



Official Statement at the

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Resilience Dividend: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Societies

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By Hans Guttman

Executive Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is now four years since the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. What has been achieved?

A number of indicators are pointing to more impact from disasters due to climate change, rapid urbanization and environmental degradation. At the same time knowledge, social and economic development and cooperation is increasing resilience and result in more effective risk reduction and emergency response. Two weeks ago, a combined 2.4 million people were taken out of harm's way from the Cyclone Fani, striking India and Bangladesh. Tragically around 60 people in India and Bangladesh lost their lives but compared to only a decade ago this figure is encouragingly low and compared to the cyclone that hit the same area in 1999 when over 10,000 people perished, this is a significant achievement.

Despite this, all of you gathered here know that much more needs to be done, particularly in reducing risk and building resilience.

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, or ADPC, is working together with communities, governments, UN and international organisations as well as NGO's, civil society agencies, academe, media and the private sector towards our vision of "safer communities and sustainable development through disaster risk reduction" in Asia and the Pacific. ADPC, founded in 1986, is an intergovernmental organisation based in Bangkok, Thailand, with offices in several countries in South and Southeast Asia.

Working hand in hand with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, or UNDRR, ADPC is following through on a number of commitments in the Ulaanbataar Declaration from the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, or AMCDRR.

ADPC is following up on the call for developing coherence in implementation between the major global frameworks, Sendai, Agenda 2030, Climate Change, etc. The 14th Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management, or RCC, held in Kathmandu in December 2018, brought together 18 countries in Asia and the Pacific to discuss what this means in practice at national and local level and the Kathmandu Statement, from the RCC meeting, is providing direction in this area which is being followed up.

To improve local capacities in DRR, resilience, response and recovery, ADPC is implementing a regional initiative to empower local actors, in six countries, soon to be eight, by improving capacities, coordination, leadership and governance of local government, civil society and the private sector. This investment in local capacity is also a direct contribution to the core responsibility #5 of the World Humanitarian Summit.

Working with UNDRR, ADPC is supporting assessments of the status and development of national and local strategies for DRR, Target E of the Sendai Framework, in 10 countries in Asia.

To respond to the call for accelerating the work in building capacity and systems for countries to report on the Sendai Framework ADPC has assisted UNDRR in developing an e-learning module of the guidelines and tools in the reporting. It has to date been used by several hundred practitioners. It is currently available in English but will shortly be translated into 5 major UN languages (Russian, French, Spanish, Arabic and Chinese).

The Ulaanbaatar Declaration calls for strengthening regional platforms for DRR, and ADPC has redoubled its support to the RCC with its 26 member countries and will soon expand the Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP), an innovative humanitarian stakeholders network in Asia facilitated by ADPC, from six to eight countries.

To support rights-based approaches in DRR and “whole of society” approaches with special attention to the consequences of gender inequality, poverty and needs of vulnerable groups, ADPC is implementing a regional initiative with practical work in Nepal, Philippines and Papua New Guinea.

ADPC is also at the forefront of finding "fit-for-purpose" new technologies and innovation. Specifically, working in the Mekong region with the application of remote sensing tools and supporting an innovation forum for local level response and recovery actors within the APP.

These are some of the ways in which ADPC is supporting the efforts of UNDRR, countries and agencies engaged in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and other global frameworks addressing disaster risk reduction and resilience building. The theme chosen for this global platform, “Resilience dividend”, is for ADPC a clear call for an integrated approach for disaster risk reduction and sustainable development resulting in multiple social, economic and environmental benefits.

On behalf of ADPC, I would like to reaffirm our commitment to making communities resilient to disaster and climate change risk, especially by addressing urban resilience, localization of preparedness and response capacity, use of scientific data and tools, and the integration of gender equality and human rights in DRR. We look forward to joining hands with many more actors in the coming year to turn the aspirations of the Sendai Framework, Agenda 2030, the Paris Accord, World Humanitarian Summit and other related global and regional agreements into reality for a safer, more equitable and prosperous Asia and the Pacific.

Thank you very much