

Nay Pyi Taw Statement

11th Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) on Disaster Management

Established in 2000, the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) on Disaster Management promotes peer advocacy and the exchange of experiences in disaster risk reduction (DRR). As its Secretariat, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) initiated the committee to bring countries in the Asia-Pacific region together to achieve common goals in DRR, explore ways to transform policies into practice, and promote regional cooperation. The RCC's role is to provide a consultative mechanism for: a) guiding implementation of DRR action strategies for the region; b) promoting cooperative DRR programs on a regional and sub-regional basis; and c) guiding the work of ADPC and its future direction.

We, the delegates of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam, along with development partners, gathered in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar over 1 – 3 April, 2014 for the eleventh meeting of the RCC. The purpose of the meeting was to: a) take stock of mainstreaming initiatives deployed by RCC member countries and to review their impact; b) set forth a program for mainstreaming DRR and transforming development in Asia over the 2015 – 2025 period in conformity with the post-2015 framework for DRR, and the sustainable development goals; and c) provide information on the interlinked processes of the post-2015 development agenda, the post-2015 framework for DRR and climate change adaptation, in order to prepare countries' positions for enhanced synergy and synchronization of these global frameworks.

Considering the growing role of climate change as a driver of disaster events and the expected continuation of climate change; and having reflected on the many

initiatives undertaken by the member countries and development partners for mainstreaming DRR into development; and in response to the ongoing growth and development of our societies and economies and the growing urbanization in our countries, we firmly believe that sustainable development has to be risk-sensitive.

We, the delegates, are mindful that development in our countries should not exacerbate existing risks or create new risks and are seeking to ensure that development in our countries is protected from the impacts of future disasters. We, therefore, endorse the following recommendations to be taken up by RCC member countries and promoted at appropriate policy venues:

1. That risk is an inherent part of development and thus needs to be addressed in development plans and strategies.
2. That in order to achieve resilient nations and communities in the context of sustainable development, it is crucial that DRR is mainstreamed into development policies, plans, programs, projects and financing.
3. That mainstreaming DRR into development (hereafter referred to as 'mainstreaming') has to be an integral part of the post-2015 framework for DRR and the sustainable development goals and should incorporate climate change adaptation.
4. That the costs associated with mainstreaming should be recognized as savings against greater future losses due to disasters.

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Further, we recommend:

5. That mainstreaming should be a whole-of-government responsibility operating through sectoral focal points, with a coordinating body to ensure that DRR is mainstreamed into all sectors and sub-national governments. This body is to be tasked with policy formulation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation. This body needs to be appropriately resourced to deliver mainstreaming.
 - 5.1 A greater involvement of, and engagement with the planning and finance ministries or departments at the national and sub-national level is necessary to advance mainstreaming.
 - 5.2 The National Disaster Management Office/ Agency should be involved in investment and planning decisions, such as for infrastructure, and to that end, needs to be provided with technical support.
6. That mainstreaming should also take place at sub-national and local level. In this regard, greater collaboration, facilitation and support from national governments are required.
 - 6.1 At community level, DRR should be comprehensive, gender-smart, holistic, participatory and inclusive using simple, practical measures.
 - 6.2 Community-based DRR should be made an integral part of the local development planning processes.
7. That mainstreaming should be based on risk information.
 - 7.1 Capacity for the production and use of risk information needs to be improved through technical capacity development. The focus should be on long-term capacity development in countries and external assistance, if any, required by a particular country, must support knowledge transfer to domestic institutions and organizations.
 - 7.2 Standards for risk data gathering, processing and sharing should be established.
 - 7.3 Risk information should, to the extent possible, be enhanced by research.
 - 7.4 Disaster data should be integrated with national statistical systems.
8. That mainstreaming requires appropriate instruments, mechanisms and new partnerships for implementation to be promoted and enforced amongst stakeholders.
 - 8.1 Instruments (such as project screening tools, environmental impact assessments, disaster impact assessment, fiscal incentives etc.) need to be adapted for improved mainstreaming.
 - 8.2 Such instruments should enhance existing knowledge into accessible guidelines and benefit from the lessons and experiences of RCC member countries through training and knowledge transfer.
9. That building partnerships between government, civil society, and private sector is essential for effective mainstreaming.
 - 9.1 Such partnerships are strengthened with documentation, knowledge- and data-sharing and advocacy.
 - 9.2 The private and corporate sectors need to take risk-sensitive investment decisions. This should be supported by mainstreaming, using public-private partnerships and corporate social responsibility, and other existing or future public investment options or policies of the concerned government.
10. That the ongoing support and involvement of development partners are crucial for effective mainstreaming.
11. That RCC member countries call on ADPC in its capacity as Secretariat of the RCC to continue to develop the capacity of RCC member countries to implement the provisions of this statement.

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