



THIMPHU STATEMENT

12th Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC)

16–18 June 2015,
Thimphu, Bhutan

1. Established in 2000, as a regional dialogue platform of national agency or authority entrusted with disaster management responsibility in Asian countries for consultation and cooperation on reducing disaster risk, the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) on Disaster Management promotes peer advocacy and the exchange of experiences in disaster risk reduction (DRR). Its Secretariat, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), established the committee to provide a common platform for countries in Asia 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 co-operative DRR programs on a regional and sub-regional basis; and c) guiding the work of ADPC and its future directions.
2. Recognizing that the value addition of the RCC lies in its capacity to support implementation, technical solutions and complementarity within the region, **we, the delegates of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam**, along with development partners gathered in Thimphu, Bhutan over 16–18 June, 2015 for the 12th RCC meeting which discussed options for advancing risk-sensitive development by defining priorities for implementation of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* in RCC member countries.
3. We, the delegates of the 12th RCC Meeting, affirm and endorse the enhancement of the RCC mechanism by:
 - 3.1 Activating the Steering Committee mechanism in order to
 - a) provide substantive guidance in terms of work programs, initiatives, statements, meeting themes and other elements;
 - b) facilitate adequate consultation with stakeholders on substantive guidance of the RCC mechanism;
 - c) rationalize and renew membership of the RCC;
 - d) complement regional and national DRR initiatives managed through regional bodies; and
 - e) oversee the organization of RCC meetings.
 - 3.2 Transforming the RCC mechanism into actionable measures for meaningful implementation of the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction** through the following:
 - a) Focus on generating, packaging and providing actionable risk information for risk informed and sustainable development;

- b) Assist in building the knowledge of government officials and other stakeholders; facilitating trainings in disaster response; incorporating disaster risk management into post-disaster recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation processes;
- c) Assist in mainstreaming DRR into development by developing tools and instruments;
- d) Assist in increasing business resilience by integrating DRR into business models and practices, particularly of Small and Medium Enterprises, and protection of livelihoods and productive assets;
- e) Assist in developing community-based disaster risk management strategies, options and practices;
- f) Provide support on developing multi-hazard, multi-sectoral forecasting and early warning systems and disaster risk and emergency communications mechanisms, social technologies;
- g) Assist in undertaking DRR baseline assessments and collection of DRR data;
- h) Assist in developing and implementing policy guidelines on inclusive DRR and share best practices with RCC countries; and
- i) Assist in developing DRR action plans for the implementation of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*.

4. We, the delegates, also:

- 4.1 Affirm the need for the RCC mechanism to liaise more closely with regional bodies and platform such as the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR), Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the Heart of Asia (HoA), and the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS).
- 4.2 Endorse the *Outline of a 5-Year Action Plan on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development (MDRD)* and emphasize the need of implementation updates periodically.
- 4.3 Emphasize the need for the RCC mechanism to be inclusive, support the integration of gender, age, disability and cultural considerations into the national DRR action plans of member countries.
- 4.4 Call upon RCC's Secretariat to facilitate the capturing and dissemination of best practices and lessons learned among the RCC member countries to enhance peer-to-peer learning. RCC's Secretariat should support member countries to integrate knowledge management and communication as part of their national action plan to implement the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*.
- 4.5 Call upon donors and development partners to consolidate their efforts in supporting the implementation of national DRR plans, considering the recommendations of the RCC.
- 4.6 Call upon ADPC in its capacity as the Secretariat of the RCC to continue to develop the capacity of RCC member countries, perform the role of technical advisor and implement the provisions of the Thimphu Statement as well as those of previous RCC meetings.

Thimphu, Bhutan

18th June 2015