



**Statement of National Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent
For
The 5th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 22-25 October 2012, Yogyakarta, Indonesia**

We, the thirty-seven members of the National Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent from countries in Asia and the Pacific attending the 5th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (5th AMCDRR):

Noting that around the world communities are facing some of the most challenging trends of the 21st century: ageing populations coupled with non-communicable diseases, rapid urbanisation, environmental degradation, uncertainty of climate change and increasing levels of poverty.

Acknowledging the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent's (IFRC) Strategy 2020 describes the importance of engaging in life-saving activities in disasters and crises, while also highlighting the importance of protecting livelihoods, strengthening recovery and enabling healthy and safe living in the longer-term.

Reinforcing the Red Cross and Red Crescent approach to community resilience is in part about bridging our development and humanitarian work through common insights and approaches that integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies. Inclusive, sustained, accountable and participatory approaches, for example, are as relevant to humanitarian work as they are for development.

Noting IFRC research undertaken with the communities we serve, has identified key characteristics which have defined the Red Cross and Red Crescent approach to resilience; *the ability of individuals, communities, organisations, or countries exposed to disasters and crises and underlying vulnerabilities to: anticipate; reduce the impact of; cope with; and recover from the effects of adversity without compromising their long term prospects.*

Noting multiple risks and their impacts on vulnerable people must be considered together with assessments of capacities and efforts to strengthen these. Building community resilience requires the understanding that the level of vulnerability to disasters, crises and shocks is often determined less by the scale of a hazard and more by the underlying vulnerability of people, caused by a set of inter-related risks.

At the conclusion of the 5th AMCDRR, participating members of the National Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent wish to make the following commitments on behalf of the Societies from the region who contributed to this statement.

We commit to:

1. Work together with local and national governments, academia, technical agencies, civil society organizations and ‘at risk’ communities to ensure that the most vulnerable groups – including women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities – have access to knowledge and can act upon scientific and risk information, while ensuring they are at the centre of our disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation actions and interventions.
2. Realising an integrated and coherent Red Cross Red Crescent vision and approach to resilience through fostering mindset shifts and looking beyond disaster risk reduction alone to make – within our means and expertise – a reinforced commitment to eradicating poverty, reducing inequality, and achieving equity and dignity.
3. Acting on the IFRC Governing Board decision to target the investment of up to 10 percent of any emergency appeal for the strengthening of resilience work. In achieving this we will advocate to institutional and emerging donors for support to make this a reality.
4. Working and advocating with governments to support legislative reviews that enhance their legal and institutional frameworks for disaster risk reduction.
5. Advocate for risk reduction and climate change adaptation as critical elements in developing resilience and promoting sustainable development as part of the international development agenda beyond 2015.

We call upon participants of the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to:

1. Work more effectively with all key stakeholders to empower communities by involving them in local government development planning that sets measurable targets and minimum standards for building individual and community safety and resilience.
2. Work in global and local partnerships to strengthen resilience and enact the necessary reforms of governance at all levels to establish national targets and indicators within the post 2015 framework.
3. Ensure a financial investment of at least 5-10 percent of annual local revenue to enable the integration of risk reduction and climate adaptation into public investments policies and planning.
4. Support the Red Cross Red Crescent in this shift towards a more comprehensive approach to resilience, including more substantive funding commensurate with its role and capacity for delivering sustainable development programming.

In conclusion:

We are calling for a serious shift in mindset and for all concerned to work together to bring about long-term and sustainable change in the lives of vulnerable people. This requires working across sectors. Looking at what we can – concretely and to scale – contribute not only to disaster response, but to risk reduction, public health and sustainable development.