



Statement of Voluntary Commitments of Asia-Pacific Stakeholder Group on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Disaster Risk Management and Regional Resilience Building for the 6th Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction

22- 26 June 2014

Bangkok, Thailand

The critical need to address gender perspectives in development and disasters is well established and has been acknowledged globally at the highest levels. Disasters showcase and highlight existing gender based imbalances and inequalities in societies; both vulnerabilities and capacities embedded in the social and economic context of development. Gender aspects cut across all segments of society and have implications for every action and move towards resilience building. Gender inclusion in development and disaster risk reduction (DRR) programming therefore is not a choice but an imperative.

Review of implementation experiences of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) highlight gender inclusiveness as one of the least progressed aspects of its implementation. The consultations for the post-2015 framework for DRR strongly challenge the notion of considering women as helpless victims in disasters and voice the need to better recognise women's skills, capacities and leadership, demanding that the role of women must be acknowledged and inclusion of women must be enhanced in post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2).

The Stakeholder group 'Women's issues and gender equality in DRM and resilience building in Asia Pacific' was constituted in 2012 as part of the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP), Asia Regional Platform for DRR, to provide concerted focus and coherent guidance on this theme.

1. The Stakeholder group will work collectively:

- I. To ensure that women's leadership role and perspectives on gender equality in DRM and resilience building are comprehensively represented and included in the formulation of the HFA2;

- II. To support related actions in HFA2 implementation by providing guidance, strengthening capacities and monitoring progress against agreed deliverables.

2. Actions related to the three sub-themes of the conference (Community Resilience, Public Investments and Private Sector Engagement):

Ensure that recommendations of the Key Area 4 study - 'Women as a force in resilience building, gender equality in DRR: Report of the consultations in Asia- Pacific' are included within the sub-themes of the conference:

Review the background papers and suggest filling gaps, as necessary particularly;

- I. Discuss with lead organizations of the technical sessions to ensure the recommendations of the paper titled Women as a force in resilience building, gender equality in DRR which is the report of the consultations in Asia- Pacific on Key Area 4 as input towards post-2015 framework for DRR (HFA2)
- II. Key area 4 paper -Women as a force in resilience building, gender equality in DRR: Report of the consultations in Asia- Pacific' gets due attention at the sessions
- III. Assist in including gender equality and women's empowerment issues in to the conference theme discussions (extend support with identifying speakers and reviewing presentations; and provide relevant information and talking points)

3. Actions related to evolving HFA2 priorities [towards implementation of the same]:

- I. SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) as a member of the Stakeholder Group will initiate and carry out a pilot/ action research study at national and local levels in one or more countries in the SAARC¹ region, on generation and use of sex and age disaggregated data to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment issues into disaster risk management and resilience building.
- II. Encourage and support countries in other sub-regions to conduct similar pilots and research studies. (sub-regional level)
- III. Mobilize resources to increase awareness and build capacities of the national and local governments to implement HFA2 and monitor progress from gender perspectives at regional and global levels..
- IV. Inform regional and global platforms about the progress against HFA2 targets (outputs) and indicators (outcomes) (regional/global) on active participation of women in Asia-Pacific
- V. Grassroots level academy to document women's capacity in DRR and carry out capacity building (Huirou Commission)

¹ Signatory countries to South Asia Agreement of Regional Corporation

- VI. Advocate Japanese government to carry out actions called for through the Senadi Call to Action on Gender and Diversity in Disaster Risk Reduction: Towards the post Hyogo Framework for Action (Japanese Women's Network for DRR)

4. *Targets*

- I. Pilot generation and use of sex and age disaggregated data in more than one countries in the SAARC region
- II. Support two more countries from the South-East Asian sub-region to pilot the use of sex and age disaggregated data²
- III. Support one country from the Pacific sub-region to take action from the findings and recommendations of the pilot
- IV. Mobilise resources to conduct awareness and training programmes with a pilot for capacity building of national and local government officials in 1-2 countries on the collection, analysis and use of sex and age disaggregated data.
- V. Report results to IAP, regional and global platforms
- VI. Creating a formal network and introducing communication mechanisms such as mailing groups, organize meetings, publishing articles...etc to foster information exchange and learning (to be confirmed)

5. *Indicators*

- I. Pilot on the collection, analysis and use of sex and age disaggregated data in 1-2 countries in the SAARC region initiated by SAARC DMC
- II. Awareness and capacity building programmes on the collection, analysis and use of sex and age disaggregated data conducted in 1-2 countries
- III. Progress on women's inclusion reviewed and reported or Progress on the collection of sex and age disaggregated vulnerability and capacity information as well as progress in mainstreaming gender in DRR

6. *Means of Verification:*

Documents, reports, updates at the IAP, Regional and Global Platforms

7. *Timeframe:*

Until 2017 –Up to 7AMCDRR

² TWG-GEEW Joint Secretariat can provide technical resources for such an initiative