

Dushanbe Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience Building

Preamble

Countries in the Central Asian and South Caucasus (CASC) region are prone to high levels of disaster risks due to their geographical position, exposure of populations and economies to risks from prevalent and emerging multiple hazards.

The region experiences a wide range of natural and technological hazards, including earthquakes, floods, landslides, mudslides, debris flows, avalanches, droughts and extreme temperatures, which have historically – and in recent times – caused colossal economic and human losses. Many of these hazards are trans-boundary in nature. In addition, issues related to radioactive waste and pollution are significant.

There is an increasing incidence and severity of hydro-meteorological hazards in the region, some of which are related to climate change.

A wide range of pro-active measures to reduce risk and vulnerability to disasters in the region have been taken guided by the global frameworks such as: International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR, 1990-1999); Yokohama Strategy 'A Safer World in the 21st Century: Disaster and Risk Reduction (1994); Millennium Development Goals (2000-2015); International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR, 2001); Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters; Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030; Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030). During the period of 2013-2015, the Central Asian and South Caucasus countries have taken important measures aimed at strengthening regional cooperation through the establishment of the Regional Forum of the Heads of emergency departments of Central Asian countries (Ashgabat Declaration) and the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Asia and South Caucasus.

Heads of delegations of the countries¹ and High Level Authorities attending the first Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Asia and South Caucasus hosted by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan 12 July 2016;

Acknowledging:

Disaster risk management and risk resilient development is a common element highlighted in all the post-2015 development agendas adopted by all member states of the United Nations, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, as well as being endorsed by the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit;

The successor to the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015*, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 endorsed by the UN General Assembly with resolution A/RES/69/283 on 3 June 2015 is the global guidance framework for disaster risk reduction for resilience building;

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 stresses *the need for agreed regional and sub-regional strategies and mechanisms for cooperation and for progress to be reviewed by regional and global platforms*²;

The implementation of global development programmes, including Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, should be implemented exclusively recognizing the strategic role / involvement of governments in order to ensure future sustainability.

¹ Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

² Sendai Framework's paragraphs 28 (c) and 49 clearly identify the function of the Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction

Recognizing:

The consistent actions and significant achievements in disaster risk reduction during the HFA 2005-2015 in the CASC region including – but not limited to – the creation of dedicated institutions at the national level, multi stakeholder national platforms and inter-governmental mechanisms, including intrastate and interstate coordination procedures;

Inter-governmental, national and local Institutions, policies and strategies, information and communication systems established consequently have raised the awareness on hazards and disaster risks and, in turn, have led to concerted action towards disaster risk reduction;

The potential of existing institutional mechanisms in the CASC region and the need for further strengthening of multi-sector and multi-stakeholder mechanisms for successful implementation of the Priorities for Action of the Sendai Framework;

The need to further strengthen the role of national-level institutions, national platforms, multi-stakeholder and intergovernmental mechanisms operating in Central Asia and the South Caucasus, as well as consolidation of efforts and resources to ensure the sustainability of coordination of the implementation of the Sendai Framework region, and the need to coordinate efforts to enhance synergies and effective cooperation with regional and international programs aimed at addressing common problems.

Re-affirming:

The commitments made to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction through the National Statements and the *Joint Statement of the countries of the region of Central Asia and South Caucasus regarding the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction* at the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to implement the Priorities for Action of the Sendai Framework to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk and strengthening the resilience of the people and assets to withstand risk within the context of the Central Asia and South Caucasus region;

The commitments for regional cooperation and coordination also made through the *Framework of strengthening regional co-operation of Disaster Management authorities of Central Asian region in the area of Disaster Risk Reduction* adopted in 2015 and the respective "Action Plan for the implementation of the cooperation framework for 2016-2017" in the framework of the Regional Forum of the Heads of Disaster Management Authorities of Central Asian countries.

Voluntary commitments of the countries in the CASC region reflect the efforts on regional cooperation and create a favorable basis for the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Express commitment to, in collaboration with national and local authorities, private sector, international and non-government organizations, and other stakeholders:

Develop and implement Disaster Risk Management strategies and action plans with national targets and indicators towards realizing the Target (e) of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction '*Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020*'³;

Take concerted action to further strengthen and expand regional and national multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms, including the established and operating mechanisms and platforms, aiming consolidation of efforts and resources, involving a wide range of stakeholders, and also with due regard for the principle of national ownership, as recommended in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction with the firm objective of building coherence and integrated actions for achieving risk resilient sustainable development in the CASC region;

³ Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
http://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf pp12

To improve effectiveness and coordination of actions, Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to integrate existing national and regional forums and platforms active in addressing Priorities for Action of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;

Take action to increase understanding risk at the national level by conducting national status reviews of disaster risk management and setting up national disaster loss databases as a basis for developing Disaster Risk Management strategies/programmes and action plans;

Develop cooperation with the ‘Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction’ as a resource centre for implementation of the Priorities for Action of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;

Participate in the First Cycle of the ‘Sendai Progress Monitoring 2017 – 2019’ to be introduced by the UNISDR Secretariat in 2017.⁴

Conduct regular meetings of the Regional Platform for DRR in the CASC region

Call for:

International organizations and regional institutions to provide financial, technical, operational and programmatic supports to accelerate the planning and implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the CASC region especially developing the national DRM strategies and action plans, including setting targets and developing indicators of progress.

Regional inter-governmental mechanisms and bodies and regional institutions to consider contributing through their existing forums to support implementation and follow-up of the Declarations of the Regional Platform for DRR in CASC and implementation.

Coordination of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the region of Central Asia and the South Caucasus by further strengthening and / or expansion of the scope of activities of existing mechanisms and/or platforms of the CASC countries and consolidation of efforts and resources around them.

Inclusion of modalities for information exchange on the application of innovations and exchange of best practices between countries in the region, and between other regional platforms.

Undertaking efforts in developing policies and approaches to involve multinational corporations and representatives of the business sector in the region to participate in the implementation of local and regional risk reduction programs.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, as the host country of the first meeting of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in CASC, in coordination with the CASC Sub-Regional office of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), to present the content of this Declaration at the Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in New Delhi, India, 02-05 November 2016 and at the Fifth Session of the Global Platform for DRR in May 2017, in Mexico.

Express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Tajikistan for their gracious hospitality in hosting and organizing the First Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Central Asia and South Caucasus.

Dushanbe, 12 July 2016

⁴ UNISDR is mandated by the UN General Assembly for facilitation of the implementation, monitor and review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction