



## Yerevan Declaration

1. We, the participants of the Central-Asia and South Caucasus Sub Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, gathered in Yerevan from 26 to 27 of June 2018:
2. Congratulate the city of Yerevan for its 2800th anniversary, which represents a historical example of resilience across centuries;
3. Express gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Armenia for its warm hospitality in hosting the platform and showing leadership in disaster risk reduction;
4. Underline the strong value of regional cooperation to strengthen disaster resilience, in particular, through data sharing, capacity building, exchange of best practices and technical expertise;
5. Acknowledge the progress made towards the 2016 Dushanbe Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience Building and its Plan of Action.

### *Challenges*

6. We, the participants, note that global models suggest that the risk of economic losses is rising due to urbanization and the concentration of critical infrastructure. In Central Asia and South Caucasus countries, the risk of losing capital stock to disasters may be growing at a faster rate than the capital being produced.
7. We understand that the increasing frequency of extreme weather events, driven by climate change, and also the risk of earthquakes present greater challenges in disaster risk reduction and building resilience. We are aware that disasters, and particularly small-scale, slow-onset and recurring disasters, and those that are man-made severely damage infrastructure, livelihoods and ecosystems which are key pillars of growth and development. Such losses and damages exacerbate further vulnerability and exposure to risks from natural and man-made hazards. We further recognize the low penetration of risk reduction mechanisms for the poor and most vulnerable.
8. The facilities which produce and store hazardous materials carry an additional risk of accidents and release of toxic materials into environment as an impact of disasters caused by natural hazards. These so called Natech disasters deserve attention as they can result in catastrophes with immense consequences.



### *Opportunities*

9. To ensure that new developments are risk-sensitive, it is necessary to avoid the creation of future risk while boosting long-term growth and reducing poverty.
10. We underscore the societal need, and recognize the business opportunity, for increasing partnerships between public and private sectors to reduce disaster risk.

### *Commitments*

11. In the context of overall development, we resolve to work together and call upon all actors to:
  - Reaffirm our determination to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015- 2030, with a focus in reaching the Target E by 2020, in coherence with the 2030 Development Agenda including the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the New Urban Agenda and other relevant instruments, and to recognize the importance of engaging with local governments to implement and invest in disaster risk reduction.
  - Promote the localization and dissemination of best practices in disaster risk identification, assessment and modeling and the use of it in DRR education and public awareness-raising.
  - Make disaster risk assessments a prerequisite for land use, urban planning, infrastructure and housing investments;
  - Welcome the progress made by CASC countries on establishing National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction and call for strengthening of it by the inclusion of stakeholders including women, people with disabilities, children and youth.
  - Establish national disaster loss accounting mechanisms that are disaggregated by location, gender, age, income level allowing for risk informed decisions.
  - Call upon United Nations entities to continue supporting the implementation of disaster risk reduction activities in collaboration with relevant partners and organizations and welcome the reporting against Sendai Framework coordinated by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).



- Underline the importance of strengthened cooperation with the ‘Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR)’ in Almaty, Kazakhstan as a resource hub and capacity building for supporting Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction implementation.
12. Encourage all governments and actors in the region to participate at the 2018 European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, 21-23 November, Rome, Italy and the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 13-17 May, Geneva, Switzerland;
  13. Invite Armenia, as the host country of the Central Asia and South Caucasus Sub-Regional platform to present the Yerevan Declaration to the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.