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(Draft)

Geneva, Switzerland

19-23 May 2013

Chairperson,
Honorable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of the **ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management**, I would like to express our sincere thanks to the UN ISDR for their wholehearted support to ASEAN and ACDM for the past years in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and for convening this Fourth Session of the Global Platform.
2. All Member States of ASEAN are signatories of the Hyogo Framework for Action. As such, **the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management affirms its commitment to this global blueprint for disaster risk reduction** by continuing to build resilience in our region, in our Member States, in our communities, particularly in these times of changing climate.
3. The ASEAN region is one of the most at-risk regions in the world. In the past decade alone, this region which is home to 600 million people, has been impacted by several catastrophic disasters such as the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, the 2006 Java Earthquake, the 2009 West Sumatra Earthquake, Cyclone Nargis in 2008, Typhoon Washi in 2011, to name a few, in which thousands of lives and billions worth of properties were lost. The region also experiences perennial floods, flash floods, drought, landslides, and other disasters which are not reported by international media but are likewise devastating. **At least, 100 million people have been adversely affected by catastrophic events since year 2000.** Further, according to the World Bank, every year the ASEAN region experiences losses of a **staggering 4.4 billion US dollars on average due to disasters.**

4. At the same time, **our region is home to emerging economies eyed as potential economic drivers of Asia Pacific and even the world**. Given this prospect of regional economic growth and expansion, it is urgent that we **ensure that our development is on a sustainable and robust path**. It is thus **imperative for ASEAN to continue investing in building resilience and adapting to climate change to protect development gains**.

Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. **ASEAN was the first intergovernmental organization to commit to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) through a legally binding agreement by ratifying the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (or AADMER) in 2009.** This Agreement provides the regional framework and mechanisms to reduce loss of life and assets resulting from disasters and facilitate joint emergency response within ASEAN.
6. The ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management, which is composed of national disaster management offices of each ASEAN nation, is the regional body that oversees and directs the implementation of DRR initiatives in the region. Alongside the Hyogo Framework for Action, **the Committee has been implementing the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response Work Programme for 2010 till 2015**.

Distinguished Delegates,
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7. In the eight years of implementing the HFA and half-way through the execution of the AADMER Work Programme, **ASEAN has achieved significant progress in building disaster resilience in the region**. Kindly allow me to mention a few. ASEAN as a region has progressively: (1) **Strengthened its institutions, legal and policy frameworks** to put in place a stable foundation for disaster risk management plans and programmes; (2) **Mainstreamed disaster risk reduction** in policies, plans, and programmes at all levels of governance, in relevant sectors as well as in practice, in our daily work and activities; and (3) **Enhanced our capacities** in terms of preparedness for effective response, prevention, mitigation, resilient recovery, and public education and awareness to protect our families, communities, and societies against disasters. For instance, I am proud to mention that:
 - ASEAN has developed a **roadmap for disaster risk financing and insurance**. Further, the **ASEAN Finance Ministers endorsed the establishment of the ASEAN Cross-Sectoral Coordination Committee on Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance** in April this year in Brunei Darussalam to strengthen finance cooperation and economic integration. This breakthrough development mandates the **ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies and ASEAN**

Insurance Regulators to work closely with our Committee to further implement the ASEAN Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance roadmap.

- The **ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance in Disaster Management or AHA Centre established in Jakarta marked its first anniversary in November 2012**. This was followed by the **launch of the ASEAN Disaster Emergency Logistics System located in Subang, Malaysia** in December 2012 which was tested and deployed in actual disaster operations for the Myanmar earthquake and Typhoon Bopha in the Philippines.
- We have also regularly conducted disaster simulation exercises such as the recently concluded **Disaster Relief Exercise or DIRex** under the ambit of the ASEAN Regional Forum held in Cha-am, Thailand. The **ASEAN Disaster Response Simulation Exercise or ARDEX** will take place this coming October in Vietnam in which our regional disaster response mechanisms and protocol will be tested to improve our preparedness in case another catastrophic disaster strikes.
- In the area of risk assessment and monitoring, the **ASEAN Strategy on Disaster Risk Assessment is already taking shape starting with the fully-functional Disaster Monitoring and Response System (or DMRS) at AHA Centre located in Jakarta**. DMRS is a GIS-based disaster information-sharing platform for near-time monitoring of national and trans-boundary hazards. AHA Centre is also working with partners to scale up its monitoring capabilities using satellite-based information to help Member States analyse impending risks as well as impacts of disasters to facilitate targeted response.
- As ASEAN is an earthquake prone region, we are also **harnessing the best available scientific knowledge in earthquake risk modelling by working together with the academic and scientific community** in the region. The **ASEAN Earthquake Modelling project** is led by Nanyang Technological University of Singapore, BMKG of Indonesia and PHIVOLCS of the Philippines.
- Also, by forging a partnership with civil society organisations, the AADMER Partnership Group and Plan International, we are implementing the **ASEAN Safe Schools Initiative** to come up with models of disaster resilient schools in the region.

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8. **As we near 2015, ASEAN sees the need for us to step up towards achieving the goals of not only AADMER but also HFA.** Despite the challenges and constraints in the implementation of HFA and AADMER Work Programme in the region, the ACDM affirms that HFA remains relevant and its goals pursued beyond 2015. **From the current HFA, we believe that we have established a stable foundation for effective DRR by (1) strengthening national and local capacity for DRR, (2) localizing DRR at the community level, (3) ensuring inclusive approaches and engaging multi-stakeholders and (4) mainstreaming DRR in development.**
9. **However, aside from having laid down the necessary foundation for effective DRR as mentioned, and as we struggle to steer our way towards post-2015, we would**

like to see HFA 2 to give more emphasis on these prevailing and emerging concerns that we think require more in-depth consideration:

- **Transboundary risk management** to encourage regional cooperation in the area of risk assessment, early warning, information exchange, and monitoring;
- **Regional risk financing, insurance and risk transfer mechanisms** such as risk pooling to leverage limited national and regional resources;
- **Climate risk management and linking DRR, climate change adaptation and sustainable development** to achieve holistic human and societal development;
- **Resilient recovery** in order to build back smarter and embed risk reduction as a practice in reconstruction and rehabilitation;
- **Science-based disaster risk reduction and management** to optimize the use of scientific knowledge, applied research and innovative technologies;
- **Public-private partnerships in all aspects of disaster risk management** to encourage more risk-sensitive investments; and
- **Risk governance and accountability** to promote responsible engagement and transparency of all stakeholders.

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10. In conclusion, HFA 1 has established the cornerstone for creating disaster resilient nations and communities. We believe **HFA 2 should build on this foundation, expand its coverage further from the basic building blocks of vulnerability and risk reduction to resilience and adaptation**, and at the same time, **anchor its roots deeper into sustainable development**. The urgent need remains to **continuously reduce damage and losses, sustain and forge stronger resilience and adaptation, and address prevailing and emerging challenges posed by disaster and climate risks**. ASEAN would therefore support a post-2015 framework that will **enshrine disaster and climate resilience alongside sustainable development**.
