

Second Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction
New Delhi
7-8 November 2007

Draft Delhi Declaration 2007

We, the Ministers and Heads Delegations of the countries of the Asia and the Pacific, attending the Second Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction in New Delhi on 7-8 November 2007,

Recalling the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters and the Beijing Action for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia 2005;

Concerned at the recent spurt of disasters in the region, including the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan and India and typhoon in Vietnam, the 2006 earthquake and floods in Indonesia, as well as the series of typhoons in the Philippines, and the 2007 tsunami in the Solomon Islands and floods in South Asia, which caused widespread loss of life and property;

Aware of the threats of disasters due to unplanned urban settlements and the impacts of climate change, particularly glacial melts in the Himalayas, erratic extreme weather events and sea level rise;

Recognizing the urgency of substantially reducing the loss of lives and social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries at risks of disasters in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development;

Appreciating the new global and regional initiatives like the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, the Pacific Framework of Action for Disaster Risk Management, the Comprehensive Regional Framework for Action 2006-2015 in South Asia, the South Asian Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, the Regional Consultative mechanism of the ADPC and the setting up of SAARC Disaster Management Centre;

Noting the initiatives taken by many national governments in Asia and the Pacific for setting up legal and institutional mechanisms for disaster risk reduction and mainstreaming risk reduction in development planning, leading to a definite shift in focus from post disaster relief and rehabilitation to pre disaster prevention and preparedness;

Further noting the initiatives taken by the local authorities, the communities and other stakeholders such as the civil society, the private sector, the media and the scientific, academic and technical organizations for disaster risk reduction;

Hereby adopt the *Delhi Declaration on Disaster Reduction* and call for the following:

On the Hyogo Framework of Action:

- a) Urge all the stakeholders at the regional, sub-regional, national and local levels to implement the Hyogo Framework of Action, in line with the five priorities for action and identified critical tasks for implementation and follow-up;
- b) Encourage the national governments to formulate Action Plans according to their national priorities for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and to put in place national mechanisms for periodic review of the implementation of these Action Plans;
- c) Encourage the national governments to enhance regional and sub-regional cooperation for disaster risk reduction, including early warning, capacity building, networking and sharing of information and good practices among stakeholders;
- d) Encourage the national governments and regional and sub-regional organizations to develop reporting mechanisms to monitor the progress made to achieve the goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action and to link such reports to other development processes, including the national strategies for poverty reduction and the Millennium Development Goals;
- e) Urge the national governments and regional and sub-regional organizations to apply and adapt, as appropriate, the set of basic indicators and benchmarks developed by the UN/ISDR for monitoring the progress in disaster risk reduction.

On mainstreaming disaster risk reduction:

- f) Encourage the national governments to mainstream disaster risk reduction into national sustainable development strategies in key areas such as poverty, housing, water, sanitation, energy, health, agriculture, education, infrastructure and environment;
- g) Urge the national governments to further strengthen the legislative frameworks and institutional mechanisms for disaster risk reduction, promote multi-stakeholder coordination through the mechanism of National Platform, develop capacities at the national and local levels through awareness, education and training and strengthen the governance systems for disaster risk reduction.
- h) Encourage the national governments to place communities at the centre of all aspects disaster risk management through community based disaster preparedness, mitigation and response;
- i) Urge the national governments and scientific, academic and technological institutions to carry out risk assessment as an ongoing process and strengthen the technology-driven initiatives in research and development, early warning and their dissemination, while simultaneously linking scientific knowledge with indigenous coping mechanisms in these areas;
- j) Urge the national governments to strengthen financial mechanisms for disaster reduction, including risk transfer and risk finance including innovative approaches in microfinance, micro insurance, etc;

- k) Urge the national governments to further strengthen the pre disaster planning and preparedness as an effective tool to reduce the loss of life and property during disasters;
- l) Encourage the national governments to make special efforts to mainstream gender issues in disaster risk reduction so as to reduce the vulnerability of women and to recognize the important role women can play in disaster risk reduction;
- m) Urge the national governments to integrate disaster risk reduction in school education and make the schools safer for the children as per the Bangkok Action Agenda 2007;
- n) Further urge the national governments, the civil society and other stakeholders to develop mechanisms to protect the interests of physically and mentally disabled persons, the senior citizens, children, orphans and other vulnerable sections of society and promote social inclusiveness in disaster reduction and preparedness activities.

On early warning:

- o) Encourage development of trans-boundary multi-hazard end-to-end early warning systems as a priority under the existing sub-regional cooperation frameworks and integrate the Tsunami Early Warning Systems for the Indian and Pacific Ocean into multi-hazard frameworks to ensure the long-term financial and operational sustainability of the existing regional TEWS initiatives.

On climate change:

- p) Urge all the stakeholders to appreciate the long-term disastrous impact of climate change and take effective steps to integrate disaster risk reduction with climate change adaptation initiatives at the local, national and regional levels for sustainable development.

On integration of DRR into reconstruction:

- q) Urge the national governments and international organizations to commit resources for early recovery programmes including quick assessment of damage, needs and capacities, restoration of critical infrastructure and livelihood following major disaster events to support the resilience of affected communities, until long term reconstruction of assets take place;
- r) Encourage the national governments and international organizations to integrate disaster risk reduction into rehabilitation and reconstruction strategies and programmes by *building back better*.

On partnerships:

- s) Encourage innovative public-private partnership in disaster risk reduction through corporate social responsibilities, sustained business continuity practices and new opportunities of business in disaster risk reduction;
- t) Strengthen the participation of civil society in local, national and regional level planning and decision-making for disaster risk reduction;

- u) Involve the print and electronic media in creating greater awareness about disaster risk reduction and in the dissemination of early warning of disasters;

On regional mechanisms:

- v) Request the regional stakeholders to work together more closely towards greater coherence and harmonization of their efforts as a generic point of entry for enhanced regional cooperation;
- w) Urge the national governments, the donors and other partners to further strengthen existing regional mechanisms such as the ISDR Asia Partnership, ASEAN, SAARC, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center, the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones, the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network, the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network, Duryog Nivaran and others;
- x) Call upon the expanded ISDR Asia Partnership to improve information exchange and the mapping of regional disaster reduction initiatives of various stakeholders, to improve coherence, synergy and effectiveness and address critical gaps in the delivery of activities in the region; and
- y) Call on the regional intergovernmental organizations and UNESCAP to work closely with UN/ISDR in supporting the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in Asia and the Pacific.

We, the Ministers and other high level representatives of the countries of Asia and the Pacific attending the Second Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction further

- a) *Agree* that the biennial Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction which had started with the Beijing Conference in 2005 shall be expanded into a Regional Platform of Disaster Reduction, with participation of the national governments, regional and sub-regional organizations, the UN agencies, International Financial Institutions and other stakeholders including the civil society, scientific and technical organizations, the private sector and the media;
- b) *Suggest* that the Asia and Pacific regional offices of the UN/ISDR may work as the secretariat of the Regional Platform;
- c) *Recommend* that the various geographical sub-regions of Asia and Pacific hold periodic conference of the national governments and other stakeholders and ensure these are well coordinated and complement each other in taking stock of the progress made in the implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action in the respective sub-regions.

We, the Ministers and other high level representatives of the countries of Asia and the Pacific attending the Second Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction and all other participants place on record our sincere gratitude and high appreciation to the Government and people of India for their gracious hospitality in hosting and organizing the Conference and welcome the offer the Government of Malaysia to host the Third Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2008.

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