage recovery, victim relief, and the use of donations.

As a result, collaboration with the private sector is steadily expanding. Accredited private hospitals are used as COVID-19 response bases. Large information and communication companies such as Daum Kakao, and Naver support nationwide COVID-19 vaccinations with cutting-edge technologies.

We proactively participate in concerted international community efforts to overcome global disasters: sharing best policies and practices with countries such as the US, Japan, China, Russia, and Mongolia based on cooperative Memorandums of

Understanding (MOU) and the successful establishment and operation of the UNDRR Office for Northeast Asia (ONEA) and Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) in the ROK.

- **Investing in disaster risk reduction**

The ROK recognizes the disaster risk reduction budget as an investment for the future rather than an expense. It operates the Prior Consultation System on Budget for Disaster and Safety Projects (2015) to professionally and comprehensively manage the disaster and safety budget within the government.

It is a system where the Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS) suggests key investment directions and notifies fiscal authorities of investment appropriateness and priority based on a comprehensive analysis of disaster and safety investments presented by all ministries before confirming the budget. Enhancing investment effectiveness and allocating disaster and safety-focused investments contributes to expanding the government-wide disaster and safety budget.

Moreover, investing in pre-disaster prevention is much more effective than disaster management. Taking this as the investment basis, the ROK will reinforce infrastructures by 2027 with a \$6.5 billion investment to improve areas prone to disasters, expand river embankments and drainage facility capacity, and introduce early warning systems.

However, we must consider measures to secure financial resources for an unpredictable large-scale disaster such as COVID-19 or specific financial demands for disaster management. To this end, the ROK sets aside a portion of peacetime taxes to activate special disaster and safety grants, disaster management funds, and relief funds for emergency response and recovery. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it was utilized to support micro-enterprises and vulnerable groups and to take measures for infection

prevention and control.

At the international level, the ROK contributes \$2.6 million (2020) annually to the UNDRR as the seventh largest contribution. We also carry out ODA projects to provide developing countries with new disaster and safety technologies, such as a flood early warning system. As a member of the international community, Korea will share its increasing knowledge and experience to expand investment in the future

- **Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective responses and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction**

Korea strives to achieve a "Build Back Better" strategy by executing effective disaster response on-site and user-oriented practical disaster recovery. A Disaster and Safety Communications Network (Korea Safe-Net, 2021) was developed so that police, firefighters, and public officials could communicate by sharing on-site information for prompt rescue support and respond to disasters in an integrated manner. Using a dedicated terminal, multimedia services such as video clips, data sharing, and group calls are available, enabling rapid and organic cooperation between responding organizations.

We are actively introducing fourth industrial revolution technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and big data to respond quickly and scientifically to disasters. We will strengthen the national response capacity by providing customized disaster and safety services based on extensive data analysis to related organizations and the public. In this vein, the Disaster and Safety Data Sharing Platform is currently being established that collects, links, and shares dispersed disaster and safety data.

In the event of large-scale damage due to heavy rainfall or typhoon, an emergency recovery fund shall be promptly activated to restore damaged essential facilities such as communications and electricity. Relief funds for livelihood, housing, and education

shall be provided to the affected residents depending on the scale of damage. We also offer about 30 types of indirect support, including tax deferral and psychological counseling to help victims recover from disasters as soon as possible.

In areas ravaged by complex damages, we conduct the Comprehensive Zonal Recovery Plan (2013), which groups damaged districts into one, considering the linkage between facilities and regional and topographical characteristics. We are creating a resilient city through rehabilitating damaged areas and community recovery rather than simply restoring damaged areas.

We implement policies to strengthen the disaster response capacity of vulnerable groups to reduce inequality between classes and regions: disaster-site evacuation procedures considering the characteristics of vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and the disabled (2019), and mandatory sign language and foreign language subtitle services in public broadcasting (2021), to create a safe and inclusive country for all. Further, multiple actors, including public officials and residents, are designated to manage the quick evacuation of vulnerable groups in areas prone to landslides. We provide subsidies for air conditioning and heating costs for the socio-economically vulnerable during heat waves, cold waves, and COVID-19 to ensure no one is left behind.

Disaster management in the post-COVID-19 era

COVID-19 has presented new challenges. Increasing complex risks caused by a chain of natural and social disasters, deepening disaster inequality for vulnerable groups, and declining free trade are the priorities we must solve together in the post-COVID-19 era. Based on my experience building an advanced disaster management system, I would like to make the following proposals for all members of the international community to overcome these

challenges to achieve the goals of the Sendai Framework.

As climate change intensifies, climate disasters will become larger and more diversified, and the damage will lead to man-made disasters, resulting in more frequent occurrences of complex disasters. To overcome this, we must identify diverse potential risk factors posed by the climate crisis and expand investment to respond proactively. We need to expand investment in predicting, managing, and studying new disasters scientifically and must devise concrete alternatives that go beyond normative discourse.

Second, institutional efforts to reduce socio-economic vulnerability should be strengthened. Our society is increasingly vulnerable to disasters due to urbanization and aging. Unfortunately, the current Sendai Framework does not set specific goals for resolving polarization and inequality between classes and countries. We must not only consider ways to close the inequality gap but also spare no effort in socio-economic support to alleviate disaster impacts. Third, concerted efforts are needed to strengthen international cooperation in DRR, such as sharing disaster management resources and preparing a support system for underdeveloped countries for global disaster response. A single country's efforts can never solve new disasters like COVID-19. It is imperative to respond by establishing global governance and ensuring leadership in international disaster risk reduction with UNDRR at the center.

The Republic of Korea will build and operate an information-sharing network with major Asian countries and international DRR experts. As a leading country in implementing the Sendai Framework, we will share our experience with the world and expand humanitarian aid to vulnerable countries.

I hope that this event will serve as momentum for governments and all global citizens to recover and leap forward at the same time in the post-COVID-19 era with political, financial, and social strength and commitment.