



Accelerating Disaster Resilience

Australia will host the 2020 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR), convened by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), in Brisbane from 29 June to 2 July 2020. The Conference will serve as a critical juncture to review progress and set the course of the Asia-Pacific's disaster resilience for the next decade. To meet the targets of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*, a fundamental transformation must take place to ensure disaster risk is incorporated into planning at regional, national and sub-national levels. Evidence suggests the region is currently falling short.

The APMCDRR 2020 will feature three pillars to support this transformation, with cross-cutting themes focused on local and inclusive disaster risk reduction. The Conference will result in the "Brisbane Declaration", outlining the region's collective priorities; the 2020-2022 Asia-Pacific Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework and associated regional plans; and Voluntary Commitments by stakeholders. Australia will subsequently present the APMCDRR outcomes to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York in July 2020.

Pillar One: Investing in Prevention

There is an urgent need to shift the focus from investing in disaster response to investing in risk reduction and resilience, by embedding risk reduction into economic development and planning. At the same time, climate change is triggering global systemic responses, including a transition in the finance sector that is increasingly recognising both the risks and opportunities for governments, communities, and the private sector. Sessions focusing on financing and investing in disaster risk reduction will investigate where investment for disaster resilience is best spent, and will explore mechanisms for encouraging greater public and private investment in disaster resilience across the Asia-Pacific. Sessions will also explore the key elements to making small and medium enterprises in the region more resilient to disasters, which in turn build stronger communities.

Pillar Two: Making Infrastructure and Systems Resilient

Emerging economies in the Asia-Pacific region are rapidly increasing investment in physical infrastructure and associated systems. Much of the region's population is increasingly urban, and disaster risk concentrates within cities and urban areas of all sizes and economic characteristics. With so much infrastructure development underway, we need to ensure that infrastructure construction and services do not create more risk, and are disaster and climate resilient to protect investments and prevent loss of life. The APMCDRR 2020 will investigate options and seek greater commitment to ensure disaster and climate risks are incorporated in the design and use of future infrastructure and systems.

Pillar Three: Sharing Innovation, Knowledge and Solutions

The APMCDRR 2020 provides an opportunity to share expertise, ideas and experience across the region in using science and technology to reduce disaster risk, and strengthen community resilience. Scientists and end-users of technology will share evidence of the use of applied science and technology to increase community understanding of disaster risk, and to inform development of infrastructure and enhanced capacity for early warning and early action.

Cross-cutting Themes

"Local and Inclusive", and "Island, Coastal and Remote communities"

Disaster risk is context specific. For a society to be truly resilient, everyone must be included. Disasters disproportionately affect different groups in society and impacts are most intensely felt at the local level. Accelerating local efforts is essential to achieving Sendai Framework Target E, due in 2020: 'to substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies'. The APMCDRR 2020 will provide an opportunity to harness the leadership, energy and innovation of women and girls, people with disabilities, indigenous and local communities, and young people as essential players in achieving resilient societies. The capacities and lessons of Asia-Pacific island, coastal, and remote communities, will also be shared at APMCDRR 2020.