



**Statement of Children, Youth and Child-Centered Organizations for  
The 5<sup>th</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 22-25 October  
2012, Yogyakarta, Indonesia**

We, children, youth and child centered organizations from countries in Asia and the Pacific attending the 5<sup>th</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (5<sup>th</sup> AMCDRR):

**Recognizing** that Asia-Pacific's population is young. Considering that children constitute between one third and half of the population in most countries in the region, their vulnerability is an important aspect of the overall risk profile. Children are typically disproportionately affected by disaster risk.

**Noting** that child-centered DRR places a child's right to survival, protection, development and participation at the heart of development and humanitarian action. Child-centered, gender-specific and disability-sensitive interventions need to be mainstreamed into all community-based DRR interventions and into national and sub-national development approaches in the region.

**Recognizing** that child-centred disaster risk assessments are an important way of ensuring that the likelihood of natural hazards and child vulnerability are taken into consideration in national development plans. Risk reduction is an investment for safer future; and children are the generation who own the future.

**Noting** that implementing child centred DRR will help to promote the outcomes sought by the Convention of the Rights of the Child

**Noting** that progress towards the priorities of the Children's Charter on DRR, adopted at the Global Platform on DRR in 2011, was reviewed at the AMCDRR Pre-conference with 17 children from and 25 youth from 5 countries and through consultations with over 200 children across 7 countries in Asia (Bangladesh, India, Cambodia, Philippines, and Indonesia, Timor Leste, Japan) between July and September 2012. Progress varies according to the country but some common themes emerged.

We, the children and youth attending 5<sup>th</sup> AMCDRR agree with the five priorities of the Children Charter. We feel that School Safety has made the least progress in our communities. Child protection before, during and after a disaster has also only made limited progress and DRR is still not reaching the most vulnerable such as children with disabilities. We children can participate in DRR activities with support of the local government and NGOs. However children stated that there should be more opportunities and spaces for children to participate, it should be regular, and child-led activities supported with enough resources.

Children felt that the Government, civil society and corporate sector can do much more than what they are presently doing and the children suggested more attention towards them and their needs.

**We, children and youth participating at the 5<sup>th</sup> ACMDRR Conference can take actions:**

- We want to be advocates for DRR and share our views and experience. We can do research and inform the results to our friends, families and others at schools and communities in easy to understand language.
- Continue our work towards safe school. We can make DRR preparedness teams at school and help children in simulation exercises. We can conduct training for youth and children in a fun way.
- Want to help children with disabilities such as hearing impairment to get DRR information with hand language
- We want to help with reforestation and making schools green. We will care for the environment and not litter.

At the conclusion of the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, **child centered organizations in Asia and Pacific, wish to make the following commitments:**

- Enhance efforts and work with others to identify and reduce disaster risks faced by children.

## Yogyakarta Declaration Annex 1 - 24 October 2012

- Give disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation as much attention as emergency response.
- Promote a child centered approach to DRR that focuses on child participation, as well as children's rights to protection, survival and development in the face of disasters.
- Create space and opportunity for children to speak out on DRR and undertake DRR actions in our interventions and advocate with DRR stakeholders, including governments and policy-makers at national and local levels to support participation of children in disaster risk reduction programmes.

### **We, the children at the 5<sup>th</sup> AMCDRR call upon participants of the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to:**

- Include DRR & CCA in the education curriculum. Terminologies on DRR & CCA must be localized and simplified
- Local Government units must work with children to address issues in DRR and recovery and reconstruction. We need more opportunities and spaces to discuss among ourselves as well as share our views with decision-makers.
- We need resources to support our ideas. We have a lot of ideas on how we can help our schools and communities to become safer and resilient but schools and communities often do not have budget to support it. Empower us with our own regular resources and attention to DRR.
- Give attention and protection to children including those with disabilities at school. Please do simulation exercises regularly down to village level which has relation with the environment for children and youth. Provide disaster post and early warning system which can be understood by children with disabilities as well
- Government should rebuild schools damaged by disasters as soon as possible and make sure we can still see our friends.
- Build a network with children around the world through children forum

### **Child centered Organizations at the 5<sup>th</sup> AMCDRR call upon participants of the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to:**

- Recognize that children have a central role in seeking to reduce vulnerabilities and enhance capacities.
- Ensure integration of child vulnerabilities into national and sub-national risk assessments and development plans by overlaying child vulnerability data with natural hazard and climate change information.
- Deliver on commitments made at Global Platform 2009 and subsequently reiterated at the Global Platform in 2011 on DRR Education and School Safety as a first step towards ensuring safety of millions of children in Asia and the Pacific
- Disaster Management Authorities and related organizations to work in partnership with all relevant line ministries related to social services and child welfare.
- Support the outcomes sought by the Convention on the Rights of the Child by identifying specific needs of children's protection, survival and development in disaster risk management and promoting their voices and active participation in community-based DRR.
- Support the implementation of the Children's Charter on DRR.
- Support the participation of children and young people in the World Conference in 2015 as well as to include them in the post-2015 HFA discussion as a key stakeholder group.
- Integrate child centered DRR and climate change adaptation in national legislation as well as in a binding follow-up agreement to the HFA