

ASIAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
□ PREVENTING DISASTER RISK: PROTECTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT □

ULAANBAATAR DECLARATION

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific having met in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 3 to 6 July 2018 on the occasion of the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction:

1. *Express deep concern* at the continuing impact of disasters in the region, resulting in recurrent loss of human lives and livelihoods, displacement of people, and environmental, economic, social and material damages.
2. *Realize* the need to focus on underlying, interconnected and evolving disaster risk factors such as unplanned and rapid urbanization, development, migration, population growth, and climate change and poverty.
3. *Recognize* the importance of ensuring coherence among the global frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the Agenda for Humanity, the New Urban Agenda, the SIDS Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, and regional inter-governmental processes including the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, and the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific.
4. *Recognize* that science and technology research and its application, including in space and spatial, and information and communication technology, have and will continue to have a significant role in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
5. *Affirm* that the need to continue to build and strengthen resilience of persons, communities and countries and the environment is at the core of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework.
6. *Recall* the Cancun High-Level Communiqué: *Ensuring the resilience of infrastructure and housing* and other outcomes of the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.
7. *Renew* the commitment to ensure continuity of our work, building on the outcomes of the 2016 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in India, and to continue the progress made by governments to implement, and partner and support organizations and other stakeholders, to implement the Asia Regional Plan.
8. *Appreciate* the vital role played by stakeholder groups as enablers, partnering with governments and communities, in the implementation of the Asia Regional Plan at local, national and regional levels, including through fulfilment of their voluntary commitments.

Hereby, call on all governments and stakeholders to:

9. *Commit* to translating coherence of global frameworks into policy and practice to achieve resilience at national and local levels across all sectors including by strengthening governance arrangements and by providing practical guidance to ensure effective and efficient management of disaster risk.

10. *Urgently accelerate* actions to develop and implement national and local strategies on disaster risk reduction, thereby achieving target (e) of the Sendai Framework by 2020.
11. *Ensure* a human rights-based, people-centred and whole-of-society approach in development, implementation and monitoring of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies inclusive of women and girls, children and youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, displaced and migrant populations, and those in vulnerable situations such as the poor and marginalized.
12. *Promote* full and equal participation of women in leading, designing, and implementing gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes, through joint efforts by public and private sector, supported by appropriate legal frameworks and allocation of necessary resources.
13. *Support* systematic inclusion of engagement and partnership with children and youth, in all phases of disaster risk reduction through sharing of information and involvement in decision-making processes at all levels.
14. *Promote and scale-up* community-level actions that strengthen local capacities and foster local leadership to reduce disaster risk and enhance resilience.
15. *Establish* new and strengthen existing regional, sub-regional, national, sub-national and local platforms on disaster risk reduction, with the active engagement of local and national stakeholders, in coordination with regional and international partners and cooperation mechanisms.
16. *Commit* to mobilizing the necessary resources, especially finances, to implement national, sub-national and local strategies and promote greater investment and financing for disaster risk reduction at the local level.
17. *Promote* risk-sensitive public and private investments for building disaster resilience, in particular, to make new infrastructure resilient and accessible and design innovative solutions for affordable retrofitting of existing infrastructure.
18. *Reinforce* public-private partnerships in disaster risk reduction including the use of different disaster risk transfer and financing instruments such as insurance, forecast-based financing and social protection schemes.
19. *Commit* to integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, including furthering the resilience of natural ecosystems.
20. *Promote* dialogue and knowledge-sharing among a broad range of national and local stakeholders, including universities, the private sector, and science and technology communities to enhance the availability of innovative technology and research, facilitate capacity development, and contribute to decision-making for addressing local risks and the needs of the most vulnerable.
21. *Scale up* effective early warning systems and their translation into early action including for hard-to-reach and remote populations.
22. *Integrate* disaster risk reduction into preparedness, response, post-disaster recovery and “Build Back Better” by improving coordination, ensuring continuity of critical infrastructure and services, and facilitating effective linkages between relief, rehabilitation and development.

23. *Commit* to greater accountability for disaster risk reduction, including through systematically collecting and recording disaster damage and losses, conducting and sharing risk assessments and analysis to inform national and local strategies, establishing monitoring baselines, and using the Sendai Framework Monitor to assess progress in achievement of global and national targets and indicators, using sex, age and disability disaggregated data and local inputs.
24. *Pledge* to increase North-South cooperation, complemented by South-South and triangular cooperation, to reinforce the financial and technical capacity of developing and least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.
25. *Promote* International Day for Disaster Reduction, World Tsunami Awareness Day, and regional and national disaster risk reduction days, to raise awareness of disaster risk reduction and to encourage global actions for behavioural change.

Resolve to:

26. *Implement* the actions recommended in this Ulaanbaatar Declaration, deliver on our commitments and share the progress at the next Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2020.
27. *Work* with partner organizations and stakeholders to implement the Action Plan 2018-2020 of the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework, and update on the progress through the ISDR-Asia Partnership Forum.
28. *Call* on the stakeholder groups to deliver on their voluntary commitments and periodically report on progress.

Recognize the role of United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) in coordinating global and regional efforts to support implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework, including through its partnership with regional agencies, international organizations, civil society and the private sector.

Acknowledge global and regional meetings and initiatives hosted by governments and recognize their outcomes; including Bangladesh (Second International Conference on Disability and Disaster Risk Management 2018), China (Second Asian Science and Technology Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2018), Fiji (Joint Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Roundtable 2017), India (International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure 2018), and Viet Nam (Regional Conference on Strengthening Resilient Food and Agriculture Systems 2018).

Appreciate the leadership of the governments of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, the Federation of Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Indonesia and the Royal Thai Government in hosting previous Asian Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction and for making progress in implementing the Declarations of these Conferences.

Express our gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of Mongolia for their hospitality in organizing the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the first-ever in a landlocked developing country, in partnership with UNISDR and look forward to the next Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2020 to be hosted by the Government of Australia.

Adopted on 6 July 2018, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.