

**Second Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
New Delhi, 7 – 8 November 2007**

Delhi Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia 2007

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the countries of Asia and the Pacific, attending the Second Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk 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;

Recalling the Beijing Action for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia 2005 to enhance regional cooperation in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;

Concerned at the recent spurt of disasters in the region, including 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 unsustainable development including unplanned urban settlements and the impact of climate change;

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, International Recovery Platform, 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 ADPC Regional Consultative Committee and the ADRC Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction, the APEC Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Agreement on Disaster Reduction and the setting up of SAARC Disaster Management Centre;

Welcoming 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;

Further welcoming 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 for Action:

- a) Urge all stakeholders at the regional, sub-regional, national and local levels to implement the Hyogo Framework for 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 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, plans and programmes in key areas such as poverty eradication, housing, water, sanitation, energy, health, agriculture, education, infrastructure and environment and to ensure that development does not create further disasters;
- 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, particularly at the local level;
- h) Encourage the national governments to place communities at the centre of all aspects of 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 mechanism for disaster reduction, including risk transfer and risk finance including innovative approaches in microfinance, micro insurance, etc;
- k) 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;
- l) Urge the national governments to integrate disaster risk reduction in school education and make the school safer for the children as the Bangkok Action Agenda 2007;
- m) 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 including preparedness activities.

On early warning and preparedness:

- n) 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;
- o) Urge the national governments to further strengthen the disaster preparedness planning as an effective tool to reduce the loss of life and property;

On climate change:

- p) Encourage all the stakeholders to address the long-term disastrous impact of climate change and take effective steps under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities to integrate disaster risk reduction with climate change adaptation initiatives at all levels in accordance with the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol.

On integration of DRR into recovery and 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 opportunities for investment in disaster risk reduction;
- t) Strengthen the participation of civil society in local, national and regional level planning and implementation 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, the International Financial Institutions and other partners to further strengthen and work closely with existing regional mechanisms and organizations such as the ISDR Asia Partnership, the International Recovery Platform, the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management, the SAARC Disaster Management Centre, the SOPAC, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, the Asian Seismic Risk reduction Centre, the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones, the International Centre on Drought Risk Reduction, the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network, the Duryog Nivaran and others;
- x) Welcome the forthcoming new regional initiatives, such as the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management, the Asia Emergency Preparedness and Response facility, the Disaster Management Centre in ECO Region and the Regional Research Centre on Catastrophic Disasters in Asia;
- y) 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

- z) 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 Risk Reduction affirm that

- a) The biennial Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction which had started in Beijing in 2005 will be expanded as the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, with participation of the national governments, regional and sub-regional organizations, the UN agencies, International Financial Institutions and other stakeholders including civil society, scientific and technical organization, the private sector and the media;
- b) The Ministers in charge of disaster reduction will provide the political leadership and commitment to the Regional Platform;
- c) The Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction will be held once in two years by rotation in different Asian countries to:
 - i. To review the action taken by the national governments and other stakeholders for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;
 - ii. To take stock of initiatives taken in various sub-regions of Asia for promoting and enhancing cooperation among the nations within and outside the governments for disaster risk reduction;
 - iii. To share and exchange best practices and lessons learned from disaster risk reduction in various fields including application of science and technology, community based disaster preparedness, public-private partnership etc; and
 - iv. To further enhance regional cooperation for disaster risk reduction.
- d) The Asia and the Pacific regional office of the UN/ISDR within the framework of expanded ISDR Asia Partnership shall provide the technical, operational and secretarial support to the Regional Platform;
- e) The various geographical sub-regions of Asia and the Pacific may 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 on Disaster Risk 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 of the Government of Malaysia to host the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2008.

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