

**Statement of Mayors and Local Government Authorities
For
The 5th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 22-25
October 2012, Yogyakarta, Indonesia**



We, Mayors and Local Government Authorities from countries in Asia and the Pacific attending the 5th Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR (5th AMCDRR):

Recall that reducing human and economic losses caused by disaster and climate change impacts is imperative for sustainable and equitable development of nations in the region.

Welcome the Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR (AMCDRR) as the unique regional platform for governments in the region and all concerned stakeholder groups to reaffirm our commitment for the implementation of the 2005-2015 Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) – Building Resilient Nations and Communities against Disasters and to jointly develop our vision post 2015.

Confirm our consent and commitment to the global agenda in promoting local disaster and climate resilience that has been declared through a number of regional and global statements and declarations.

Recognize the opportunities to advance local DRR and building resilience in Asia and the Pacific, created by, amongst others, the enhanced national policies and institutions for disaster and climate risk management, the decentralization process being pursued by a number of governments in the region and the recognized need to accelerate the HFA progress at local level.

At the conclusion of the 5th AMCDRR, on behalf of hundreds cities and local governments in the region who contributed to this statement,

We commit to:

- Identify disaster risks in all communities, develop risk reduction action plans that are regularly monitored and shared with national governments.
- Take a leadership role in making disaster and climate resilience a bold agenda in local development, through developing appropriate local policies and institutions, reinforcing disaster risk consideration in strategic, spatial, territorial and urban planning, and investing in concrete risk reduction measures in on-going as well as new socio-economic development programs including critical infrastructure projects;
- Invest in building capacity of local administration at all levels and empower communities to assess disaster risk, plan, access funding and apply available tools to improve disaster risk management.
- Promote Community-based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) and sharing of good practices to scale-up DRR activities.
- Promote close collaboration between local authorities, communities, schools and especially among people to enhance people's capacity to cope with disaster during normal time, including integrating DRR into school curricula
- Create mechanisms for participation of all segments of the society in risk reduction and resilience building: recognize the vulnerabilities but more importantly the role and capacity of women, young people, children, the elderly and people with disability to enable their valuable contribution; ensuring gender equality, strengthen the involvement of academia, civil society organizations, private sector, and other actors to advance the knowledge of risk and accelerate risk reduction actions.
- Convince local Disaster Risk Management Council or Board to invest in disaster mitigation infrastructures that mobilize the knowledge, expertise and resources of communities, including of the vulnerable groups.
- Actively participate in the Campaign including utilizing the Local HFA-Local Government Self Assessment Tool (LG-SAT) and Handbook for Local Government Leaders to support the work of local governments
- Create an alliance of local governments in Asia and the Pacific to promote a "Collaborative Concrete Course of Action" for disaster and climate resilience that emphasizes concrete actions by Mayors and Local Government Leaders, the sharing of knowledge and experience and enhancing collaboration between cities and local governments.

We call upon National Governments and other stakeholders to:

- Change the mindset, believe that local authorities can prevent and mitigate disasters
- Strengthen the capacity of local governments and community actors responsible for disaster prevention and disaster response through an accelerated decentralization process.
- Create financial facilities for locally-developed DRR and CCA measures, including a dedicate budget line for disaster risk management; provide clear and coherent guidance, mechanisms and capacity support for local governments to access and use the funds in an effective and accountable manner.
- Develop integrated policies for DRR, climate change adaptation and sustainable development.
- Consult with local governments in the development of national DRR and CCA plans and policy frameworks.
- Develop mechanisms to support and incentivize local governments to assess, document and report on the risks facing their communities
- Strengthen capacity of local governments in developing multi-stakeholder partnerships, especially in using new information technology platforms to develop and disseminate disaster risk information and risk reduction solutions.
- Promote a stronger voice of local governments at regional and international forums, both on DRR and climate change and other development forums
- Collaborate with local media to disseminate knowledge and actions on DRR

Looking into the future, we recognize that the post 2015 Framework for DRR will be a critical instrument to advance disaster and climate risk management for sustainable development in the decades to come.

We commit to:

- Take a proactive role in defining this important future framework, drawing on local experience, challenges as well as solutions.
- Promote dialogue and inputs of communities and local stakeholders in the process and promote systematic approach to support each other

We call for the following considerations in developing the Post 2015 Framework for DRR

- Shift from the still dominant mindset for disaster response to long term risk reduction.
- Accelerate the identification of disaster and climate risks including emerging risks, retain people-focused end-to-end early warning systems as a priority
- Pay more attention to small scale disasters which have devastating impacts on communities, especially poor households and other vulnerable groups
- Address the un-matching capacity of local governments to deal with increasing disaster risk including capacity to plan and prioritize the use of resources
- Ensure a genuine bottom-up engagement for the post 2015 framework, starting with accelerating the dissemination of information and DRR knowledge at local levels.
- Promote the focus on local governments as one of critical responsible parties. Ensure the language of the framework would be formulated with local government leaders in mind.
- Pay particular attention to an integrated strategy for both disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation to be mainstreamed into broader socio-economic development and poverty reduction.
- Ensure that the post 2015 framework will deliver DRR across both short and long-term. Consider a 20 year timeframe for the framework.
- Focus on the need to define new methods to measure and evaluate the benefits of risk reduction and resilience.