



## **Statement of Voluntary Commitments**

### **of Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies Stakeholder Group for the 6<sup>th</sup> Asia Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction**

**22- 26 June 2014**

**Bangkok, Thailand**

International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies (IFRC) Secretariat and the thirty-seven members of the National Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent from countries in Asia and the Pacific attending the 6<sup>th</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

The IFRC and RCRC National Societies believe that for effective disaster risk management some fundamentally important issues should be highlighted in the new framework. We find that these issues are either missing, unclear and/or require greater emphasis than is currently accorded within the "Proposed Elements for Consideration" paper prepared by the UNISDR. We, therefore, are committed and recommend the following issues to be incorporated in the Post 2015 Framework for DRR to support the strong cooperation and commitment of all stakeholders:

#### **Disaster risk reduction protects sustainable development gains and therefore must be an integral part of the Sustainable Development Goals**

Sustainable Development cannot be achieved without managing disaster risk. Integrating disaster risk reduction into national or international planning, implementation and financing remains greatly under-achieved. This is despite the existence of the original Hyogo Framework for Action and its comprehensive action framework, agreed at the Rio+20 International Conference on Sustainable Development to address disaster risk reduction "with renewed urgency in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication".

#### **Disaster risk reduction must be mainstreamed throughout the Sustainable Development Goals**

Disaster risk reduction and resilience are crosscutting issues, and disaster risk threatens to undo Development progress in nearly all sectors and focus areas. The Sustainable Development Goal Framework must build on the recognition of the strong link between disasters and poverty eradication by mainstreaming DRR into development planning.

#### **Integration of disaster risk reduction and resilience into the Sustainable Development Goals must address the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable**

Overwhelming evidence shows that the poorest and most vulnerable are disproportionately affected by disaster. It is they who continue to have inadequate access to the infrastructure, services, insurance and

social protection necessary to recover. To this end, targets and indicators should address the wellbeing of the poor and vulnerable groups, and should include in addition to the reduction of economic losses, the protection and wellbeing of the most vulnerable.

The IFRC and RCRC National Societies believe that for effective disaster risk reduction some fundamentally important issues should be highlighted in the new framework.

Reiterating our commitments given during the 5<sup>th</sup> AMCDRR, we are further stressing that Building community resilience requires the understanding that the level of vulnerability to disasters, crises and shocks are increasingly determined by the underlying vulnerability of people, caused by a set of inter-related risks. At the conclusion of the 6th AMCDRR, participating members of the National Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent, on behalf of the Societies from the region, wish to make the commitments of their contribution by taking the following actions:

### **3.1. Enhancing Resilience at Local levels:**

The Red Cross and Red Crescent will continue to invest in enhancing community resilience at local level ensuring bridging of gap between development and humanitarian work through common insights and sustainable, accountable and participatory approaches that integrate disaster risk reduction, public health and climate change adaptation strategies. Following are the actions we commit to undertake to enhance resilience at local level:

- a) Enable every community in high risk areas to have a capacity to reduce risk, to prepare for and respond to disasters.
- b) Promote inclusion and strengthen volunteer/community-based networks.
- c) Promote role of communities
- d) Mainstream gender and strengthen the role of women as a force in local level resilience building.
- e) Institutionalize integrated multi-sectoral community resilience approaches in local level risk reduction policies, planning and programs:
- f) Strengthen community-local government partnerships, legal frameworks and accountability mechanisms
- g) Work as a trusted and reliable partner and effective auxiliaries to the governments respectively in humanitarian and development framework.

### **3.2 Improving Public Investments for Disaster & Climate Risk Management to Protect & Sustain Development Gains**

Climate change results from natural factors, natural processes and human activities and became one of the root causes for disasters. The consequences of climate change have a huge negative impact on water and food resources, decreasing agricultural potential and productivity, increasing extreme weather event and

escalating poverty around the globe. Following are the actions we commit to undertake to reduce climate change related economic and social damages:

- a) Continue and scaled up support to volunteer contribution to Resilience building
- b) Increase engagement with civil society organizations at local level
- c) Enhance technical and financial investments to the RCRC national societies in DRR and Community Resilience building.
- d) Strengthened humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy on DRR, and Climate Change in close cooperation with the sub regional bodies such as ASEAN, SAARC, SPC
- e) Encourage stakeholders commitment and involvement in long term sustainable disaster and climate risk reduction programming.

### **3.3 Private Sector Role – Public & Private Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction**

We, recognizing that disaster risk reduction is everybody's business, are calling for firm engagements of all stakeholders to work in partnerships, joining financial, human and technical resources to bring about long-term and sustainable change in the lives of vulnerable people

This requires multi sectoral and multi stakeholder involvement and holistic approach to community needs not only to disaster response, but to risk reduction, public health and sustainable development if we are to build more resilient future. Following are the actions we commit to undertake to strengthen public & private partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction.

- a) Enhance cooperation and partnerships with corporate sector for long term investments in resilience building
- b) Enhance resource mobilization capacities at local level

In conclusion:

**We, 37 National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent from countries in Asia and the Pacific, call upon governments, private and public sector and other participants of the 6th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to:**

- Continue active engagement with 'at-risk' communities, local leaders and civil society to achieve lasting impacts in reducing risks and strengthening resilience.
- Review and strengthen the implementation of legal frameworks to create an enabling environment for building community resilience.
- Strengthen support to and investment in Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies as unique partners in building community safety and resilience.
- Allocate more resources to and advocate for greater recognition of 'silent disasters' which have the most significant impacts on vulnerable communities.
- Support and strengthen relevant and reliable systems that allow access to and the distribution of risk information and warnings to affected populations and communities.