



# Policies and Practices for Coherence between Global Frameworks

## Meeting Report

**14<sup>th</sup> RCC** REGIONAL  
CONSULTATIVE  
COMMITTEE on  
DISASTER  
MANAGEMENT

3-5 December 2018  
Kathmandu, Nepal





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# Meeting Details

Venue: Kathmandu, Nepal

Dates: 3-5 December 2018

Graced by: Rt. Hon'ble K. P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister, Government of Nepal

Co-hosted by: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Government of Nepal; and ADPC, with financial support from the Swedish and German Governments



Meeting theme: **Policies and Practices for Coherence between Global Frameworks**

Member countries in attendance: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam

International observers in attendance: ADRC, AKAH, BMGF, Thompson Rivers University, Embassy of Sweden, GIZ GIDRM, GNDR, IFRC, MSB, National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET), RWI, SEI, UNESCAP, UNISDR, The World Bank, and WHO

# List of Acronyms

<b>ADPC</b>	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
<b>ADRC</b>	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
<b>AKAH</b>	Aga Khan Agency for the Habitat
<b>AMCDRR</b>	Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>APP</b>	Asian Preparedness Partnership
<b>BMGF</b>	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
<b>BMZ</b>	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany)
<b>BRDR</b>	Building Resilience through inclusive and climate-adaptive DRR in Asia-Pacific
<b>CBDRM</b>	Community-based Disaster Risk Management
<b>CCA</b>	Climate Change Adaptation
<b>CR</b>	Climate resilience
<b>CRM</b>	Climate risk management
<b>DM</b>	Disaster Management
<b>DMIS</b>	Disaster Management Information System
<b>DRM</b>	Disaster Risk Management
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>EOC</b>	Emergency Operations Center
<b>GIDRM</b>	Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management
<b>GIZ</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
<b>GLOF</b>	Glacial Lake Outburst Floods
<b>GNDR</b>	Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction
<b>HLPF</b>	High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
<b>IFRC</b>	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
<b>MoHA</b>	Ministry of Home Affairs (Government of Nepal)
<b>MSB</b>	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
<b>NDMO</b>	National Disaster Management Office
<b>PDD</b>	Platform on Disaster Displacement
<b>RWI</b>	Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SEI</b>	Stockholm Environment Institute
<b>SFDRR</b>	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>Sida</b>	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNESCAP</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>UNISDR</b>	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>WHO SEARO</b>	World Health Organization South-East Asia Regional Office

# RCC Mechanism

The Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC), established in 2000 by Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), serves as a non-binding mechanism to develop action strategies for disaster risk reduction (DRR); promote cooperative programs at regional and sub-regional levels; and provide guidance to ADPC on its future work and strategies in Asia and the Pacific.

The RCC is comprised of National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) of 26 member countries. It promotes peer advocacy and exchange of expertise in reducing disaster risk and enhancing climate resilience (CR). The RCC mechanism, together with other agencies, assists countries in implementing the commitments of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Agenda for Humanity, and the New Urban Agenda. As the Secretariat to the RCC, ADPC is committed to bringing countries in Asia and the Pacific together to achieve common goals in DRR.

The RCC meetings are hosted by different member countries in Asia and the Pacific. Each meeting holds a specific thematic focus which provides a useful opportunity for member countries to exchange lessons and share their best practices across professional disciplines. It provides a periodic forum for member governments to share information on national, sub-national and regional priorities and needs with the intention to systematically encourage and facilitate regional cooperation in DRR.

To date, 26 countries, namely: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam have participated in the various RCC meetings.

The previous RCC meetings were held in:

- Bangkok, Thailand (2000 and 2001)
- Delhi, India (2002)
- Dhaka, Bangladesh (2004)
- Hanoi, Viet Nam (2005)
- Kunming, China (2006)
- Colombo, Sri Lanka (2007)
- Manila, Philippines (2010)
- Phnom Penh, Cambodia (2011)
- Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (2013)
- Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar (2014)
- Thimphu, Bhutan (2015), and
- Islamabad, Pakistan (2016).

The RCC continues to expand its role to assist countries in developing more comprehensive program approaches for wider application. Each meeting adopts an action agenda and specifically requests ADPC, as the RCC's secretariat, to develop programs and provide technical support to countries in pursuing their DRR strategies.

# 14<sup>th</sup> RCC Meeting



*Participants of the 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting with Rt. Hon'ble K. P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal (front row, 9th from right).*

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), the national focal point of disaster management in Nepal, works to mitigate disaster and climate change risks at national, sub-national and local levels. MoHA is committed to developing appropriate DM policies and interacts with national and international stakeholders working in related fields. Raising public awareness; transferring technology through training; networking with relevant national and international organizations; and enhancing the capacity of the Government of Nepal in mitigating disaster impacts are key focus areas of MoHA.

The Government of Nepal co-hosted the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the RCC to showcase some of the recent innovations in DRR and to learn from other countries to support the implementation of the SFDRR. Delegates from 18 member countries gathered in Kathmandu, Nepal from 3-5 December 2018, to participate in the meeting.

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## Overall Objective

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As a follow-up to the 13<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting held in Islamabad, Pakistan in 2016, and the commitments made at the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, the objectives of the 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting were as follows:

- Discuss ways to translate the coherence of global frameworks into policy and practice;
- Share best practices and lessons learnt in vertical and horizontal policy and program coordination;
- Provide practical suggestions and recommendations to enhance coherence of global frameworks at the national, sub-national, and local level;
- Guide ADPC to further support RCC member countries in achieving Target E (e.g. to increase the number of countries with national and local DRR strategies by 2020) of the SFDRR in the regional context.

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## Thematic Focus

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The post-2015 global frameworks developed under the United Nations system—including the SFDRR, SDGs, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change—represent a significant paradigm shift in addressing risks related to disasters, development, and climate change. Together, the frameworks promote a comprehensive resilience-building agenda by covering the full range of potential risks to sustainable development. A coherent approach to implementation, monitoring, and reporting will enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, achievability, and sustainability of the frameworks.

Such coherent application requires synergies between policies, programs, and institutions; strengthened coordination mechanisms and partnerships; and a breakdown of traditional silos at the national and sub-national level. The overarching theme of the 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting, “Policies and Practices for Coherence between Global Frameworks,” was developed in response to international calls for greater coherence in global frameworks and the challenges expressed by RCC member countries.

# Proceedings

## Opening Ceremony



*(Left to right) Mr. Muhammad Idrees Mahsud, NDMA Pakistan; Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, ADPC; Rt. Hon'ble K. P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal; Mr. Ram Bahadur Thapa, Government of Nepal; Mr. Prem K. Rai, Government of Nepal.*

The opening ceremony of the 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting was graced by Rt. Hon'ble K. P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister, Government of Nepal. Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Chair, ADPC, delivered a welcome speech, followed by opening remarks from Mr. Muhammad Idrees Mahsud, Member (DRR), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Pakistan as the outgoing chair of the RCC. Remarks were also made by the incoming RCC chair, represented by Hon'ble Ram Bahadur Thapa, Home Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Nepal.

Participants received a keynote address from Rt. Hon'ble K. P. Sharma Oli, who expressed his appreciation for the RCC mechanism to enrich DRM in the region for the benefit of people in need. Closing remarks were made by Mr. Prem K. Rai, Secretary, MoHA, Nepal, and a vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. Hans Guttman, Executive Director, ADPC.



## **Keynote address**

**Rt. Hon'ble K. P. Sharma Oli**  
**Prime Minister**  
**Government of Nepal**

*Chairman of this meeting, representatives of development partners, humanitarian organisations, private sector, ladies and gentlemen:*

*I am happy to be in this gathering of disaster management experts and stakeholders. I thank the organizers for choosing Kathmandu as the venue of this regional meeting.*

*The theme of today's deliberation is important for us because owing to the uniquely steep geography and fragility of mountain ecosystem,*

*Nepal has remained a disaster-prone country.*

*Human civilization has confronted severe challenges to arrive at this stage. Among such challenges, natural disasters and pandemic diseases stand out as most frequent phenomena. Sometimes earthquake and volcano, sometimes flash floods, typhoons and landslides; sometimes forest fire (infernos) and cold wave; sometimes lightning and hailstorms; sometimes outburst of glacial lakes and sometimes epidemic and endemic have seriously endangered the human civilization.*

*The human being has crossed the ice age and fit itself into the system of survival of the fittest. At every stage, where there is a challenge, human being has faced it skillfully.*

*The development of science and technology has contributed in predicting some of the disasters.*

*However, the combination of such disaster-related risks, have increased our vulnerability and endangered lives and livelihoods of our people, damaged infrastructures and weakened our development efforts.*

*The human casualties, environmental loss and economic impacts of such events have been significantly high over the years.*

*Climate change and its multi-dimensional impact has further compounded the risks and vulnerability. We are situated on an active tectonic movement area that increases risk of earthquakes. The devastating earthquakes of 2015 and their deadly impacts remain afresh in the memory of our people.*

*Through resilience and collective action on the part of the government, people, community, civil society and non-governmental partners, we were able to respond to the immediate rescue and relief needs and later to embark on the path of reconstruction for building-back-better.*

*The support of our friends in the international community, both government and non-government, remained immensely valuable in all those efforts.*

*Learning from the past lessons and experiences as well as from the experiences of other*

*countries, the Government of Nepal has made sincere efforts both in the post-earthquake reconstruction as well as in building of the communities' resilience to the potential future risks.*

*We have devised different coping mechanisms, created institutions and built their capacity, strengthened and streamlined legal and policy frameworks for building resilience and preparedness, reduce disaster risks and manage its impacts.*

*In 2017, Nepal enacted a comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act and later formulated National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Strategic Action Plan for 2018 to 2030 through a highly participatory process.*

*With a longer-term vision of disaster risk reduction and preparedness in mind, the Government of Nepal is fully committed to the implementation of national action plan and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and its four priorities and seven targets.*

*Reducing the disaster risks has been integrated in our national and local level plans and it forms an integral strategy of achieving sustainable development goals.*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

*Vulnerability of human lives is profound in every major natural blow. However, calamities and disasters are not induced by the nature alone. We have seen and experienced around the world many calamities induced by unsustainable human actions.*

*With our collective efforts, human-induced disasters can be prevented. We can also reduce the impact of natural disasters and make people better prepared to cope with the unforeseen eventualities.*

*Every major disaster adds miseries and sufferings to the lives, properties, and livelihood of the people. However, every major disaster teaches invaluable lesson of how to survive such crises and helps innovate ways and means to be resilient. This probably is the secret of survival of human civilization. After every major calamity, human societies have emerged better prepared and more resilient.*

*This is where comes in the importance of social innovation for making communities more aware, resilient and better prepared. Because natural disasters, some of them are unpredictable and they know no borders. Preparedness alone can reduce the vulnerability and prevent loss of lives and properties.*

*Information is critically important in disasters that can save lives. Technology can support us for making informed decision based on science and research rather than intuition. Given the specificity of Nepal and our typical geography, we need to remain prepared for a variety of disasters, instil awareness among the people, and utilize tools of preparedness, such as early warning system, emergency response and relief, and arrangements of critical logistics.*

*In our own experience, geologists and experts had vaguely warned us about the possibility of a major disaster in the Himalayan region. Yet the earthquake of 2015 struck us when we were not fully prepared. Adequate preventive measures could have minimized the death toll and prevented damage and destruction.*

*However, the Government of Nepal was quick to respond, within hours, utilizing its available resources and institutions.*

*As we continue to the post-earthquake reconstruction and rebuilding process, our efforts have received needed momentum in the past several months. We intend to complete the reconstruction process as soon as possible and ameliorate the suffering of the people at the earliest. We are serious to learn from the past, preserve institutional memory and utilize that memory for the benefit of the posterity.*

*We are fully aware that sustained local, national, regional and international efforts with adequate resource backing are essential to realize those international commitment as outlined in the Sendai framework.*

*I am confident that your deliberations in this program would come up with useful sharing of experience and enrich the disaster risk management discourse for the practical benefit of the people in need.*

*I wish for the success of this meeting. I thank you all.*

## Welcome remarks

**Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse**  
**Chair**  
**ADPC**

*Your Excellency Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli, the Prime Minister, Government of Nepal, Hon'ble Ram Bahadur Thapa, Home Minister, Government of Nepal, Mr. Prem K. Rai, Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal, Mr. Muhammad Idress, Member, NDMA Pakistan, Honorable delegates from RCC member countries, Representatives of development partners, RCC observers, Ladies and gentlemen, Namaste and good morning!*



*It is indeed a great pleasure for me to welcome you all today in Kathmandu at the opening ceremony of the 14th meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management or the RCC.*

*Excellency Mr. Prime Minister, we are honored to have you with us this morning. Your presence at this opening ceremony is a strong evidence of the commitment of the Government and people of Nepal to collaborate with regional partners and stakeholders to deal with disaster risks your country faces. It also shows the leadership you have provided to the country to make communities safer. We are looking forward to learning from your government's experience in disaster risk reduction.*

*I would like to extend special thanks to the leadership of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal, for co-hosting the meeting and making it happen after putting in a lot of efforts over the past few months.*

*On behalf of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center or ADPC, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our respected delegates from the RCC member countries; and our distinguished observers and development partners as well as the members of the diplomatic corps who have graced the 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting with their kind presence.*

*Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen: the RCC has certainly come a long way since our first meeting in Bangkok in 2000. I have personally participated in all subsequent meetings of the RCC in India, Bangladesh, Viet Nam, China, Bhutan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Myanmar, Mongolia, and Pakistan, and I feel privileged to have seen its growth as an effective regional mechanism to take forward the agenda of disaster risk reduction in Asia and the Pacific.*

*I can confidently say that the key directions the RCC has set itself in 2001 at its first meeting were in line with the global frameworks for disaster risk reduction and support the safety and resilient development in the region. This mechanism has proved its relevance over the past 18 years as being an important part of the regional platform for Disaster Risk Reduction as well as a forum to contribute to the Asian Ministerial Conferences.*

*ADPS's new status as an intergovernmental organization after its Charter was ratified by nine countries, confirms its mandate and articulates the high expectations of its role. I am very grateful to the governments of Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand for ratifying the ADPC charter as its founding members.*

*Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen: Despite our combined efforts, it is unlikely for us to prevent the occurrence of a disaster. However, we can mitigate the impact and minimize the damages of disasters if we are aware of the underlying causes that expose our societies to the risks of disasters and climate change. Collective efforts by all stakeholders at regional, national and local levels will continue to be critical in achieving resilience over a longer period of time.*

*The global frameworks help us in combining our efforts, enhancing cross-boundary coordination, and learning from each other's experiences. The 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the RCC in Pakistan focused on operationalizing Global Frameworks for risk-resilient development in the region. The "Islamabad Statement" outlines the significance of implementing the key global frameworks including the Sendai Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Paris Climate Change Agreement.*

*Taking a step further, over the next three days, our discussions are expected to help formulate collective actions for promoting coherence between among global frameworks at the national and local level. I am sure that this meeting will also make a valuable contribution to the 2019 Global Platform on Disaster risk reduction to be held in Geneva in May.*

*With that, Excellencies, ladies & gentlemen, I would like to conclude by extending heartfelt thanks to the Government of Nepal for their support and collaboration. I am also thankful to the Government of Pakistan for taking up the role of Chair during the 13<sup>th</sup> RCC and I welcome the Government of Nepal as the new Chair of the RCC.*

*I would like to thank the Government of Sweden and the Government of Germany for their generous support in organizing the RCC Meetings. I sincerely wish you all a very pleasant stay in Nepal and a successful and productive meeting.*

*Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.*

## Opening remarks from the outgoing RCC Chair

**Mr. Muhammad Idrees Mahsud**  
**Member (DRR)**  
**National Disaster Management Authority**  
**Government of Pakistan**

*Honorable Chair, Professor Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman ADPC, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. Assalam o Alaikom and a very good morning. On behalf of People, Government and National Disaster Management Authority of Islamic Republic of Pakistan feel honored and privileged to be part of 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting being held in this beautiful city of Kathmandu, Nepal.*



*Pakistan had the honor of hosting the 13<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting for the first time in October 2016, where delegates and representatives from sixteen member countries alongside international observers from non-member states attended the three-day meeting. The theme of the conference was Operationalizing Global Frameworks for Risk-Resilient Development in Asia.*

*13<sup>th</sup> RCC was held in the time period when a number of major relevant developments at international level it was instrumental in assessing as to how the global and regional frameworks for disaster mitigation can best be translated into practice while keeping local needs and perspectives in view.*

*The 13<sup>th</sup> RCC provided a platform for delegates to exchange views, review challenges and deliberated opportunities for solutions with respect to the operationalization of global frameworks for resilient development in the Asia-Pacific region. As a result of the meeting, RCC delegates were determined to further facilitate the RCC countries to strive towards attaining resilient development through the following:*

- *Identifying the needs and programme activities under SFDRR's priority areas*
- *Intensifying the development of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies*
- *Deriving from the broader context of the SDGs the approaches and practices pertaining to DRM*
- *Maintaining the RCC as a regional platform for the development and sharing of good practices, leveraging science, innovation and technology such as e-Resilience initiatives, as applicable to the different global framework*
- *Supporting the RCC countries in developing synergies on Early Warning Systems from trans-boundary, national and subnational to community levels*
- *Facilitating the application of disaster management data including disaster related statistics, as appropriate to, as the basis for progress monitoring and results reporting of SFDRR implementation.*

*Ladies and gentlemen, I am happy to note that 13<sup>th</sup> RCC provided tangible inputs to the Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR. It is equally satisfying that the RCC mechanisms is moving forward with active involvement of member countries and proactive role being played by ADPC being its secretariat. We hope that the mechanism will continue to serve as a platform for regional consultation, sharing of experiences and new initiatives, and providing common*

*voice to the region at relevant international forums including the AMCDRR and the Global Platform on DRR.*

*With an overarching theme of the 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting, "Policies and Practices for Coherence between Global Frameworks" will further strengthen our resolve for coherent implementation of the Global Frameworks. I hope that the next three days will have meaningful discussions paving the way for achieving the objectives 14<sup>th</sup> RCC by identifying ways and means to translate the coherence of global frameworks into policy and practice; sharing best practices and lessons learnt in vertical and horizontal policy and program implementation and coordination; provide practical suggestions and recommendations to enhance coherence of global frameworks; guiding ADPC to further support RCC member countries in achieving Target E of SFDRR in the regional context.*

*Ladies and gentlemen, in the end as an outgoing Chair, I would like to express my gratitude to Government of Nepal, ADPC and its partners for hosting 14<sup>th</sup> RCC in the beautiful and picturesque city of Kathmandu and extending excellent hospitality to us. Thank you.*

## Remarks by the incoming RCC Chair

**Hon'ble Ram Bahadur Thapa**  
Home Minister  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
Government of Nepal



*Mr. Prem Kumar Rai, Chairman, 14<sup>th</sup> RCC Meeting and Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal, Rt. Hon'ble Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal, Excellencies, Chairmen, Disaster Management Authorities, Secretaries from different countries and ministries, Distinguished guests from RCC member countries, UN agencies development partners and government officials, Representatives from private sectors, academia, the international community, local humanitarian organizations, and media. Ladies and Gentlemen, Namaste and good morning. On behalf of the government of Nepal, I would like to welcome you all to Nepal and in this important 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting on disaster management. I feel honor and pleasure to be here with you all and learn useful knowledge to save people's life, property, economy and environment from disasters and to sustain development gains.*

*Nepal being a multi-hazard prone country, disaster is part of our daily lives. On average, we lose three fellow Nepali men and women every day due to varieties of disasters in Nepal. The environmental and economic losses are beyond our imagination. Among several social, environmental and economic losses, disasters are one of our major causes to increase poverty in Nepal. Likewise, climate change in Nepal is aggravating the disaster situations and also creating new challenges such as Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF), forest fire, lightning, unexpected amount of rain in a short period of time, etc.*

*I am pleased to inform you that with the technical support from friendly nations and development partners, Nepal is committed to move forward to manage widespread challenges posed by different disasters. Recently, we enacted new disaster risk reduction and management Act, National Disaster Management Policy and Strategic Action Plan (2018-2030). These are just few examples on policies. We are in process to establish National Disaster Risk Management Authority as indicated in the Act (2017). The new Act equally give emphasis to risk reduction and post disaster-related activities through a proper mainstreaming and build back better concept.*

*I firmly believe that countries in Asia can learn a lot on disaster risk management from one another. Meeting like this is an instrument to share our experiences, knowledge, resources, challenges, opportunities and way forward. Therefore, I strongly suggest all participants to share their experiences and learn from one another. Such regional level meeting should continue in the years to come so we can improve ourselves to learn from each other and to save people's life, property, environment and economy. My suggestion to the colleagues involve in organizing this meeting is that at the end of this meeting based on deliberation and discussion, please recommend few pragmatic recommendations on how we can achieve local needs and challenges based on the global and regional DRR frameworks.*

*I wish this regional meeting a success to achieve its objectives. I also wish you all a pleasant and memorable stay in Nepal. Thank you.*

## Closing remarks

**Mr. Prem Kumar Rai**  
**Home Secretary**  
**Ministry of Home Affairs**  
**Government of Nepal**

*Rt. Hon'ble Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal, Hon'ble Mr. Ram Bahadur Thapa "Badal", Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal, Excellences, Chairman, ADPC, Excellency, Secretaries of various governments of different countries and ministries, distinguished guests from RCC member countries, UN agencies development partners and government officials, representatives from private sectors, academia, international community, local humanitarian organizations, and media, ladies and gentlemen, Namaste and Good Morning.*



*I am feeling immense pleasure and highly honored to be here amongst you at this most valuable gathering on disaster risk management/ reduction. We all are aware of the fact that Asia in general and South Asia in particular is a disaster hub of the world. We have been facing varieties of disasters every year and unprecedented number of social, economic, and environmental losses. Such losses only in Nepal is in an average is 900 people annually, half of a million affected and above 2 per cent of our GDP loss due to varieties of disasters. Countries in the region have been facing similar challenges/events posed by disasters and to sustain the hardcore development gains.*

*The Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management, established in 2000 with the support of its member countries serves as the non-binding mechanism to promote implementation of action strategies of disaster risk reduction, promote cooperative programs at regional and sub-regional levels and provide guidance to ADPC on its future work and strategies.*

*This RCC meeting is represented by 19 member countries and about 40 development partners to promote peer advocacy and exchange of expertise in disaster risk management. ADPC, as RCC's Secretariat, is serving as a bridge to bring Asian countries in together to achieve their common goals in disaster risk management. The RCC is a unique platform where member countries together with other development partners work hand in hand to implement the commitments of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, the Agenda for Humanity and the New Urban Agenda.*

*The RCC meeting has been organized at different countries in Asia and the Pacific and each has had a specific thematic focus which has provided a useful opportunity for the members to exchange lessons and to share their best practices. It has provided a periodic forum for member governments to share information on national, sub-national and regional priorities and needs with the intention to systematically encourage and facilitate regional cooperation in disaster risk reduction. The theme of the 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting is "Coherence of major global frameworks— Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda - 2030 and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) at the national level", which requires coherence in implementing SFDRR and SDGs both at the national and local levels.*

*The Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), which is the National Focal Point of Disaster Management in Nepal, has been taking initiation to address the issues of disasters and mitigate the adverse effects from it. MoHA values very much interaction within the country and sharing of experiences with international organizations working in this field. As the disaster national focal point, MoHA is committed to develop appropriate policy related to the management of disasters. The MoHA is doing various activities such as, the raising of awareness among the peoples, transfer of technology through training, networking with relevant national and international organizations and enhancing the capability of Government of Nepal to mitigate the impact of disaster. The recently enacted "Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act (2017)" focuses on both pre- and post-disaster situations and minimizing the disaster risk.*

*As stated by our Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister, and Hon'ble, Home Minister, I would like reiterate that the Government of Nepal is committed to work jointly in the field of disaster risk management in Nepal with development partners and friend nations. We have enacted a pragmatic DRR & M Act, National Policy and Strategic Action plan (2018-2030) to successfully achieve SFDRR priorities on time. In this context, I am confident that such a meeting certainly promotes exchange of experiences, and an opportunity to achieve SFDRR priorities and activities and ultimately to transfer our region from a disaster hub to resilient region.*

*At this valuable moment, I would like to take this opportunity to heartily thank Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) for choosing Nepal to organize the 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting. Simultaneously, I would also like to thank all the distinguished delegates, guests and participants from RCC member countries, development partners, media, private sectors and academic institutions for their participation in this significant meeting. Your valuable presence made this meeting a success. Likewise, I am very much grateful to our Rt. Hon'ble prime Minister and Hon'ble Home minister for their inspiring presence and valuable remarks in this gathering. Their presence and encouraging statements have injected strong energy on us for better implementation of the agenda of this meeting ahead. I would also like to extend my cordial thanks to MoHA officials and development partners for their hard work to make this event a success.*

*Finally, I wish you all a very successful meeting and pleasant stay. With these few words, following the Vote of Thanks to be deliver by the Executive Director of ADPC, I declare the adjourn of the inaugural session of the 14th RCC meeting. Thank you all very much.*

## Vote of thanks

**Mr. Hans Guttman**  
**Executive Director**  
**Asian Disaster Preparedness Center**

*Your Excellency Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli, the Prime Minister, Government of Nepal, Hon'ble Ram Bahadur Thapa, Home Minister, Government of Nepal, Mr. Prem K. Rai, Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal, Mr. Muhammad Idress Mahsud, Member, NDMA Pakistan, Honorable delegates from RCC member countries, representatives of development partners, RCC observers, ladies & gentlemen.*



*It is my great pleasure to deliver a vote of thanks as we commence the 14<sup>th</sup> Regional Consultative Committee Meeting on Disaster Management, here in the beautiful city of Kathmandu.*

*It is our honor to have Rt. Honorable Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister Government of Nepal to be here with us at this 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting. On behalf of ADPC and the RCC delegates, I wish to extend our sincere gratitude for sharing with us your time, experience and vision. By hosting the 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting, it is a clear demonstration of the commitment by the Government of Nepal for the advancement of disaster risk reduction. We look forward to learning more about Nepal's own experience in this field in the next few days.*

*We are extremely thankful to the Government of Sweden through the Swedish International Development Agency for supporting the RCC mechanism. The RCC has been recognized as a steadfast, effective regional mechanism for furthering disaster risk reduction initiatives and providing a venue from which to share information, experiences and lessons learnt. The RCC is able to play an important role in supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR in member countries.*

*We also want to thank the Government of Germany through the Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management for its support to the 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting and the discussion on the coherence implementation of global frameworks.*

*The presence of so many distinguished guests and representatives at this important meeting demonstrates the commitment of all RCC member countries to the goal of reducing risks through enhanced information and experience sharing on disaster risk reduction.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to express our most sincere thanks to all RCC delegates and observers from all represented international and regional organizations for their support and cooperation. We are very much encouraged by the large turnout at this meeting and I would like to further encourage everyone here today to actively participate in the discussion and to offer your inputs, insights and experiences from your respective countries and region on disaster risk reduction.*

*I also wish to express thanks to our good partner Ministry of Home Affairs of Nepal who have helped us with logistical arrangements and in detailed planning of the meeting. I am especially thankful for their extraordinary efforts in co-organizing this meeting and without whom the*

*arrangements could not have been successfully accomplished. It is our privilege to be working alongside such supportive, patient and adept colleagues.*

*Lastly, I wish to call your attention to the effort by the dedicated staff of ADPC. They have put in many months of hard work to organize and plan for this 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting. They deserve to be recognized for their tireless energy and firm resolve for making this meeting a reality. It is a clear testament of their commitment to risk reduction and the promotion of safer communities and sustainable development. ADPC has done extensive work in Nepal and other RCC member countries to build their resilience to natural disasters.*

*I am especially grateful for the work they have done in Nepal from risk assessment, the capacity building of relevant government officials on the scientific understanding of risk and to the work with local communities and private sector to build their resilience. I extend my heartfelt thanks to you all for your continued efforts in pursuit of this important cause.*

*I wish you all a very fruitful discussion and let us look forward to the outputs from these three days of experience sharing, partnership building and vision setting. Thank you all very much.*

## *Exchange of tokens of appreciation*



Mr. Muhammad Idrees Mahsud, Member (DRR), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Pakistan, outgoing RCC Chair, presented a plaque to Mr. Prem K. Rai, Secretary, MoHA, Nepal, to symbolize the transfer of the RCC Chair to the Government of Nepal.



Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman, ADPC, presented a token of appreciation to the outgoing RCC Chair, NDMA Pakistan, represented by Mr. Muhammad Idrees Mahsud, Member (DRR), NDMA Pakistan.



Rt. Hon'ble K. P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister, Nepal, received a token of gratitude from Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse.



Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse with Hon'ble Ram Bahadur Thapa, Home Minister, MoHA, Nepal, received a token of appreciation.

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## DAY 1

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### *Session 1—Regional cooperation for enhancing disaster resilience*

The 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting was kicked off with a session chaired by **Mr. Mohammad Qaseem Haidari**, Deputy Minister for Policy, Coordination and Planning, Afghanistan, who warmly welcomed delegates to the meeting hosted by Nepal. The objective of the first session was to provide an overview of the meeting and present the RCC's perspective on regional cooperation for coherence of global frameworks, including the SFDRR and SDGs.



**Mr. Hans Guttman,**  
Executive Director, ADPC

The first presenter was **Mr. Hans Guttman**, Executive Director, ADPC, who began the session by outlining ADPC's role in the region and the progression of its work as ADPC has been actively involved in global and regional frameworks. The RCC mechanism has been instrumental for ADPC to leverage knowledge, understanding, and concerns expressed at RCC meetings to feed into frameworks dealing with DRR, CR, and related fields. He proceeded to introduce the meeting's key theme of coherence in the implementation of global frameworks, noting that opportunities for finding coherence are plentiful, but need to be identified, particularly for implementation at the local level.

**Dr. AnnaKarin Norling**, First Secretary, Embassy of Sweden, Thailand, moved the session forward with a speech on Sweden's commitment and support to advance implementation of global frameworks in Asia and the Pacific region. Dr. Norling expressed how the clear message about equality and leaving no one behind within the global frameworks is one of the foremost Swedish foreign policy priorities. In pursuit of equality, the government employs a systematic gender perspective in all of its operations. She discussed the social, environmental, and political context of the region that intensifies disaster vulnerability, emphasizing Sweden's aim to be a reliable partner in international implementation through dialogue, assistance and inspiration.

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is the supporter of the 5-year program, Building Resilience through inclusive and climate-adaptive DRR in Asia-Pacific (BRDR), implemented jointly by ADPC, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), and Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI). Dr. Norling expressed her excitement to advance the collection and use of sex, age, and disability disaggregated data and overall the promotion of gender equality in the region through this program.

**Dr. Valerie Nkamgang Bemo**, Deputy Director, Emergency Response, Global Development, BMGF, was the final presenter for Session 1. Her presentation focused on localization and people-centered approach for the implementation of global frameworks. She stressed the importance of listening to unified local voices to understand their needs and capacities, in a manner that has been conducted through the Asia Preparedness Partnership (APP) program,

which involves civil society, private sector, and government for respectful dialogue in six regional countries. Dr. Bemo made valuable suggestions for a safer region, including putting communities at the center of DRR, multi-sectoral approaches, exchange of knowledge and enhanced research, evidence-based policy and action, promotion of innovation, regional cooperation, and outcome-oriented initiatives.

The session's co-chair, **Ms. Hanna Norell**, Program Director, DRR/Resilience Team, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), Sweden, thanked presenters and delivered a comprehensive summary of the session.



**Ms. Hanna Norell**, Program Director, DRR/ Resilience Team, MSB

## ***Session 2—Addressing coherence in SFDRR and SDGs***

Session 2 was chaired by **Dr. Raditya Jati**, Director, Disaster Risk Reduction, National Disaster Management Authority, Indonesia. He emphasized the importance of the session and aimed to seek discussion from UN agencies and international organizations on ways to tackle issues regarding coherence across global frameworks.

**Ms. Loretta Hieber Girardet**, Chief, UNISDR Regional Office for Asia and Pacific, began the session's presentations with a global and regional snapshot of progress of the SFDRR in meeting the Agenda 2030. In Asia and the Pacific region, she noted impressive progress in overall reductions of disaster mortality, largely through enhanced early warning and preparedness, as well as progress on development of national platforms and DRR strategies.

Despite these gains, Ms. Hieber Girardet highlighted how the stressors of unplanned and rapid urbanization, climate change, and disaster-induced displacement continue to challenge the region. She contended that the implementation of SFDRR must be accelerated, and explored the following areas for which more work needs to be done:

1. Understanding risk and economic losses, particularly for high frequency and low intensity disasters occurring at the local level
2. Implementing plans to reduce risks, especially at the local level
3. Financing DRR
4. Strengthening the capacity of government and stakeholders to engage in DRR
5. Implementing SFDRR coherently with development and climate change planning and implementation for efficiency and effectiveness of action in policy, programming, and financing.

Adding to the discussion, **Dr. Sanjay K. Srivastava**, Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction, ICT and DRR (IDD), UNESCAP, presented on inclusiveness for achieving the SDGs. Dr. Srivastava's message on the social impacts of disasters resonated throughout his presentation. He explained that the region is experiencing good progress on some goals of Agenda 2030, while equality is negatively impacted by each disaster, particularly for low and middle-income countries. He also mentioned how people living on the margin tend to fall back under the poverty line after disasters, and children are among the most affected by disasters. To combat these issues, he recommended the integration of a systems thinking approach, regional cooperation for



(Left to right) Dr. Raditya Jati, Director, Disaster Risk Reduction, National Disaster Management Authority, Indonesia; Ms. Loretta Hieber Girardet, Chief, UNISDR Regional Office for Asia and Pacific; Dr. Sanjay K. Srivastava, Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction, IDD, UNESCAP

resilience, risk-sensitive public policy and investment, risk-informed early warning and social welfare to protect the excluded, and ensure financial inclusion.

**Mr. Stephan Huppertz**, Regional Coordinator Asia, Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM), was the final speaker of the session, with a presentation on practical coherence among global frameworks. Commissioned by GIZ to develop a program to support countries in generating practices and solutions to foster coherence, GIDRM has focused on an approach that deepens the understanding of coherence at the global level, intensifies exchange between policy and practice at the regional level, and promotes

the application of best practices at the national and subnational level.

A concrete example of action in this regard was the launch of the Coherence Practice Group, a mechanism with the aim to inspire documentation and exchange of multi-stakeholder best practices, capacitate relevant actors with regard to planning, implementation, and reporting, and connect stakeholders for cooperation. Echoing the earlier presenters of the session, Mr. Huppertz stressed that time is running out and coherence is imperative to meet global commitments by 2030.

Co-chair, **Ms. Kazi Tasmin Ara Ajmery**, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management, wrapped up the session with a summary of presentations and led a Q&A session. **Mr. Matthew Scott**, Research Team Leader, People on the Move, RWI, raised a question to Ms. Loretta Hieber Girardet on the extent to which disaster displacement has been integrated into laws and policies of RCC member countries. Ms. Hieber Girardet responded that colleagues from IFRC have conducted research in this regard, and collaboration with Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) to investigate how displacement is integrated into DRR strategies is underway.



Participants for Session 2 of the RCC meeting

### ***Session 3—Towards 2030: Nepal's progress and lessons learnt in DRM***

**Mr. Sonam Topgay**, Secretary, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Bhutan, gave an introduction to the session's speaker, **Ms. Indu Ghimire**, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Nepal. With the Government of Nepal co-hosting the RCC meeting, the session presented an opportunity to showcase its recent progress and lessons learnt in DRM, as well as their broader vision for Agenda 2030.

Ms. Ghimire started her presentation with a video prepared by the Government of Nepal. The video provided delegates with the context of disasters and their impacts in Nepal.

Due to the country's mountainous terrain, complex geology, population growth, and environmental degradation, Nepal is vulnerable to a variety of natural and human-induced hazards. The Government has taken key steps to strengthen disaster resilience, and related policies are undergoing a major departure from responsive to proactive DRR.

Following the video presentation, Ms. Ghimire provided delegates with an overview of Nepal's legal and institutional frameworks. In the past, DRR in Nepal was guided by the National Calamity Act, but there are now a number of legal provisions and planning documents that shape DRR in the country. These include the Local Governance Act (2017), DRR National Policy (2018), DRR National Strategic Action plan (2018), National Disaster Response Framework, among others. The National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) was also established to "build back better" after the devastating 2015 earthquake.

Ms. Ghimire shared Nepal's key priorities and achievements in DRR, aptly organized by the four priorities of the SFDRR (Table 1).



*From right to left: Ms. Indu Ghimire, MoHA, Nepal; Mr. Sonam Topgay, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Bhutan; Mr. Seng Samban, National Committee for Disaster Management, Cambodia.*

### **Table 1. Nepal's key achievements in line with SFDRR Priorities**

#### *Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk*

1. Risk mapping
2. Development an effective Disaster Inventory and Information Management System (DIMS)
3. Identification of vulnerable settlements for relocation
4. Capacity development for Disaster Risk understanding
5. Real-time hazard risk monitoring system development
6. Soil liquefaction map preparation
7. Glacier lakes monitoring and risk assessment
8. Community-level multi-hazard Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment

#### *Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk*

1. Legal Provisions and Institutional formation and strengthening
2. Development and implementation of DRM strategic action plans
3. Capacity development, coordination and collaboration for Disaster Risk Governance
4. Mainstreaming DRM and CRM into development plans
5. Establishment of Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) at national, provincial, and local levels.

#### *Priority 3: Increase investment in DRR for resilience*

1. Social safety-nets program to targeted vulnerable groups
2. Preparedness of open spaces for emergency use
3. GLOF risk reduction activities
4. Alternative energy promotion
5. Disaster Management Fund
6. Cash support as immediate relief
7. Private sector engagement in emergency response

***Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction***

1. Multi-hazard Early Warning System development and capacity development of EOCs
2. Community-based DRR promotion, including community-level search and rescue teams
3. Emergency preparedness in airport
4. Humanitarian Staging Area and Trauma Care centers developed in strategic locations
5. Emergency communication strengthening
6. Stockpiling for emergency response
7. Mass awareness on DRM through simulations and integration in school curriculum
8. Cluster approach strengthening
9. Post-disaster response framework on specific large scale disasters
10. Risk-sensitive land use planning/zoning and institutionalization of National Building Codes

Despite the Government’s impressive strides in DRR, Ms. Ghimire shared the remaining challenges to strengthening disaster resilience in Nepal. Inadequately trained human resources, lack of specialized equipment to tackle large-scale disasters, data collection from the local level, and fund mobilization for pre-disaster activities were among the challenges explored by Ms. Ghimire.

Ms. Ghimire, however, asserted that where there are challenges, there are opportunities. She suggested that opportunities for Nepal include enhancing partnerships, private sector engagement, strengthened social capital, regular monitoring of ongoing DRR activities, and proper allocation of responsibilities among tiers of government.

The session’s co-chair, **Mr. Seng Samban**, National Committee for Disaster Management, Cambodia, summarized the session while reiterating the value of Nepal’s sharing of experiences and proactive stance on DRM for regional learning.

### ***Session 4—Update on the implementation of SFDRR and SDGs***

Chair of Session 4, **Eng. N. A. Sisira Kumara**, Secretary, Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resources and Disaster Management, Sri Lanka, called for all RCC member countries to share achievements, challenges, and priorities in the implementation of global frameworks in their respective countries. The objective of the session was to consolidate experiences and challenges shared to identify action points for enhanced coherence in policy and planning, financing and implementation, cross-sectoral collaboration, and monitoring and reporting at the national and regional level.

A summary of RCC member countries’ key achievements, challenges, and ways forward is presented in Table 2, while details on each country presentation are noted in Table 3. For full country presentations, refer to the RCC website [rccdm.net](http://rccdm.net).

**Table 2. Summary of country presentations on the implementation of SFDRR and SDGs***Key achievements*

1. Progress in developing national DRR strategies, guidelines, and plans
2. Integration of SDGs and DRR, to some extent, to national development plans
3. Advancement in aligning SDGs and SFDRR priorities with national strategies
4. Organization of committees for SDGs, SFDRR, or coordination
5. Training, awareness, advocacy initiatives
6. Advancements in cross-sectoral collaborations in DM mechanisms with the inclusion of line ministries and integration of DRR into sectors
7. Enhanced stakeholder engagement and participatory processes
8. Improved disaster preparedness, early warning systems, and simulations

*Key challenges*

1. Coping with increasingly unpredictable, frequent, and severe disasters
2. Data unavailability, including lack of disaggregated data and damage and loss databases
3. Financial and technical constraints
4. Lack of coordination and information sharing between sectors and ministries
5. Harnessing the potential of private sector
6. Issues with localization of frameworks and DRR actions
7. Lack of understanding of disaster risk
8. Lack of understanding or involvement of key institutions/agencies on SFDRR or DRR in general
9. Lack of knowledge on monitoring and the online Sendai Framework Monitor system

*Ways forward*

1. Continued efforts in advocacy, DRR education, and enhanced public awareness
2. Dedicated budget allocation and resource mobilization
3. Capacity building on use of the Sendai Framework Monitor system to report on national progress of the SFDRR
4. Greater integration of DRR by development actors and sectors
5. Scale-up of disaster loss databases to better understand risk
6. Localization of SFDRR, including delegation of decision-making and resources to the local level
7. Promotion of inclusive and rights-based approaches
8. Improvements in coordination through developing sectoral and ministerial coordination mechanisms

**Table 3. Overview of country presentations on achievements, challenges, and ways forward for implementation of SFDRR and SDGs at the national and local levels**

	<p><b>Afghanistan</b> shared achievements in drafting the Afghanistan DRR Strategy in alignment with SFDRR, developing an SDG Action Plan, and organizing consultations on SFDRR to engage key stakeholders. Challenges included lack of institutional arrangements, dedicated resources, technical capacity, and a damage loss database system. Creation of guidelines and joint working groups with line ministries for SDGs and SFDRR and mass awareness about global frameworks were identified as ways forward.</p> <p>Presented by: <b>Mr. Ahmad Reshad Aziz</b>, Head of Staff, State Ministry for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs, Afghanistan</p>
	<p><b>Bangladesh</b> developed a National Plan for Disaster Management 2016-2020, innovative multi-hazard warning systems, risk management with a multi-sector approach, emergency preparedness of communities and institutions, and progress in inclusive DRR. Major challenges included coordination among institutions and stakeholders, inadequate data and understanding of risk, as well as lack of strategies to cope with rapid urbanization. Establishing a resilient dialogue network in strengthening coherent approaches to implementation of SFDRR and SDGs through multi-stakeholder participation at regional, national, and local levels were suggested as a way forward.</p> <p>Presented by: <b>Ms. Kazi Tasmin Ara Ajmery</b>, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Bangladesh</p>
	<p><b>Bhutan's</b> key achievements included integration of SDGs and SFDRR into the 11th and 12th Five Year Plans, establishment of DM and contingency plans for sectors, schools, and districts, as well as adoption of an Incident Command System. Challenges were absence of a multi-hazard atlas, limited technical and financial capacity, data sharing, and inadequate understanding of Sendai Framework Monitor system. Specific budget allocation, awareness, and advocacy on global frameworks, and platform for coordination and information sharing among national and local level actors/stakeholders were explored as ways forward.</p> <p>Presented by: <b>Ms. Sonam Deki</b>, Senior Program Officer, Ministry of Home &amp; Cultural Affairs, Bhutan</p>
	<p><b>Cambodia</b> shared action on establishing internal DM mechanisms for line ministries, advancing DRR and CCA education, and prioritizing the need for DRR integration across development sectors in the National Action Plan. Lack of data, low awareness and consideration of DRR among government and relevant stakeholders, and the continuous disconnect of DRR and CCA governance structures were the challenges identified. Ensuring availability of risk and impact data, particularly for development agencies; continued support to line ministries and public awareness; and resource allocation were some of the suggested ways forward.</p> <p>Presented by: <b>Mr. Seng Samban</b>, Assistant to the Senior Minister in Charge, National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), Cambodia</p>

	<p><b>China</b> founded the Ministry of Emergency Management of the People's Republic of China in 2018, formulated national and local five-year plans on DRR, and established relevant early warning systems for multiple hazards, among other achievements. Key challenges remain the localization of DRR activities, technical and financial constraints, and information sharing between departments. The government intends to move forward with establishing a comprehensive DM system and rolling out nine disaster prevention and reduction projects in the next three years.</p> <p>Presented by: <b>Dr. Yuan Yi</b>, Deputy Director-General of Department of Risk Monitoring and Integrated Disaster Mitigation, Ministry of Emergency Management, P. R. China</p>
	<p><b>India's</b> achievements included the establishment of the National Disaster Management Plan that promotes vertical and horizontal integration, regular conduct of mock exercises, and successful capacity building programs. Key challenges identified were lack of local capacity and institutional mechanisms, coordination of ministries/departments, and lack of a national database. In this regard, preparation of a disaster damage and loss database, financial planning, and addressing coherence between frameworks in the revised National Plan were explored as ways forward.</p> <p>Presented by: <b>Mr. Nawal Prakash</b>, Senior Research Officer, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), India</p>
	<p><b>Indonesia</b> presented on their solid legal foundation with national and local action plans, as well as strategies to ensure clear funding sources for DRR at the national, subnational, and local level. Despite greater attention on strengthening DRR at the local level, remaining challenges were the low commitment of local governments to prepare Local Action Plans, translating the national SFDRR roadmap to subnational and local levels, and organizing local SFDRR monitoring. The way forward was to stay on track with the national DRR masterplan to meet the national targets for 2025.</p> <p>Presented by: <b>Dr. Surayoga Hadi</b>, Primary Planner, National Development Planning Agency, Indonesia</p>
	<p><b>Jordan</b> shared achievements in preparing the National Strategy for DRR, developing early warning systems, and various sectoral and public DRR education. Key challenges included lack of budget for DRR programs, coordination between relevant agencies/institutions, and limited understanding of SFDRR among concerned institutions. Allocation of budget and capacity building initiatives were proposed as ways forward.</p> <p>Presented by: <b>Brigadier General Hasan Amin Al-Magharbeh</b>, Director of Support and Supply, Civil Defense Directorate, Jordan</p>

	<p><b>Maldives</b> presented on the approval of the National Emergency Response Plan with identified cross-sectoral roles, establishment of the National SDG Committee, and progress on cross-agency data collection framework for DRR, among other achievements. Challenges were inter-agency and cross-sectoral coordination (particularly for data sharing and collection), integration of DRR in sectoral agencies, and lack of technical capacity and awareness. Maldives will work to develop a national SFDRR implementation framework, continue capacity building initiatives, and strengthen local level resilience with CBDRM programs.</p> <p>Presented by: <b>Ms. Sofeenaz Hassan</b>, Director General, National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC), Maldives</p>
	<p><b>Mongolia</b> adopted a national strategy for SFDRR implementation in 2017 and established a national platform for DRR that promotes cross-sectoral consultation. It remains challenging to engage the private sector in DRR, gather funds for DRR activities particularly at the local level, and coordinate line ministries to report on SFDRR progress using the online Sendai Framework Monitor system. Linking local and national DRR action plans to public and private investment strategies, enriching disaster damage and loss databases, and ensuring regular multi-stakeholder consultations were explored as ways forward.</p> <p>Presented by: <b>LTC Baasansuren Demberelnyam</b>, National Emergency Management Authority (NEMA), Mongolia</p>
	<p><b>Myanmar's</b> achievements included the endorsement of the Myanmar Action Plan on DRR in 2017, preparation of sector-specific DRR plans and disaster risk financing strategy, and coordination of sectoral ministries and NGOs for SFDRR reporting. Meanwhile, key challenges were developing sub-national level DRR plans, coordination for resource mobilization, and aligning priorities of different sectors. Myanmar intends to move forward by ensuring monitoring and close coordination of stakeholders, proper resource mobilization and cooperation with partner agencies, and conducting capacity building initiatives.</p> <p>Presented by: <b>Dr. Ko Ko Naing</b>, Director General, Department of Disaster Management, Myanmar</p>
	<p><b>Pakistan</b> presented achievements in the establishment of the National Institute of DM for human resource development, creation of cash assistance mechanisms, and enhanced focus on vulnerable groups through institutional structure and policies, among others. Challenges included lack of awareness on global frameworks among key stakeholders, capacity issues of provincial and district level authorities, and resource and technical constraints. Some ways forward included alignment of donor priorities with national strategies, allocation of resources, use of technology for data collection, and harnessing the potential of the private sector.</p> <p>Presented by: <b>Mr. Muhammad Idrees Mahsud</b>, Member (DRR), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Pakistan</p>

	<p><b>Philippines</b> presented on achievements such as alignment of national and local plans with global frameworks, multi-sectoral membership in the National DRRM Council, and establishment of systems and databases for monitoring and reporting. Challenges were multi-agency coordination for implementation, monitoring, and reporting of frameworks, lack of funds and local support for DRR in low-income localities, and disaggregation of data. Updating the National DRRM Plan to align with global frameworks and identifying priority targets in line with national priorities were identified as ways forward.</p> <p>Presented by: <b>DIR Susana Juangco</b>, Director, Office of Civil Defense, Philippines</p>
	<p><b>Sri Lanka's</b> achievements included preparation of National Disaster Management Plan in line with global frameworks, advocacy programs for sectoral agencies and the local level, and preparation of guidelines on mainstreaming DRR into 10 development sectors. Key challenges were inadequate financial, technical, physical, and human resources, lack of vertical and horizontal coordination, and collecting and validating local level data. Ways forward included establishing a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating, ensuring development projects are risk-informed, and developing a guideline on preparation of local DRR plans.</p> <p>Presented by: <b>Eng. N. A. Sisira Kumara</b>, Honourable Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management, Sri Lanka</p>
	<p><b>Thailand</b> has made progress with global frameworks embedded in key national policies; strengthened development, DRR, and CCA platforms to engage related sectors and stakeholders; and utilized data governance with use of GIS-based population estimations, among other achievements. Key challenges include government reshuffling that hinders advocacy of global frameworks, involvement of sectors and the local level, and coordination of over 20 agencies for data collection, particularly for Target C and D of the SFDRR. The DDPM plans to improve alignment of national DRM plan with the SFDRR, enhance baseline information and risk database, as well as strengthen coordination mechanisms.</p> <p>Presented by: <b>Mr. Saharat Wongsakulwiwat</b>, Director, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM), Thailand</p>
	<p><b>Timor-Leste</b> established a framework for coordination at the national and village level and conducted a disaster education awareness campaign, among other achievements. Some identified challenges were resource limitations and lack of legal framework or legislation to support policy implementation. Moving forward, the government will focus on integrating DRR into development policies, planning, and programming; strengthening institutions at local levels; conducting training and capacity building; and implementing early warning systems.</p> <p>Presented by: <b>Mr. Guido Ricardo Belo</b>, Director, Regional Office, Baucau, Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI), Timor-Leste</p>



**Viet Nam** shared achievements in improving communication systems and understanding of disaster risk, prioritizing resources for early warning and online disaster monitoring systems, and preparing guidelines for integrating DRR into local and sectoral development plans. Challenges included lack of knowledge and skills to cope with disasters, financial constraints, and inadequate DM plans at local and ministerial levels. Viet Nam intends to conduct advocacy programs, consolidate legal and policy frameworks, and develop a system for national and sectoral monitoring and reporting of global frameworks.

Presented by: **Ms. Nguyen Thi Thuy Lieu**, Deputy Director, Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority, Viet Nam

Co-chair of the session, **Ms. Loretta Hieber Girardet**, Chief, UNISDR Regional Office for Asia and Pacific, provided a comprehensive summary of the key achievements, challenges, and ways forward presented by member countries, and thanked representatives for sharing their experiences in the implementation of global frameworks in their respective countries.

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## DAY 2

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### *Session 5—Building a framework for coherence in Asia and the Pacific Region*

The session's chair, **Mr. Prem K. Rai**, Secretary, MoHA, Government of Nepal, welcomed session speakers and delegates. He highlighted the importance of the session in supporting coherence of frameworks in the region and defining specific characteristics of practical coherence.

The first speaker of the session, **Mr. Gregory Pearn**, Research Consultant, GIDRM, began the session with an introduction to coherence concepts and practices at the national and local level. From analysis of relevant literature, he offered a working definition of coherence as:

*“the approach and deliberate processes and actions within a country to integrate—as appropriate—the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and Paris Agreement; in order to increase efficiency, effectiveness, and the achievement of both common respective goals.”*



**Mr. Gregory Pearn,**  
Research Consultant, GIDRM

Several important points were raised in an attempt to conceptualize coherence:

- Coherence is not an outcome or goal in itself, but a means to improve the processes and achieve the goals of the frameworks, in terms of minimizing gaps, trade-offs, and redundancies and maximizing efficiency, effectiveness and synergies
- Coherence is not only in policy definition and planning but also in the implementation, monitoring, and reporting that takes place not only horizontally across sectors but also vertically at different governance levels
- Coherence is operationalized through different actors, including through coordination between government institutions, private sector, civil society organizations, and citizens
- Coherence should be pursued in a flexible manner that is context specific and fits well within a country's conditions, structures, and mechanisms.

Mr. Pearn introduced three key areas to guide discussions and analysis in the pursuit of coherence, including 1) strategies, policies, plans, and financial resources required for implementation; 2) coordination mechanisms; and 3) technical capacities, tools and/or guidelines for implementation. Parallel sessions allowed countries to comment and share experiences on these three areas.

#### **Parallel sessions**

Delegates from member countries were split into three groups, each to discuss challenges and actions for the aforementioned key areas of interest on coherence. Facilitators of each group presented a summary of findings, outlined in Tables 4, 5, and 6.



Participants work in groups to tease apart challenges and actions relating to coherence for the parallel session.

#### Table 4. Strategies, policies, plans and financial resources

<p><b>Challenge 1:</b> DRR is not prominent enough in national policy discussions and advocacy and awareness for DRR is still needed, both at sub-national and national level.</p>	<p><b>Action 1:</b> Utilizing regional database of policies and laws that are coherent as good examples</p>
<p><b>Challenge 2:</b> Resources are provided but we cannot measure performance in order to justify expenditure.</p>	<p><b>Action 2:</b> Develop a template for policy briefs for the different global agendas for parliamentarians and law makers</p>
<p><b>Challenge 3:</b> There is a disconnection with regard to understanding the global frameworks between the national and local level.</p>	<p><b>Action 3:</b> Develop framework/scheme to connect data to policymaking</p>
<p><b>Challenge 2:</b> Resources are provided but we cannot measure performance in order to justify expenditure.</p>	<p><b>Action 1:</b> Incentivize good coherent practices at sub-national level</p>
<p><b>Challenge 2:</b> Resources are provided but we cannot measure performance in order to justify expenditure.</p>	<p><b>Action 2:</b> Develop financing scheme based on risks across administrative boundaries including transboundary risks</p>
<p><b>Challenge 2:</b> Resources are provided but we cannot measure performance in order to justify expenditure.</p>	<p><b>Action 3:</b> Harmonize tagging of budgets to include both CCA and DRR measures</p>
<p><b>Challenge 3:</b> There is a disconnection with regard to understanding the global frameworks between the national and local level.</p>	<p><b>Action 1:</b> Develop minimum standards for local governments and communities on coherence</p>
<p><b>Challenge 3:</b> There is a disconnection with regard to understanding the global frameworks between the national and local level.</p>	<p><b>Action 2:</b> Translate requirements of the global agendas into local language</p>
<p><b>Challenge 3:</b> There is a disconnection with regard to understanding the global frameworks between the national and local level.</p>	<p><b>Action 3:</b> Identify entry points for communities to engage in the implementation of the global agendas</p>
<p><b>Challenge 3:</b> There is a disconnection with regard to understanding the global frameworks between the national and local level.</p>	<p><b>Action 4:</b> Guideline on how Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) can engage in the promotion of coherent policy development at the local level</p>

**Table 5. Coordination mechanisms, relationships, and information-sharing processes**

<b>Challenge 1:</b> DRR is not prominent enough in national policy discussions and advocacy and awareness for DRR is still needed, both at sub-national and national level.	<b>Action 1:</b> Capacity building of local level governments on information and data management
	<b>Action 2:</b> Collect data at the local level and validate – hosted and owned in EOCs with information partnership
	<b>Action 3:</b> National damage and loss registry implementation
<b>Challenge 2:</b> Insufficient information sharing at the national level – horizontal and vertical – including private sector, relevant stakeholders, as well as at the regional level.	<b>Action 1:</b> Government platform or forum for information sharing
	<b>Action 2:</b> Clarify access of individuals to data and information
	<b>Action 3:</b> Learn Sendai Framework Monitor and identify roles and responsibilities
<b>Challenge 3:</b> Inadequate coordination mechanisms at all levels before, during and after disasters.	<b>Action 1:</b> Standing Order on Disaster – in line with SFDRR requirements, with detailed guidance and Standard Operating Procedures
	<b>Action 2:</b> Hazard specific response plan including roles and responsibilities of different national agencies

**Table 6. Technical capacities and tools and guidelines**

<b>Challenge 1:</b> Translating plans and guidelines from local to national level, and vice versa	<b>Action 1:</b> Not only tools and guidelines but also human technical support and capacity from national line ministries/NDMOs to local governments
	<b>Action 2:</b> Review of tools and guidelines from regional countries to understand extent of support for coherence in other countries, and promote peer-to-peer learning
<b>Challenge 2:</b> Plans at local level not linked to national budget	<b>Action 1:</b> Empower local governments to analyze coherence needs
<b>Challenge 3:</b> Assessing and enhancing capacity of local government for coherence	<b>Action 1:</b> Advocacy and training programs and materials to disseminate the concepts of frameworks, coherence, and related terminology for the local level
<b>Challenge 4:</b> Switching conversation from integration of DRR, to coherence for sustainable development	<b>Action 1:</b> New/revised tools, guidelines and templates should have a more holistic approach that addresses the need for mechanisms and capacity to facilitate coherence, with focus on guidelines at the local level

**Dr. Puji Pujiono**, Consultant, GIDRM, facilitated representatives from member countries to share experiences and progress on coherence within their national contexts. According to **Dr. Suprayoga Hadi**, Primary Planner, National Development Planning Agency, Indonesia, there is a renewed commitment to embed DRR and DRM into the recovery process, particularly after the recent earthquake and tsunami in Palu and Lombok in Indonesia in 2018. The government has established and promoted a master plan for recovery and redevelopment, which not only focuses on relocation but also on sustainable socio-economic development. Various agencies, line and sectoral ministries have been involved with the national government in devising this master plan.

From the Philippines, **Ms. Annielyn C. Rivera**, National Economic Development Authority, shared how existing planning guidelines ensure that all three global frameworks are reflected in the Philippines Development Plan 2017-2022 (PDP), with the PDP also incorporating SDG and SFDRR indicators. Horizontal integration across sectors and vertical alignment with local governments are also key elements of the plan.



**Dr. Md. Jafar Uddin**, Additional Secretary,  
Ministry of Finance,  
Bangladesh

From a financing perspective, **Dr. Md. Jafar Uddin**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh, spoke on the country's macro-level budgeting system that promotes coordination between various sectors and ministries. The system includes the preparation of a five-year plan that considers all plans for socio-economic development and their respective budgets, as well as the Coordination Council Meeting that brings together all economic managers and four sectors of the economy for consultation. Through this comprehensive financing system, Bangladesh is one of the only countries that has adopted a special fund for DRR and Climate Change Mitigation (CCM). Furthermore, the social safety net programs spend more than

2% of the national GDP for poverty reduction in the country, which is central to strengthening disaster resilience and enabling sustainable development.

Offering experiences from Pakistan, **Mr. Muhammad Idrees Mahsud**, Member (DRR), NDMA, discussed national-level efforts to target the public sector. In Pakistan, a DRR checklist has been established and adopted as part of official procedure by the Planning Commission, so that any public sector development project is reviewed against the checklist. Mr. Idrees mentioned the remaining challenges are to build capacity of sectoral planners to design their projects with DRR and CCA considerations, as well as for project managers and implementers to carry out DRR projects with the necessary technical know-how. Furthermore, a national DRM fund has also been established to promote resilient investments into all development projects related to DRR.

**Ms. Aishath Aniya**, National Bureau of Statistics, Maldives, added to discussion on national level coherence with her experience on data collection in the Maldives. The National Bureau of Statistics coordinates with the National Disaster Management Centre to collect disaster-related statistics, with whom they have also facilitated one-on-one meetings with related agencies to streamline data collection and consult on aligning SFDRR with SDGs. However, coordination of data collection has proven to be a challenge in a country comprised of small islands with populations of 500 to 700 people. Issues with lack of technical capacity, mechanisms for reporting, or simply lack of human resources has hindered disaster-related data collection. With support from UNESCAP, progress has been made to strengthen environment statistics, which will be beneficial to collecting disaster statistics as well. Facilitator, Dr. Puji Pujiono, emphasized the importance of hearing about progress in the particularly vulnerable small island states.



**Mr. Kinlay Dorjee**, Thimphu Mayor, Bhutan

Shifting gears from discussion on the national level to the local level, **Hon. Kinlay Dorjee**, Mayor, Thimphu, Bhutan, spoke on how Thimphu has integrated climate considerations, DRR, and urban resilience into a comprehensive governance system at the city level. Bhutan's unique Happiness Agenda guides agencies to address sectoral issues in a holistic and coherent manner. The city's successes in tackling various environmental concerns from waste management to energy consumption, as well as implementing DRR measures such as the development of disaster contingency and preparedness plans, are evidence of the integration of DRR and CR related concerns into the city's programs. With

support from Save the Children, Thimphu has also trained local communities and organized volunteer groups to ensure DRM is grounded at the local level.

Further discussions on implementation at the local level, **Ms. Thelma T. Vecina**, Assistant Director, Local Government Academy, Philippines, spoke on the Academy's efforts to capacitate the local level. With the vast number of local government units (LGUs) scattered across the many islands of the Philippines, addressing local level capacity is key to making progress on DRR and CR in the country. The Local Government Academy has made strides in creating a guideline for LGUs to adopt a standard tool in terms of identifying the capacity building needs, creating simplified climate and disaster risk assessment tools for local authorities, and preparing a disaster preparedness protocol for the local level. Ms. Vecina explained that significant progress has been made in training LGUs on how to make local action plans in ways that align with the objectives of international and national agendas. The Academy has organized several Local Governance Resource Centers in partnership with academic institutions to ensure continuous capacity building activities for the local level.



**Ms. Thelma T. Vecina**, Assistant Director, Local Government Academy

Finally, a representative from the Ministry of Federal Affairs of General Administration, Nepal, commented on the ministry's responsibility for DRR coordination at local and sub-national level across Nepal. The Ministry plays a crucial role in capacity building efforts for local and provincial level governments, particularly to assist with integration of DRR and CR considerations into development plans. With established funds for local governments and in collaboration with development partners, DRM units and local EOCs have been established in some local governance bodies. With such initiatives, the Ministry has emphasized localization of DRR and CCA for the achievement of global frameworks.

Co-chair, **Ms. Susana Juangco**, Director III, Capacity Building and Training Service, Office of Civil Defense, the Philippines, summarized the key points raised by the session's speakers.

## ***Session 6—Building synergy with development partners in nurturing coherent implementation of SFDRR and SDGs***

This session consisted of a panel discussion between development partners, international organizations, and UN agencies on their approaches to coherent implementation of the SFDRR and SDGs in Asia and the Pacific region. Session Chair, Dr. Md. Jafar Uddin, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh, introduced panelists from GIZ, UNESCAP, UNISDR, Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok/Sida, and BMGF. The session was organized by three rounds of questions for the five panelists, as well as a Q&A from the audience.

### ***Featured questions and responses from panelists***

***Q. Could you elaborate on GIZ's approach to coherence among global framework, especially with regard to "think coherent, act coherent, and be coherent" under the GIDRM initiative?***

<p><b>Mr. Stephan Huppertz</b> Regional Coordinator Asia, GIDRM</p>	<p>GIZ was mandated by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to develop concepts, practices, and documentation on coherence, and to also ensure that coherence is taking place within GIZ and its projects. The approach that GIZ takes is looking at coherence at different levels, including global, regional, national and subnational level, with focus on the practical aspects of coherence. Current work at the national level includes pilot projects in the Philippines and Mexico, while at the regional level, GIZ supports fostering coherence through meetings like the RCC. The aim is to bring the topic of coherence down to the level of practice and action, and it is the hope of GIZ to report back on some good practices on how policies can be beneficial for the local level and support the objectives of the global agendas.</p>
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***Q. What are some of the key initiatives taken by UNESCAP for developing regional coordination mechanism and partnerships for coherence in the region?***

<p><b>Dr. Madhurima Sarkar-Swaisgood</b> Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP</p>	<p>UNESCAP has implemented a few initiatives that have been the basis for the organization's regional coordination mechanisms and partnerships. These include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Regional Roadmap for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Asia and the Pacific, which was adopted by ESCAP member states in 2017. This roadmap boosts ESCAP's capacity to contribute to the implementation of SFDRR, as the roadmap identifies DRR and resilience as the priority area for regional cooperation</li> <li>2. Fully operationalized Asian and Pacific Centre for Disaster Information Management, which contributes to the achievement of several SFDRR targets. The Centre's niche is combating dust and sandstorms, as well as building technical capacity for mitigating seismic risks in high risk, low capacity countries</li> <li>3. The Asia Pacific Thematic Working Group on DRR and Resilience (TWG), which ESCAP co-chairs with UNISDR and UNDP. Strong coordination between members of these groups is evident through the knowledge products, advocacy materials, and activities accomplished in the past 2 years. This includes the TWG's 1-year response for the 2015-2016 El Niño and several regional learning platforms</li> </ol>
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*Q. How are you pushing forward the complex process of coherence, especially with regard to creating linkages of the SFDRR with other global frameworks at the regional scale in Asia and the Pacific?*

<p><b>Ms. Loretta Hieber Girardet</b> Chief, UNISDR Regional Office for Asia and Pacific</p>	<p>The establishment of the UNISDR Bonn Office, where UNFCCC is located, is a reflection of ISDR's strong desire to work closely on the climate change agenda and ensure linkages with DRR. UNISDR has issued practical guidance on integrating climate change into SFDRR and SDGs, while also working with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to take forward the work to ensure coherence between climate change adaptation plans and national DRR strategies. ISDR is working on coherence around indicators and monitoring, notably through developing climate change indicators.</p> <p>Coherence is incorporated in training initiatives, where UNISDR Asia-Pacific has delivered training in regional countries, not only on how to use Sendai Framework Monitor tool but also on how to ensure inter-ministerial cooperation and data sharing. UNISDR is in the process of developing an online global risk assessment framework to inform development and DRR planning across sectors.</p> <p>Embedding coherence through national and local DRR strategies is another way ISDR is ensuring linkages between global frameworks. This is being done through regional workshops and guidance documents, such as the Words into Action document that introduces 10 criteria on whether national strategies can be considered aligned with global frameworks. Finally, coherence featured prominently at 2018 AMCDRR and is reflected in the outcome documents, including the Ulaanbaatar Declaration and Asia Regional Action Plan 2018-2020.</p>
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*Q. How does the Government of Sweden / Sida plan to address coherence between global frameworks in its programs and projects for implementation in the regional level?*

<p><b>Dr. AnnaKarin Norling</b> First Secretary, Embassy of Sweden, Thailand</p>	<p>'Coherence' is a new concept to the programming of Sweden and Sida. That being said, development programs are guided by the Swedish strategy 2016-2021 that addresses DRR among other issues like gender-equality and inclusive development, and the strategy has been developed in line with the Agenda 2030.</p> <p>Two programs that we support, namely the BRDR program implemented with ADPC and partners, as well as this RCC mechanism, are very important to building capacity of member countries to implement and report on these different frameworks, as well as promoting regional cooperation to facilitate this. Another program that could be noted is the climate financing and budgeting in Bangladesh, implemented with UNDP, which looks into integrating climate considerations into the national budget.</p>
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*Q. What is BMGF's perspective on supporting coherence among key global frameworks in Asia and the Pacific?*

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<p><b>Dr. Valerie Nkamgang Bemo</b> Deputy Director, Emergency Response, Global Development, BMGF</p>	<p>For BMGF, the concept of coherence is also new. The Foundation has made progress in terms of implementation of the SDGs, and focus is now shifting to how progress on all of the global frameworks can be measured. Coherence is particularly important in the monitoring process—simplifying the monitoring system, as well as involving the local level for data collection and management is important. BMGF wants to move forward in this direction and look into how we can support countries in advocating and making progress on the SFDRR.</p>
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*Q. Advocacy with national government is believed to be one of the key aspects in achieving the objective of coherence over a longer period of time, what are UNISDR's ongoing actions and future plans for this?*

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<p><b>Ms. Loretta Hieber Girardet,</b> Chief, UNISDR Regional Office for Asia and Pacific</p>	<p>It is evident from discussions at the RCC meeting that more advocacy is needed, especially for development actors to take risk and the SFDRR into account. UNISDR has been promoting an understanding of the three international frameworks as belonging together and needing to be implemented together. A key message that is being reiterated is that economic development cannot be achieved without disaster risk planning, and disaster risk cannot be accurately planned for without taking climate into account. There is a particular shift in making an economic case for DRR, where in the past, DRR was understood to be a humanitarian issue.</p> <p>UNISDR is producing joint op-eds with UNDP and UNFCCC that are placed in international media to show that the implementation of global frameworks is considered as hand in hand. With the discussions at COP24 focused on limiting climate change to an increase of 1.5°C, it is important to reiterate that we must be prepared for the significant increase in disasters that this increase might bring about.</p> <p>Furthermore, regional platforms in every region are timed so that outcomes feed into the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. More regionally, UNISDR, in partnership with ADPC, is advocating to make the public more aware through media training. There is a need to tell stories about how investing in DRR can help countries to achieve sustainable development while tackling climate change at the same time.</p>
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*Q. What kinds of challenges have you observed in the region that hamper the process of enhancing coherence at the regional level?*

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<p><b>Dr. AnnaKarin Norling</b> First Secretary, Embassy of Sweden, Thailand</p>	<p>Asia and the Pacific is a huge and diverse region, making it challenging to take into consideration the many different contexts of the region. In our experience, the regional bodies in Asia and the Pacific are not very strong, where countries operate under their different priorities with varying levels of regional influence. Furthermore, in many parts of the region, there is shrinking space for civil society. Without an active civil society, it will be more difficult for sustainable development to happen at the local level.</p>
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Co-chair, **Dr. Raditya Jati**, Director, Disaster Risk Reduction, NDMA, Indonesia, summarized the sentiments of the speakers and thanked them for their participation in the panel discussion.

## *Session 7—Lessons learned: Operationalizing global frameworks for risk-resilient development in Asia*



**Mr. Aslam Perwaiz**, Deputy Executive Director, ADPC

Chair, **Mr. Nawal Prakash**, Senior Research Officer, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), India, introduced the session with the objective to showcase the innovative programs carried out by ADPC, the RCC Secretariat, with focus on activities in RCC member countries. **Mr. Aslam Perwaiz**, Deputy Executive Director, ADPC, started his presentation with an overview of past RCC meetings. He explained that themes for RCC meetings have been carefully selected to facilitate member countries in institutionalizing and implementing global DRR frameworks. For example, the 13<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan, and the resultant

Islamabad Statement emphasized the role of the RCC mechanism and ADPC to support member countries in integrating and achieving the various targets of the global frameworks. Since 2016, the theme of resilience, which is central to the SFDRR and SDGs, has featured prominently in the RCC meetings.

Mr. Perwaiz explained that ADPC has undergone institutional transitions in response to the changing international priorities and commitments. Cross-cutting themes of gender and diversity, poverty and livelihoods, and regional and transboundary cooperation are included and promoted within all of its thematic work. ADPC's institutional arrangements have also been revitalized, with the expansion of country offices and representation to accommodate the organization's growing presence and scope of programs in the region. Notably, ADPC has transitioned into an intergovernmental organization with the ratification of the ADPC Charter by nine founding member countries. This change in status is significant in terms of ADPC's ability to attract global expertise and resources for ongoing and future programs in RCC member countries.

ADPC's key initiatives include addressing the needs of countries under SFDRR priority areas, promoting learning between countries, leveraging science, innovation, and technology for DRR, capacity development activities, facilitating the application of disaster data management, promoting inclusiveness, and engaging the private sector in DRM. Mr. Perwaiz shared the range of innovative projects conducted within RCC member countries. Activities included training of surgeons from Afghanistan on trauma care and hospital preparedness, CBDRM work in Cambodia, improving EWS in Myanmar, training of journalists to report on disaster mitigation and preparedness in Mongolia and Nepal, enhancing drought resilience in Viet Nam, and the APP program in a number of regional countries, to name a few.

Co-chair, **Dr. Valerie Nkamgang Bemo**, Deputy Director, Emergency Response, Global Development, BMGF, thanked Aslam for sharing ADPC's direction and programs within RCC member countries.

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## DAY 3

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### *Session 8—RCC and its future framework*

Chair, **Mr. Muhammad Idrees Mahsud**, Member (DRR), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Pakistan, introduced the session aimed to recap discussions and explore the future role of the RCC, especially with regards to supporting the coherence agenda for resilient development in the region. Representing the RCC Secretariat, **Mr. Hans Guttman**, Executive Director, ADPC, presented an overview of the RCC mechanism, objectives, past themes, and participation. Importantly, he shared a review of the RCC mechanism by ADPC Charter countries, including several key suggestions and recommendations:

- Explore opportunities to create an RCC fund to ensure sustainability
- Engage the RCC Steering Committee Members to address issues relating to continuity of the mechanism amidst government restructure and turnovers
- Establish a strategy on how to work closely with other intergovernmental and regional mechanisms
- Develop sub-committees to discuss specific issues or technical subjects as a sideline to the RCC meeting
- Revitalize the RCC website to host useful documentation and information for member countries

Dr. Jafar Uddin from Bangladesh agreed that every decision is a financial decision, and establishing an RCC fund would be a worthy initiative. Meanwhile, **Hon. Kinlay Dorjee**, Thimpu Mayor, Bhutan, suggested that the RCC mechanism could further collaborate with sub-national level authorities and city leaders, as growing urban populations heighten disaster concerns in cities. A participant from Indonesia supported the idea of enhancing knowledge management and sharing of experiences between member countries through the RCC website.

**Mr. Nawal Prakash**, Senior Research Officer, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), India, suggested ADPC continues expanding its presence in member countries to foster greater collaboration with line ministries. Mr. Guttman reaffirmed that ADPC will continue to expand its work and activities in the region, while establishing a more permanent presence in countries through representatives or full offices will be dependent on funding.

Co-chair of the session, **Mr. Saharat Wongsakulwiwat**, Director, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM), Thailand closed the session by expressing his feelings of encouragement to see the RCC Secretariat working to revise and revitalize the mechanism with these key suggestions. Chair of the session, **Mr. Muhammad Idrees Mahsud**, NDMA Pakistan, took the opportunity to graciously present a Certificate of Excellence to ADPC. The Certificate had been awarded to ADPC during Pakistan's National Resilience Day on 8 October 2018.

## Session 9—Statements by the 14th RCC meeting observers

Session chair, **Dr. Ko Ko Naing**, Director General, Disaster Management Department, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Myanmar, called for observers from UN agencies and international organizations to deliver their statements for the 14<sup>th</sup> RCC.



**Mr. Koji Suzuki**, Executive Director, ADRC

*Good morning, ADRC is very happy to introduce the new early warning message platform for Asia and the Pacific, which the Japan task force team is developing. ADRC is the leading agency in the National Task Force Team for developing and promoting the QZSS Early Warning Message Platform for Asia and the Pacific.*

*QZSS is one of the positioning satellite system, developed and managed by Japan. It is one of the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS). The other GNSS are GPS (Global Positioning System) of USA, GLONASS of Russia, GALILEO of Europe, Bei Dou of China and IRNSS of India.*

*Basically a positioning satellite system, QZSS has a capacity to send emergency information to the ground.*

*One of the strengths of this QZSS capacity is to send the early warning message to a person in a mountain, a desert or in an ocean. The message is available where and when the telephone is not connected, radio and TV are not available and Wi-Fi is not available. You can receive the early warning message through QZSS by smartphone, sighth board, loudspeaker and car navigation system with QZSS signal receiver. The messages can be translated into a variety of languages, voices and text messages.*

*One of the challenges is the coverage of the signal from QZSS. As you can see from the slide, it cannot cover all over Asia and the Pacific. However, we are now developing a collaboration framework with the European Commission, which operates another GNSS system, called GALILEO for developing this platform to cover the entire globe.*

*What is going on now? QZSS-EWM, Early Warning Message platform has been launched in Japan only from 1st November this year. Collaboration with EC-GALILEO to cover the entire globe and to develop information format. USA, Russia, China, India, and Australia are supporting this platform. Preparing feasibility studies with AHA Centre, Pacific Disaster Center, India, and PNG.*

*As a summary, QZSS early warning platform is public goods for Disaster Management Organizations in Asia and the Pacific, which means we are not planning to charge them to send early warning message in QZSS platform. QZSS early warning message is available when and where Wi-Fi, radio, TV, and telephone are not available. QZSS early warning message is available with affordable receiver of satellite signal. We are not planning to charge them when they send the early warning message by this QZSS Platform.*

*Thank you very much for your attention.*

*We commend the Government of Nepal for co-hosting the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management and thank ADPC for organizing these sessions. This meeting comes as an important point for the delegates assembled here, as they execute the Action Plan 2018-2020 of the Asian Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework. As you push forward, it is worth remembering that your governments endorsed the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction because adopting risk-based development is the only viable way of preventing disaster, or at least reducing their impact.*



**Ms. Loretta Hieber Girardet**, Chief,  
UNISDR Regional Office for Asia and Pacific

*Three years into the Sendai implementation, progress has been made in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and the principles of DRR are more widely understood and accepted. New tools and guides are emerging to help countries visualize their risks, institutionalize DRR in investing resilience, as well as enhance preparedness and recovery. Countries should utilize these tools and embrace them as new ways of doing business. The collection of disaster loss data needs to become routine as the collection of any vital statistics for both large and small disasters. The assessment of disaster risk should be a condition for approval of any new infrastructure investment and during recovery, we should make sure that 'build back better' to avoid repeating mistakes in the past.*

*Since disaster risk reduction is a cross-cutting issue, we agreed with the organizers on the importance of coherence between the major global frameworks. The world deserves an integrated approach to disaster risk reduction, climate change, and sustainable development. As the organization mandated to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework, UNISDR is committed to do what it can to ensure close cohesion and coordination with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.*

*That said, the interconnectedness of development, disaster risk reduction, and climate change are intuitive. Development needs to be risk-informed to be sustainable, and whether the unpredictability that comes with climate change. More importantly, gaps in coherence or a lack of perfect alignment should not become an excuse for inaction or delay.*

*We are happy to collaborate with ADPC on tools such as online e-learning on Sendai Monitoring or training of journalists that would further reinforce the need for more attention to disaster risk reduction but with an emphasis on coherence. UNISDR will continue to push the coherence agenda starting next week where the outcomes from the RCC will be shared. Very concrete recommendations have emerged and we want to ensure these are taken into consideration in our push to accelerate action on the Target E, increase national and local strategies. And to echo some of the speakers at this meeting here, the need for more local action is evident, as is the need for more awareness raising and advocacy amongst development partners on the importance of understanding disaster risk and we need to improve data collection, analysis, and its use.*

*Lastly, as we prepare for the next Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, I hope you will all join us in May 2019 to report on the actions you have taken and the results you have achieved in preventing disasters and strengthening resilience for all.*

Thank you.

*Thanks a lot Mr. Chair, Dr. Naing, Distinguished Colleagues. Thanks to ADPC for inviting; Government of Katmandu for being such a wonderful host; All good colleagues we met, heard and were generous with sharing their knowledge, experience, challenges and proposing solutions;*

*Thanks to, Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), particularly Deputy Minister for his amazing role in making our 22-years partnership between ANDMA and Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, that builds on Focus Humanitarian Assistance work in the areas of safety, resilience and services very constructive. The assessment of 700 villages for local and remote hazards, with detailed maps and statistics about each village and VDMP, safety and resilience at schools for 30,000 students in 140 schools, 60 community stockpiles, local capacity building according to international standards in the fields of ICS/EOC, SAR, through JIBC and UK ISAR aimed at improving coordination and response; forming 3 community-based SART groups (40% of whom are ladies) in the most isolated areas, that are very rarely visited, support to 135,000 people during 300 humanitarian responses, more than 100 community mitigation projects, are the eloquent example of such a wonderful partnership with ANDMA and the support we receive from our funding agencies as USAID/OFDA.*



**Mr. Shodmon Hojibekov,**  
Chief Executive Officer, AKAH

*We acknowledge that the 3 days were unbelievably productive and were holistic in terms of discussing all the critical areas related to successful implementation of the global agenda.*

*We indeed acknowledge that speaking time-wise, we have limited time or precisely 12 years or 144 months, or 629 weeks left to No Poverty, Zero Hunger and other 15 amazing goals under the motto of Leave No One Behind. In the light of that, there are 3 things I would like to reiterate to be important from our standpoint, that we believe RCC can contribute towards as a platform:*

*Robust targeting: Specifically, do we know where the most marginalized, vulnerable, and deprived people are living? Are the methods we use sound scientifically and are similar to what other partner agencies do? Are we confident, that we are not biased geographically, religiously, tribally, etc.? Do we know how many households are under the threat of what risk? Do we have enough interaction with people, we are trying to not leave behind when it comes to understanding the risks and making them and their assets resilient and see deciding what opportunities should be provided to them to improve their quality life? Our 22 years of experience of assessing 700 villages across the provinces we work and interaction with development partners, that a lot, a lot has to be done YET to have robust targeting for achieving the global agenda inclusively;*

*Being more innovative or entrepreneurial in achieving the goals: there is a need to have a different approach for achieving the goals. More innovative approaches are required that often are different from what we have done traditionally. A web platform of infographics that gets real-time data feeds, and pivots the data collected through apps and social media, and twitting and hashtags used to hear the voices from the field, can be a development trend in many locations globally. However, we, e.g. in 700 villages assessed by us, we have more than 200 villages that have zero mode of communications, more than 117 villages are under the threat of avalanches, killing people annually. Or if there are funding constraints, should we work on*

*defining goals that can benefit achieving other goals in a multiplier manner? How we should leave no one behind, if significant number of people resides in geographies that are controlled by insurgents - are some of the things we really need to think further with respect to achieving the global agenda of 2030.*

*A need for more powerful and probably different level advocacy: on the global agenda, we have the Goals, Result frameworks, tier-wise classification of indicators, metadata. However, there is a need for the two other critical elements - a) how much does it cost to achieve the goals (costing exercise), and what is our action plan for making it happen timely? Unfortunately, the discussions we have in forums are often different from the discussions and meetings we have on the ground. Assessments, data, disaster preparedness and response, emergency communications to do early warning and saving lives, mitigation projects are often not the 1st priorities by the funding agencies. It is easier to get 500K quick disbursement for response, than 50K for preparedness or prevention. Support of RCC as a platform through more powerful messaging of the real needs of countries to the donor community and respective line ministries is therefore instrumental.*

*Thank you very much for your attention!*

*I would like to extend my gratitude and congratulate the Government of Nepal and ADPC with its RCC secretariat for organizing a very successful RCC meeting.*

*I am impressed by the engagement and contributions from all the member delegates. You have provided valuable input and sharing of experiences showcasing both successes and challenges in a true collaborative spirit thereby enabling learning, and moving the agenda for coherence forward.*

*This meeting has been about concrete action, which is so dearly needed. The world has agreed on the Agenda 2030 and now we need practical cooperation for a stronger and more coherent implementation of the global frameworks and RCC is doing just that.*

*It has been good to see the many important contributions from the friends of RCC, the observers, from the UN system and development partners like GIZ and BMGF offering their experiences and expertise.*

*I've been glad to observe that the foundation of the Agenda 2030 "leave no one behind" have been ever-present these days and that gender equality and rights perspective have been high on the agenda.*

*I like to conclude with restating that Sweden is a proud partner to ADPC and the RCC and that we are looking forward to our cooperation in the coming years.*

*Thank you*



**Dr. AnnaKarin Norling, First Secretary,**  
Embassy of Sweden, Thailand



**Mr. Stephan Huppertz,**  
Regional Coordinator Asia, GIDRM

*First of all, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Government of Nepal for their great hospitality and for organizing a very successful and inspiring 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting in Kathmandu. We would also like to thank the RCC member countries as well as the RCC Secretariat ADPC for their continuous efforts in promoting the importance of DRR in the region. The German Government through the Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management has been supporting the RCC since 2013 and we are looking forward to a continuous partnership on this matter.*

*As you are all aware, the Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management is currently supporting selected international and national, governmental and non-governmental actors in their ambition for coherence regarding planning, implementation and reporting of DRM between Sendai-Framework and Paris Climate Agreement, as well as Agenda 2030 and Habitat III. The necessity of strengthening disaster and climate resilience is reflected in all the global agendas and it has been recognized that taken individually, none of the frameworks engages with the full range of possible risks that countries are facing, and in order to deliver change at the scale and pace required to meet global commitments by 2030, the frameworks cannot be implemented in isolation. Agenda coherence from a DRM perspective can, therefore, be described as jointly strengthening resilience through implementing the post-2015 agendas.*

*Isolated good practices and mature experiences on how to translate the global agendas in coherent planning, implementation and reporting processes are available on national and sub-national level in many countries. However, these experiences are often not shared with other countries and exchange on experiences, in general, is limited to formal exchange during regional conferences and platforms. Therefore, there is a need to support countries between the formal meetings and facilitates synergies between interested stakeholders working on coherence in the region.*

*In order to intensify regional exchange between policy and practice, the Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management would like to offer in close collaboration with the RCC Secretariat and other like-minded development partners targeted support to RCC member countries on the topic of coherence through the "Coherence Practice Group". The Coherence Practice Group can be utilized to follow-up on the prioritized actions that have been identified during the 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting in order to ensure progress until the next RCC meeting in 2019 as well as up to the AMCDRR in June 2020. Peer-to-peer exchange and learning will be at the core of the Coherence Practice Group focusing on meaningful exchange between RCC member countries on specific topics related to coherence.*

*One of the key topics for practical coherence that has been identified is information and data management. The need for improved information and data management was expressed on several occasions and by several RCC member countries throughout the meeting. The Coherence Practice Group will further engage in this particular topic and support knowledge exchange on information and data governance during the next 18 months. As a first step, we would like to invite you to a first technical working session on Coherence Information and Data Governance at Yak & Yeti Marble room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December 9 am to 11 am. The session will provide you with an introduction to the concept of information and data governance, the relationship between information and data governance and risk-informed development and*

*reflections about data sharing processes in country contexts.*

*Last but not least we encourage you to respond to our online survey looking at the challenges and actions identified in Session 5 of the 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting. The survey will ask you to prioritize the challenges and actions based on your needs in order to shape and focus our support and align it to the priorities and needs of the RCC member states.*

*We are looking forward to continuing our cooperation with the RCC Member States, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center and other development partners and foster the promotion of practical coherence in the region.*

*Thank you!*

*I would like to first thank the ADPC and the Government of Nepal for inviting the Raoul Wallenberg Institute to participate in this, the 14<sup>th</sup> RCC Meeting on Disaster Risk Management. As an international law academic studying the relationship between international standards and the practice of disaster risk management, the past few days have been deeply enriching. I thank all participants for their engagement, both during the plenary sessions as well as on the sidelines.*



**Dr. Matthew Scott**, Research,  
Team Leader, People on the Move, RWI

*There has been a lot of discussion over these days regarding the importance of national law and policy, as well as local level guidelines and standards that promote the coherent achievement of the SDGs, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement.*

*At times, emphasis was also placed on the diversity of local-level realities, where women, persons with disabilities, children, minority ethnic and religious groups, displaced persons and others are often disproportionately exposed and vulnerable to disaster and climate-related harm.*

*The global frameworks embrace this vision of leaving no-one behind. Underpinning the ambition to leave no-one behind is the commitment, also reflected in these frameworks, to the promotion and protection of human rights.*

*In addition to embracing coherence, the Ulaanbaatar Declaration of the 2018 AMCDRR calls upon states to:*

*Ensure a human rights-based, people-centred and whole-of-society approach in development, implementation and monitoring of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies inclusive of women and girls, children and youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, displaced and migrant populations, and those in vulnerable situations such as the poor and marginalized.*

*A human rights-based approach does not entail adding a fourth set of goals or indicators to what is already a challenging coherence agenda. Rather, its contribution is likely to be found when used as a perspective that raises questions relevant to the content of national level law and policy, and the process and quality of DRR, CCA and development interventions. This is*

*something we hope to explore as part of the Building Resilience to Disaster Risk programme that has been presented at different points over the course of this meeting.*

*Thank you for your kind attention.*

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*UNESCAP extends its deep appreciation to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre for inviting us to the 14<sup>th</sup> RCC. RCC's influence has been in felt in various thematic areas that facilitate cooperation in DRR and, at this RCC, it is truly commendable to see the efforts of the countries along with the UN agencies and development partners to bring different perspectives of policy coherence to light.*



**Dr. Madhurima Sarkar-Swaigood,**  
Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP

*The deliberations of the past two days and the outcomes of this meeting will make concrete contributions to ensure coherence between the economic, social and environmental agendas for sustainable development. In this regard, ESCAP offers its full support towards coherence in policymaking to ensure that the region successfully achieves its Sustainable Development Goal targets.*

*With the RCM Thematic Working Group on DRR, ESCAP, and partners such as ADPC, GIZ and IFRC have co-organized technical sessions on policy coherence at past AMCDRRs and will continue to support efforts of governments to advance coherence building at all levels.*

*ESCAP also organizes a yearly Regional Learning Platform to provide capacity building and knowledge sharing for policymakers and practitioners at regional, national and local levels to ensure policy coherence for disaster resilience. Here, ESCAP has been working with partners to bring out key knowledge products on policy coherence.*

*Finally, the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) is fully recognized as part of the SDG follow up and review process and supports the region in preparing for the global level High-level Political Forum. ESCAP will work with members of the Thematic Working Group to ensure that the region's perspectives on building resilience through policy coherence are highlighted during the annual APFSDs.*

*As your regional commission, ESCAP stands ready to work with countries, development partners and UN agencies to support the processes of coherence building and the subsequent achievement of the 2030 Development Agendas.*

*First of all, I would also like to thank the ADPC and the Government of Nepal for co-hosting the 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting and for inviting the Stockholm Environment research Institute Asia to participate to these three engaging days. I also thank all the participants for their insightful presentations and discussions.*

*I would like to contribute to those discussions by saying that as researchers as well as practitioners in the field of DRR, we often and still, have to answer the question: Why is gender important for DRR, why should it be included in disaster risk management?*



**Dr. Andreea R. Torre**, Research Fellow, SEI

*Well I will try to provide a straight and short answer here in saying that:*

- *only when we succeed in overcoming the deeply-rooted underlying drivers of gender inequality will we be able to uplift those on the margins in times of disaster and build strong resilience in our communities in the face of climate change.*

*And I think that by saying so we have not only a gender equality argument here but also a sustainable and equitable development argument for our communities. We simply cannot do without the talent, skills and experience of half the population to care for the environment and for our communities at all levels of decision-making: at regional, national and community scales. However, structural barriers, biases and social gender norms constrain us from being more inclusive, not only towards women from various poor and rural or urban communities but also men from different ethnic and caste backgrounds, as well as other marginalized groups. Disaster risk management has been the purview of mostly elite technical specialists. But the time has come to transform this reality. Decision making on how to prepare and reduce vulnerabilities and risks should harness the vision, knowledge and experience of those who are most impacted but who also have the often long-term indigenous knowledge which has allowed them to develop strategies to cope. Those women and men must be listened equally and together with disaster risk reduction specialists to make DRR a more inclusive and equitable process.*

*Thank you.*

## Session 10—The Kathmandu Statement

The Kathmandu Statement, drafted by the Steering Committee, was read out by Mr. Hans Guttman, Executive Director, ADPC, during the final session of the RCC. The Statement commits to promoting regional cooperation for coherence in achieving the targets of SFDRR and SDGs at national and local levels through developing data and information management systems, and calls for enabling coherence through the provision of technical support to member countries in the implementation of relevant policies, plans, and practices of DRR, CCA, and resilient development frameworks at regional, national, sub-national and local levels. It ensures integration of gender-equal, pro-poor, rights-based and inclusive approaches. With delegates agreeing that the Statement was reflective of the discussions and priorities of member countries, it was accepted and endorsed by all member countries present.

Mr. Prem K. Rai, Secretary, MoHA, Government of Nepal, delivered closing remarks to delegates, while Mr. Hans Guttman, Executive Director, ADPC, thanked the Government of Nepal for co-hosting the 14<sup>th</sup> RCC.

*Hon'ble Mohammad Qaseem Haidari, Deputy Minister, Afghanistan, Secretaries from Government of Bhutan and Sri Lanka, Chairman, ADPC, distinguished guests from RCC member countries, UN agencies development partners and government officials, representatives from private sectors, academia, the international community, local humanitarian organizations, and media.*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

*Good Morning and Namaste.*

*It is indeed a great pleasure to be here for the last three days with you all and learnt a lot from different countries and development partners on different aspects of disaster risk management.*

*The theme of the 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting is "Policies and Practices for Coherence between Global Frameworks," which requires coherence in implementing SFDRR and SDGs both at the national and local levels.*

*This RCC meeting is represented by 18 member countries and about 40 development partners to promote peer advocacy and exchange of expertise in disaster risk management.*

*Deliberations on different subjects such as regional cooperation for enhancing disaster resilience, addressing coherence in SFDRR and SDGs, updates on the implementation SFDRR and SDGs, building a framework for coherence in Asia and the Pacific region, building synergy with development partners in nurturing coherent implementation of SFDRR and SDGs, lessons learnt: operationalizing global frameworks for risk resilient development in Asia, RCC and its future framework, and statements by RCC observers were very useful and timely to inter-linked between global and regional frameworks.*



### Closing remarks

**Mr. Prem K. Rai**  
**Secretary Ministry of Home Affairs**  
**Government of Nepal**

*We are very glad of your active participation and discussions during the last couple of days and we look forward to the implementation of the suggestions and recommendations coming from this very productive event. I will call upon ADPC, the RCC Secretariat to active follow up and keep all the RCC member countries updated.*

*Distinguished colleagues*

*Finally, I would like to thank ADPC on behalf of Government of Nepal, MoHA and on my personal for jointly hosting this 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting in Nepal. Likewise, I would also like to thank all distinguished guests from RCC member countries, development partners, academia, media and private sector for actively participating for last three days in the meeting and making the discussions rich and enlightening.*

*I wish all the foreign delegates for safe trip back home and stay connected to share our experiences and opportunities. With these few words, I declare the adjourning of the 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting and looking forward to meeting you all in 15<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting soon. Thank you all very much.*

# ANNEX

## Annex 1. Kathmandu Statement

1. The Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC) mechanism seeks to promote the implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies, share experiences and best practices, advance cooperative programs at regional and sub-regional levels, and provide guidance to Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) on its future work and strategies. The RCC mechanism was established in 2000 by ADPC and its member countries. ADPC serves as the Secretariat to the RCC.

2. With the overarching theme of *“Policies and Practices for Coherence between Global Frameworks,”* the participants of the 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting shared progress, exchanged experiences, discussed challenges, and explored practical approaches and options for coherent implementation of the key global frameworks at regional, national, sub-national, and local levels. The meeting understood coherence as jointly strengthening resilience through processes such as mainstreaming, harmonization, localization, and alignment, which can all play a role in this.

3. As a follow-up on the commitments made at the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia and to develop policies and practices which promote coherence in the implementation and reporting of the key global frameworks for sustainable development and DRR, we, the delegates of **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Viet Nam;** development partners and observers; and participants from partner organizations, reaffirm that:

- a) The RCC recognizes the value in enhancing coherence across policies, institutions, goals, indicators, and measurement systems for implementing the key global frameworks, particularly the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Agenda for Humanity, and the New Urban Agenda.
- b) The RCC is committed to promoting partnership at different levels and assisting countries in Asia and the Pacific to harness the benefits to sustainable development and resilience through DRR, climate change adaptation (CCA), risk-financing mechanisms, and risk-informed rural and urban communities.
- c) The RCC will further assist member countries in strengthening existing regional and national risk monitoring systems and enhancing capacities for better monitoring and progress reporting, particularly for the SFDRR and the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

4. Building on the established partnerships and the views expressed at the 14<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting, supported by the RCC Secretariat, we, the participants, therefore:

- i. Call for enabling coherence through the provision of technical support to member countries in the implementation of relevant policies, plans, and practices of the global and regional DRR, CCA and resilient development frameworks at national, sub-national and local levels ensuring gender-equal, pro-poor, rights-based, and inclusive approaches.
- ii. Call upon development partners to support and invest in regional efforts for achieving practical coherence among the key global frameworks, including through peer-to-peer learning, documentation of good practices, among others.
- iii. Encourage the RCC member countries to translate policies into practice and further strengthen linkages across sectors and line ministries for a more efficient implementation of the key global frameworks at national, sub-national, and local levels.
- iv. Promote regional cooperation for coherence and inclusiveness to achieve the targets of the SFDRR and SDGs at national, sub-national and local levels through developing data and information management systems and capacity development of government officials, among others.
- v. Encourage the RCC member countries to actively promote women leadership in DRR and CCA including women's representation at the RCC and other regional and global fora.
- vi. Encourage all stakeholders including civil society, the private sector, media, and the research, academic, and scientific community to support governments in the RCC member countries in strengthening risk governance – a cornerstone of resilient development.
- vii. Support stakeholders in coherent planning and implementation of activities under different global frameworks for enhancing resilience to disasters through better preparedness for response and recovery at national, sub national and local levels.
- viii. Encourage governments and development partners to strengthen tools, methods, and processes for measuring the impact of DRR and CCA investments at regional, national, sub-national, and local levels.
- ix. Call upon the RCC Secretariat, ADPC, to initiate the implementation of recommendations under the revised RCC Technical and Operational Mechanism.
- x. Request the RCC Secretariat, ADPC, to support the priorities of the RCC member countries highlighted in the Kathmandu Statement through its work under different programs and projects.
- xi. Express our deep appreciation to the excellent arrangements and leadership extended by the Government of Nepal as the host of the 14<sup>th</sup> RCC Meeting.

## Annex 2. Participant list

<b>Member countries</b>		
<b>Country</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
<b>Afghanistan</b>	Mr. Mohammad Qaseem Haidari	Deputy Minister for Policy, Coordination, and Planning, Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority
	Mr. Ahmad Reshad Aziz	Head of Staff for Minister's Office of the State Minister for DM, Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority
<b>Bangladesh</b>	Dr. Md. Jafar Uddin	Additional Secretary, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance
	Ms. Kazi Tasmin Ara Ajmery	Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
<b>Bhutan</b>	Hon. Sonam Topgay	Honorable Secretary, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs
	Hon. Kinlay Dorjee	Mayor of Thimphu City
	Mr. Tshering Wangchuk	Program Officer, Department of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs
	Ms. Sonam Deki	Senior Program Officer, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs
	Mr. Jasraj Limbu	Thimphu City Disaster Focal, Office of the Mayor of Thimphu City
<b>Cambodia</b>	Mr. Seng Samban	Assistant to the Senior Minister in Charge of Permanent Vice President and Chairman of Executive Committee, National Committee for Disaster Management
<b>P.R. China</b>	Dr. Yuan Yi	Deputy Director-General, Department of Risk Monitoring and Integrated Disaster Mitigation, Ministry of Emergency Management
	Mr. Li Yunqiang	Deputy Division Director, Department of International Cooperation Ministry of Emergency Management
<b>India</b>	Mr. Nawal Prakash	Senior Research Officer, NDMA
<b>Indonesia</b>	Dr. Raditya Jati	Director, DRR, National Disaster Management Authority (BNPB)
	Dr. Suprayoga Hadi	Primary Planner, National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS)
<b>Jordan</b>	Brig. Hasan Amin Moh'd Magharbeh	Director of Support and Supply, Jordan Civil Defense
<b>Maldives</b>	Ms. Sofeenaz Hassan	Director General, NDMC
	Ms. Aishath Aniya	Senior Statistical Officer National Bureau of Statistics
<b>Mongolia</b>	LTC Baasansuren Demberelnyam	National Emergency Management Agency
<b>Myanmar</b>	Dr. Ko Ko Naing	Director General, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

	Ms. Nwet Yin Aye	Director, Disaster Management Department Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
<b>Nepal</b>	Rt. Hon'ble K. P. Sharma Oli	Prime Minister, Government of Nepal
	Hon'ble Ram Bahadur Thapa	Home Minister, Government of Nepal
	Mr. Prem Kumar Rai	Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs
	Ms. Indu Ghimire	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs
<b>Pakistan</b>	Mr. Muhammad Idrees Mahsud	Member (DRR), National Disaster Management Authority, Pakistan
	Mr. Waqas Zafar	Deputy Director, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
<b>Philippines</b>	Ms. Susana G. Juangco	Director, Department of National Defense
	Ms. Hyacinth Barros	Capacity Building and Training Service, Office of the Civil Defense, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, Department of National Defense
	Dir. Minda C. Morante	Regional Director, Office of the Civil Defense Region XII
	Ms. Thelma T. Vecina	Executive Director, Local Government Academy
	Dr. Kim Durango	Office of the Civil Defense, Region CARAGA
	Ms. Annielyn C. Rivera	Senior Economic Development Specialist Regional Development Staff National Economic Development Authority (NEDA)
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	Eng. N. A. Sisira Kumara	Honorable Secretary, Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resources and Disaster Management
<b>Thailand</b>	Mr. Saharat Wongsakulwiwat	Director, Research and International Cooperation Bureau, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation
<b>Timor-Leste</b>	Mr. Guido Ricardo Belo	Director, Regional Office, Baucau, Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI)
<b>Viet Nam</b>	Ms. Nguyen Thi Thuy Lieu	Deputy Director, Department of Planning and Finance, Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

**International Observers**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
<b>ADRC</b>	Mr. Koji Suzuki	Executive Director
<b>AKAH</b>	Mr. Shodmon Hojibekov	Chief Executive Officer
	Mr. Arvind Kumar Sinha	Senior Programme Manager – Partnership
	Ms. Kazi Tasmin Ara Ajmery	Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
<b>BMGF</b>	Dr. Valerie Nkamgang Bemo	Deputy Director, Emergency Response, Global Development
	Ms. Brianna Lovato	Program Coordinator, Emergency Response, Global Development
	Ms. Pilar Pacheco	Program Officer, Emergency Response Global Development
<b>Thompson Rivers University, Canada</b>	Dr. Bala Nikku	School of Social Work and Human Service, Faculty of Education and Social Work
<b>Embassy of Sweden</b>	Dr. AnnaKarin Norling	First Secretary, Senior Research Advisor Development Cooperation Section - Regional Asia
<b>GIZ GIDRM</b>	Mr. Stephan Huppertz	Regional Coordinator Asia
	Mr. Antonio Balang	
	Ms. Alexandra van Hoek	
	Ms. Jutta May	
	Ms. Mareike Bentfeld	Advisor
	Mr. Gregory Pearn	GIZ Consultant
	Dr. Puji Pujiono	GIZ Consultant
	Mr. Edward Turvill	GIZ Consultant
	Ms. Aishath Aniya	Senior Statistical Officer National Bureau of Statistics
<b>Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)</b>	Mr. Rouf Mohammad Abdur	Regional Development Coordinator, Asia Pacific
	Mr. Terry Gibson	Consultant
	Ms. Julia Taub	Project Officer
<b>IFRC Regional Office for Asia Pacific</b>	Mr. Xavier Castellanos	Regional Director
<b>MSB</b>	Ms. Hanna Norell	Program Director DRR/Resilience Team
<b>National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET)</b>	Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha	Executive Director
<b>RWI</b>	Dr. Matthew Scott	Research, Team Leader, People on the Move

<b>SEI</b>	Dr. Andreea R. Torre	Research Fellow, Gender, Environment and Development
<b>UNESCAP</b>	Dr. Sanjay Srivastava	Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction Division
	Dr. Madhurima Sarkar-Swaigood	Economic Affairs Officer, Disaster Risk Reduction Division
<b>UNISDR Regional Office for Asia and Pacific</b>	Ms. Loretta Hieber Girardet	Chief
<b>The World Bank</b>	Mr. Kamran Akbar	Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
<b>WHO SEARO</b>	Dr. Jos Vandelaer	Country Representative
	Dr. Reuben Samuel	Technical Officer, WHO Health Emergency Programme



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