

ADPC statement in final session of GPDRR on 7 June 2007 while commenting on draft chair summary

1. It has already been a quarter of a decade since we adopted the Hyogo Framework, 8 years since we met in this same room at the Geneva Forum at the end of the decade, and 13 years since the global community adopted the Yokohama Plan for a safer world. What has impressed us the most at this meeting is the momentum behind DRR, a reflection of the determination that many countries and communities around the world have, to build and rebuild disaster resilient communities. Thus the expansion of the IATF to include national Governments and other DRR stakeholders has provided a more inclusive forum for discussions and consolidation.

2. We now have only 3 more quarters of this HFA implementation decade left to achieve the over arching HFA goals of resilient nations and communities. However, we do not see the sense of urgency reflected in the draft chair summary. We would therefore urge the statement to foreground the this sense by calling for an acceleration of HFA implementation, perhaps even by putting this phrase in a title or sub title.

3. Yesterday in one of the last statements in the intergovernmental plenary, I read out the statement of our Executive Director a.i., Dr Bhichit entitled "Act Local, Guide Global". In Asia, since December 2004, we have seen a dramatic period of institutional change, new legislation, determined long term planning and programming for DRR. This is seen both in new or enhanced national DRR frameworks and programs in Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Pakistan, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia to name just a few. So too, innovative new action plans and multi agency partnerships are underway at the provincial, district and city level in Cambodia, China, India, Bangladesh, Laos, and Vietnam (to name just a few countries where this is happening) And in the sphere of Mainstreaming DRR into Development (MDRD), the RCC MDRD program (which was registered as one of the first post WCDR partnerships) has made notable progress as reported at this Platform, with NDMOs partnering with the Departments of Public Works and Highways and Ministries of Education to advance action for safer and resilient roads and school systems. So too communities in many countries working with local authorities, commune committees, CBOs, mass organisations, and local chapters of the red crescent and red cross movements are making efforts to make their livelihoods secure and lives safer.

In acting to accelerate HFA, we must be guided by such efforts in the countries at the national, provincial, district and community levels, and seek to expand and sustain them.

4. We also note the proposals for ISDR System development. In the 11th and 12th meeting of the IATF held in Geneva in May and November 2005, there was work done on the Matrix of commitments and initiatives to support HFA implementation that all IATF members and other supporting stakeholders had committed to following the WCDR in January 2005. There has been little mention of this matrix at the Platform, and we would urge that this be followed up at the Global level as one reference point in the effort at joint work planing and program development. More importantly, in addition to these global processes, there needs to be concerted efforts at the regional and sub regional level. The regional offices of UN Agencies, regional institutions and other stakeholders need to work with the national governments of the region, (who still bear the primary responsibility for HFA implementation) to do collaborative planning of how we can, jointly coordinate efforts along with national offices of U N Agencies and national institutions in support of national programs of action led by national Governments. Such a process has been underway in Asia since 2000, and through the efforts of the open ended ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) since 2003, as well as various regional and sub regional mechanisms, and needs to be consolidated. And most importantly, such an effort needs to be done country by country. We look forward to continuing action on these subjects in the Asian region over the next two years till the next session of the Platform.