



adpc

# Operationalizing Global Frameworks for Risk-Resilient Development in Asia

## BACKGROUND NOTE

# 13<sup>th</sup>

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

17-19 October 2016  
Islamabad, Pakistan



The RCC Secretariat gratefully acknowledges the kind support that the German Government has been providing in designing and organizing the RCC meetings since 2014 under the Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM). We are also thankful to The Asia Foundation and Oxfam for extending support and joining hands in organizing the 13th RCC meeting in Pakistan.



The Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM) of the German Government aims to strengthen the German contribution to improved disaster risk management worldwide. To this end, it brings together German and regional experts from the public and private sector, academia and civil society to facilitate mutual learning across regions and to develop and pilot innovative solutions. GIDRM clusters competencies in the field of disaster risk management and helps match the demand for specialised services and technologies ‘Made in and with Germany’ along three priority working areas: i) disaster response preparedness and civil protection; ii) resilient critical infrastructure and economic cycles and iii) effective early warning systems. The GIDRM is coordinated by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

For further info: [www.gidrm.net](http://www.gidrm.net) / [info@gidrm.net](mailto:info@gidrm.net)





## Contents

What is the RCC? .....	4
The 13th RCC Meeting.....	5
Post-2015 Agenda.....	6
1. <i>Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction</i> .....	6
2. <i>Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> .....	6
3. <i>Paris Agreement on Climate Change</i> .....	8
Disaster Risk Management in Asia.....	9
Objectives and Themes of the 13th RCC meeting .....	9
<i>Objectives of the 13<sup>th</sup> RCC Meeting</i> .....	10
<i>Overall Theme: Operationalizing Global Frameworks for Risk-Resilient Development in Asia</i> .....	10
Sub-theme 1. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: Implementation Efforts, Challenges and Opportunities.....	10
Sub-theme 2. Integrating Global Frameworks for Strengthened Risk Governance .....	11
Sub-theme-3: Partnerships, Tools and Innovation to Operationalize the Post-2015 Agenda .....	14
Sub-theme-4: Supporting the Heart of Asia (HOA) for Enhancing Regional Cooperation on DRR, CCA and SDGs .....	16
Expected outputs.....	18
Contributions of the 13 <sup>th</sup> RCC meeting to DRR in Asia .....	18
A. <i>Contributions to Asia Ministerial Conference on DRR</i> .....	18
B. <i>Contributions to RCC member countries</i> .....	18
C. <i>Contributions to other Key Global Frameworks</i> .....	18
References.....	20



## What is the RCC?

Established in 2000 as one of the first regional dialogue platforms to promote 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), initiated the committee to bring countries in the Asian region together to achieve common goals in DRR, explore ways to transform policies into practice, and promote regional cooperation. More specifically, the RCC's role is to provide a consultative mechanism for:

- Guiding implementation of DRR in the Asian region;
- Promoting cooperative DRR programs on a regional and sub-regional basis; and
- Guiding the work of ADPC and its future directions.

*Figure 1. RCC Member countries*

<b>Southeast Asia</b>
Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam
<b>South Asia</b>
Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
<b>East Asia</b>
China, Korea, Mongolia
<b>Central and West Asia</b>
Georgia, Kazakhstan, Iran, Jordan
<b>Pacific</b>
PNG, Timor Leste

The RCC played a pivotal role in supporting the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in Asia, and will continue this role with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (SFDRR). In addition, the RCC serves as an important forum for senior government officials in preparing for and following up on the outcomes of the Asian Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) and other significant regional events in the field.

*Table 1. RCC Timeline*

#	Year	Country	Meeting Theme
1	2000	Thailand	DRR agenda-setting for RCC-member countries
2	2001	Thailand	Flood Preparedness and Mitigation
3	2002	India	Drought Risk Management
4	2004	Bangladesh	Urban Risk Management
5	2005	Vietnam	Mainstreaming DRR into Development
6	2006	China	Mainstreaming DRR into Development / HFA
7	2008	Sri Lanka	Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction
8	2010	Philippines	Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction
9	2011	Cambodia	Linking DRR and CCA
10	2013	Mongolia	Integrated Planning for DRR, CCA and Sustainability
11	2014	Myanmar	Reducing Disaster Risk and Transforming Development
12	2015	Bhutan	Risk-Sensitive Development in Asia
<b>13</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>Operationalizing Global Frameworks for Risk-Resilient Development in Asia</b>

## The 13th RCC Meeting

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual meeting will be held in Islamabad, Pakistan, in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan.

The overarching theme for the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting will be “Operationalizing Global Frameworks for Risk-Resilient Development in Asia”.

As a follow up to the post-2015 agenda, and the 12<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting held in Thimphu, Bhutan in 2015, the objectives of the 13<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting are as follows:

- Discuss the progress made by RCC member countries in implementing the Sendai Framework in its first year including challenges, opportunities and gaps;
- Discuss how other post-2015 agenda frameworks can assist in the disaster risk management of RCC member countries;
- Share new science-based solutions, technology and innovative practices for managing disaster risk and adapting to the impacts of climate change.
- Establish synergies with regional initiatives such as the Heart of Asia mechanism, SAARC and ASEAN to improve regional cooperation in disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development at the national and local level.

The meeting will be split into four sub-themes, the first analyzing the Sendai Framework and member countries’ current experiences in implementing it. The second will unpack the other agreements and frameworks to see how they relate to disaster risk management and how they can assist in creating risk-resilient development. The third sub-theme will highlight how to operationalize the post 2015 agenda through partnerships and specific innovative tools. The fourth and final sub-theme will endeavor to bring synergy among various regional initiatives to strengthen and build capacities in disaster management and climate change adaptation collectively at a regional scale. The findings from the meeting shall feed into the AMCDRR, assisting countries in their understanding of the post-2015 agenda and implementation of disaster risk management.

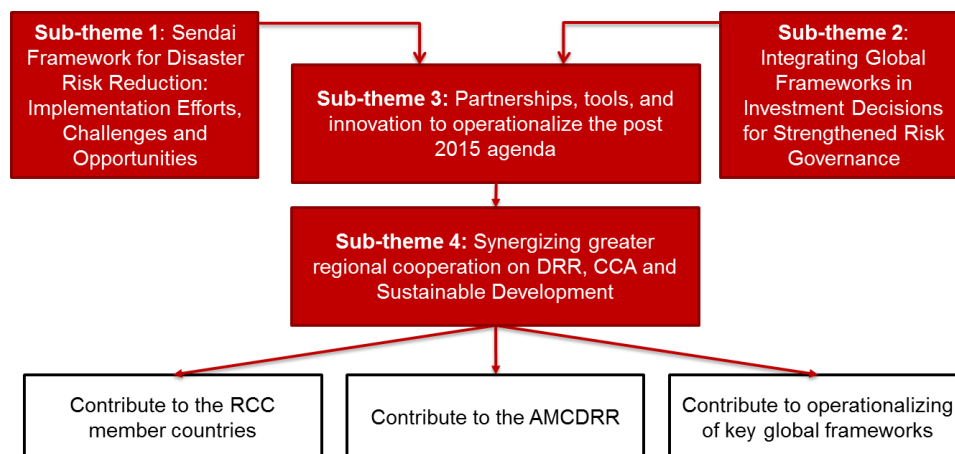


Figure. 2 Thematic flow of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the RCC

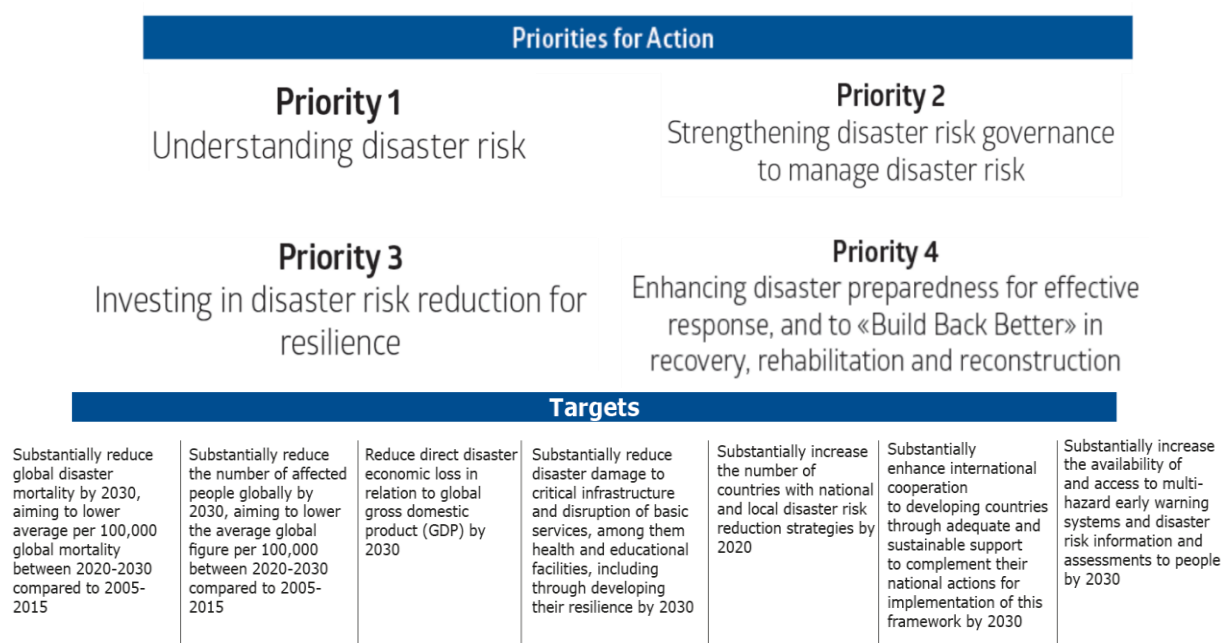


## Post-2015 Agenda

In 2015, three global meetings created frameworks and agreements that guide the implementation of disaster risk reduction and resilient development:

### 1. *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR) stresses that there has to be a broader and a more people-oriented preventive approach to disaster risk. DRR practices needs to be multi-hazard and multi-sectoral, inclusive, and accessible in order to be efficient and effective. Governments should engage with relevant stakeholders, including women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, people living under poverty, migrants, indigenous peoples, volunteers, the community of practitioners and older persons in the design and implementation of policies, plans and standards.



Based on the experiences from the implementation of the HFA, and in order to reach the targets and goals, there is a need for focused actions within and across sectors by States, at the local, national, regional, and global levels in four priority areas. An enabling international environment and means of implementation are needed to stimulate and contribute to developing the knowledge, capacities and motivation for disaster risk reduction at all levels, particularly for developing countries.

Figure 3: SFDRR's priorities for action and the seven targets

### 2. *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), officially known as “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, is a broader intergovernmental agreement that acts as the successor to the Millennium Development Goals. They agenda has a set of

aspirations which outlines 17 SDGs to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. The SDGs, and the broader sustainability agenda, go much further than the MDGs, addressing the root causes of poverty and the universal need for development that works for all people.

Collectively, all partners can support communication of the new agenda, strengthening partnerships for implementation, and filling in the gaps in available data for monitoring and review, while UNDP will lead the preparation of Guidelines for National SDG Reports which are relevant and appropriate for the countries in which we work. The meeting finalized the 17 SDGs along with 169 global targets setting out areas to advance sustainable development. At least 23 of these targets relate directly to building resilience to climate and/or disaster risks. The following are the 17 SDGs:



Figure 4: The 17 sustainable development goals

### 3. Paris Agreement on Climate Change

During the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of Parties to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal, referred to as the *Paris Agreement*. The Paris Agreement and the outcomes of the UN Climate Conference (COP21) cover all the crucial areas identified as essential for a landmark conclusion:

- Mitigation – reducing emissions fast enough to achieve the temperature goal*
- A transparency system and global stock-take – accounting for climate action*
- Adaptation – strengthening ability of countries to deal with climate impacts*
- Loss and damage – strengthening ability to recover from climate impacts*
- Support – including finance, for nations to build clean, resilient futures*

Under the Paris Agreement, climate action will be taken forward in the period before 2020. Countries will continue to engage in a process on mitigation opportunities and will put added focus on adaptation opportunities. Additionally, they will work to define a clear roadmap on ratcheting up climate finance to USD 100 billion by 2020. The Paris Agreement underwrites adequate support to developing nations and establishes a global goal to significantly strengthen adaptation to climate change through support and international cooperation. The already broad and ambitious efforts of developing countries to build their own clean, climate-resilient futures will be supported by scaled-up finance from developed countries and voluntary contributions from other countries.

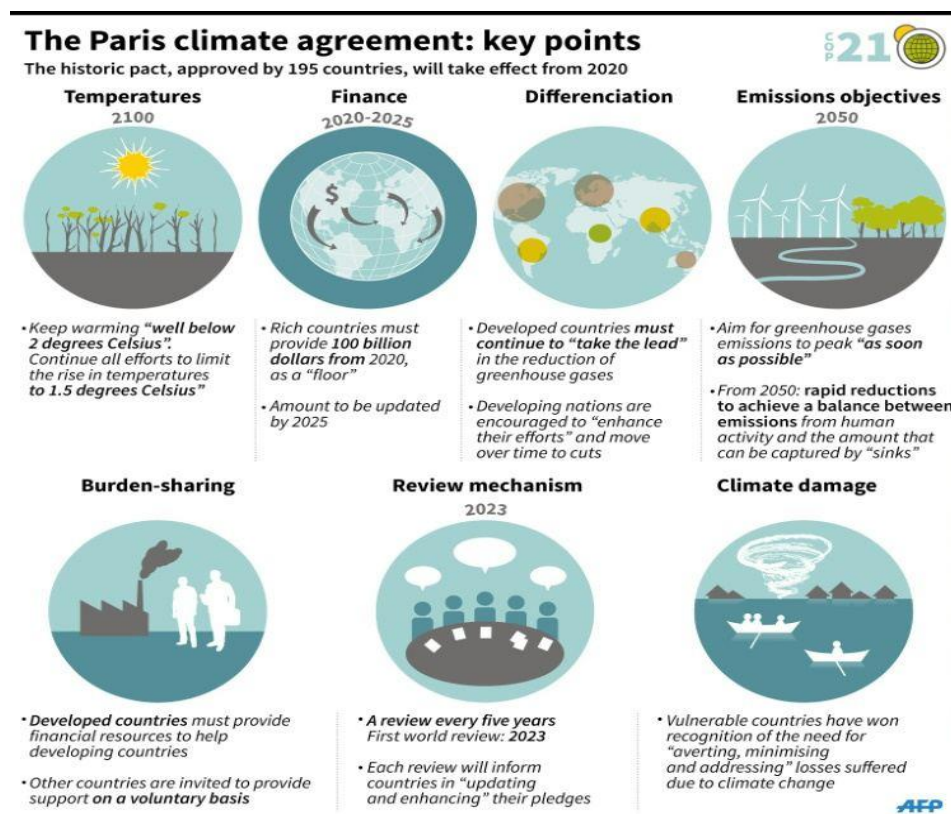


Figure 5: Key points from the Paris climate change agreement (Source AFP, 2015)

## **Disaster Risk Management in Asia**

The last year has seen a new era in disaster risk management with the SFDRR being implemented globally. Asia, being the continent with the greatest losses caused by hazards has been at the forefront for implementing the new approach.

Asian countries played a key role in the global discussions as often being the most experienced country in coping with hazards. This experience has also allowed for solutions nurtured in Asia to adapting globally to the impacts of climate change. The ISDR Asia Partnership meeting held in 2015 was a key moment for reflection on what the first steps needed for implementing the Sendai Framework. Following the 13<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting, there will be the 6<sup>th</sup> Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) where countries will present their findings on the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

A specific shift in focus within disaster risk management has been from mainstreaming DRR and CCA into development at the national level and instead to now building the resilience of specific development sectors. Countries during the era of the Hyogo Framework for Action made great progress in creating plans, laws and policies related to DRR and CCA at the national level. The priority action now is to work with stakeholders within development sectors to analyze their capacity to adapt to climate and disaster risks and find the gaps and opportunities for building their resilience.

Another change in the last decade has been the focus of women and the role that they can play within DRR. Women are no longer seen as only a vulnerable group but as agents of change in disaster responses as well as when implementing disaster risk reduction activities. The *Regional Asia-Pacific Conference on Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction* was arranged by UN Women in Hanoi, 16 - 18 May 2016. In this meeting key practical measures and actions were identified for how gender equality and women's participation could be integrated within disaster risk reduction.

## **Objectives and Themes of the 13th RCC meeting**

Before the SFDRR was agreed on in March 2015, disaster risk management was guided at the global level almost solely through the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* (HFA). While the HFA was being implemented, the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were the global framework for creating sustainable development, building resilience and reducing disaster risk however were not seen as a high priority within them. And at this time there was no universal, legally binding global climate deal. This made implementation of global frameworks for disaster risk management during this period relatively simple.

Post-2015, things got a lot more complicated. The SFDRR was adopted which expanded the HFA's disaster management approach to disaster risk management. The eight MDGs were expanded to 17 SDGs, with two specific goals on DRR and climate change adaptation. And the first universal, legally binding global climate deal was agreed upon which included activities for adapting to the inevitable impacts of climate change.

## *Objectives of the 13<sup>th</sup> RCC Meeting*

As a follow up to the post-2015 agenda and the 12th RCC meeting in Thimphu, Bhutan in 2015, the objectives of the 13th RCC meeting are as follows:

- Discuss the progress made by RCC member countries in implementing the Sendai Framework in its first year including challenges, opportunities and gaps;
- Discuss how other post-2015 agenda frameworks can assist in the disaster risk management of RCC member countries;
- Share and highlight practices on operationalizing the post-2015 DRR Agenda with a focus on partnerships, tools and innovations
- Establish synergies with regional initiatives to improve regional cooperation in disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development at the national and local level.

## *Overall Theme: Operationalizing Global Frameworks for Risk-Resilient Development in Asia*

The 13th RCC meeting will be an opportunity for countries who have been implementing the Sendai Framework and other global mechanisms to take a step back and reflect how these mechanisms are improving disaster risk management in their countries and what opportunities there are in improving the implementation of the post 2015 agenda.

In line with the 13th RCC meeting's objectives, and in preparation for the AMCDRR meeting in Delhi, the meeting will take up four key sub-themes:

### **Sub-theme 1. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: Implementation Efforts, Challenges and Opportunities**

The first sub-theme of the 13th RCC meeting will focus purely on the SFDRR as all aspects of the framework relate to building resilience and managing disaster risk. While the other frameworks are also crucial in guiding countries, they also include aspects which are not so relevant to disaster risk management. If Asian governments have a clear understanding of what is required of them to implement the SFDRR within their disaster risk management systems and processes, it will make the implementation of other aspects of the post-2015 agenda a lot simpler.

The SFDRR has now been in effect for over a year. It is important that countries understand what needs to be actioned to get maximum benefits from the framework. RCC member countries will present their findings in implementing the framework including the creation of the National DRM Status Reviews, which will act as the baseline for countries in their implementation.

The SFDRR sets four specific priorities for action:

1. Understanding disaster risk;
2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk;
3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience;
4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

To support the assessment of global progress in achieving the outcome and goal of the Sendai Framework, seven global targets have been agreed:

1. Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower average per 100,000 global mortality between 2020-2030 compared to 2005-2015;
2. Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100,000 between 2020-2030 compared to 2005-2015;
3. Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product by 2030;
4. Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030;
5. Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020;
6. Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of the framework by 2030;
7. Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030.

Using the SFDRR priorities and goals, it will be discussed on what are the specific options for implementing the SFDRR including how to include non-government actors such as civil society and the private sector in the process. Countries will also be given an opportunity to share some of the challenges that they have come across during implementation of the Sendai Framework as well as some of the solutions that were initiated.

## **Sub-theme 2. Integrating Global Frameworks for Strengthened Risk Governance**

The second thematic focus will look to discuss and understand how government agencies and NGOs can potentially integrate the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Conference of Parties agreements on Climate Change Adaptation, and the World Humanitarian Summit commitments to strengthen risk governance.

The *SFDRR* stresses that there has to be a broader and a more people-oriented preventive approach to disaster risk. DRR practices need to be multi-hazard and multi-sectoral, inclusive, and accessible in order to be efficient and effective. Governments should engage with relevant stakeholders, including women, children and youth, persons with disabilities,



people living under poverty, migrants, indigenous peoples, volunteers, the community of practitioners and older persons in the design and implementation of policies, plans and standards. Based on the experiences from the implementation of the HFA, and in order to reach the targets and goals, there is a need for focused actions within and across sectors by States, at the local, national, regional, and global levels in four priority areas. An enabling international environment and means of implementation are needed to stimulate and contribute to developing the knowledge, capacities and motivation for disaster risk reduction at all levels, particularly for developing countries.

The *SDGs*, officially known as “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, has a set of aspirations, which outlines 17 Sustainable Development Goals to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. The Sustainable Development Goals, and the broader sustainability agenda, go much further than the MDGs, addressing the root causes of poverty and the universal need for development that works for all people. Collectively, all partners can support communication of the new agenda, strengthening partnerships for implementation, and filling in the gaps in available data for monitoring and review, while UNDP will lead the preparation of Guidelines for National SDG Reports which are relevant and appropriate for the countries in which we work.

The *Addis Ababa Action Agenda*, created a holistic and coherent framework for financing sustainable development. It embodies concrete actions that Member states of the United Nations pledged to undertake individually and collectively. Addis Ababa Action Agenda is critical for the realization of the sustainable development goals. It includes important policy commitments and key deliverables in critical areas for sustainable development, including infrastructure, social protection and technology. There were agreements for international cooperation for financing of specific areas where significant investments are needed, such as in infrastructure for energy, transport, water and sanitation, and other areas to help realize the proposed sustainable development goals.

The *Paris Agreement on Climate Change* cover all the crucial areas identified as essential for a landmark conclusion:

- Mitigation – reducing emissions fast enough to achieve the temperature goal
- A transparency system and global stock-take – accounting for climate action
- Adaptation – strengthening ability of countries to deal with climate impacts
- Loss and damage – strengthening ability to recover from climate impacts
- Support – including finance, for nations to build clean, resilient futures

Under the Paris Agreement, climate action will be taken forward in the period before 2020. Countries will continue to engage in a process on mitigation opportunities and will put added focus on adaptation opportunities. Additionally, they will work to define a clear roadmap on ratcheting up climate finance to USD 100 billion by 2020. The Paris Agreement underwrites adequate support to developing nations and establishes a global goal to significantly strengthen adaptation to climate change through support and international cooperation. The already broad and ambitious efforts of developing countries to build their own clean, climate-

resilient futures will be supported by scaled-up finance from developed countries and voluntary contributions from other countries.

*The World Humanitarian Summit*, aims to set a new agenda for global humanitarian action, focusing on humanitarian effectiveness, reducing vulnerability and managing risk, transformation through innovation, and serving the needs of people in conflict. The summit, the first UN conference of its kind, will bring together the humanitarian community with other actors from the development, peace-building and peacekeeping spheres to work toward a coherent approach in the way humanitarian aid is delivered. The WHS has 5 core responsibilities. Core responsibility 1 is for global leadership to prevent and end conflict; core responsibility 2 is to uphold the norms that safeguard humanity; core responsibility 3 is to leave no one behind and is closely linked with the Sustainable Development Goals; core responsibility 4 seeks to change people’s lives – from delivering aid to ending need by reinforcing national systems, anticipating for crises, and transcend the humanitarian-development divide; and core responsibility 5 looks to invest in humanity by acting upon shared responsibilities for humanity which required political, institutional and financial investments.

Significant progress has been made in disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and in development under the global frameworks that previously guided them, however, due to their respective mandates, government agencies have been working in silos towards reducing disaster risks and in development. 2015 has seen the evolution of the global frameworks which calls for a universal and more comprehensive approach which focuses on sustainability and resiliency.

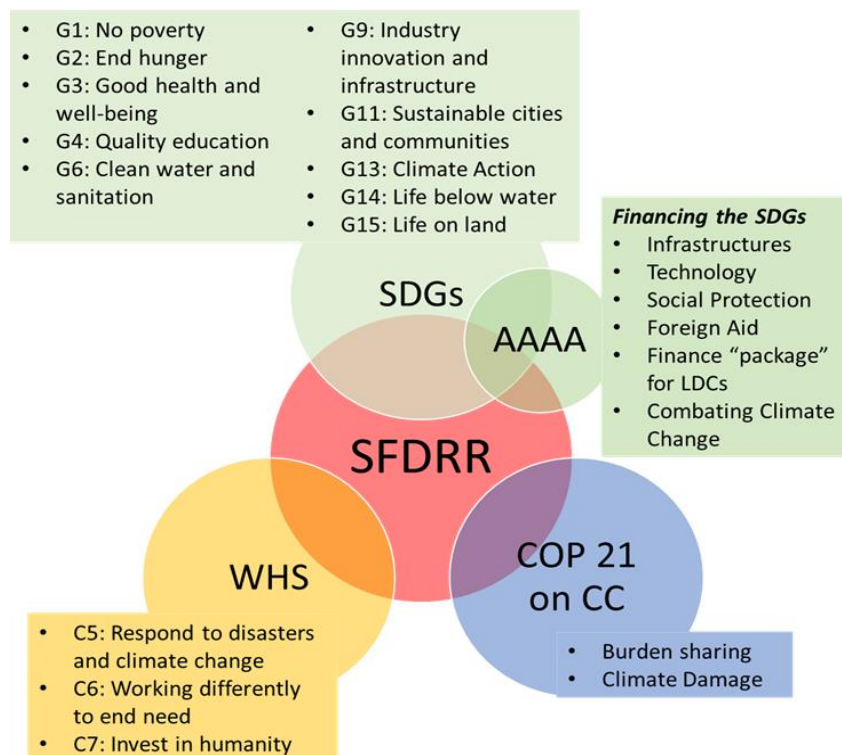


Figure 6: Key potential linkages of post-2015 global agendas to the SFDRR



### **Sub-theme-3: Partnerships, Tools and Innovation to Operationalize the Post-2015 Agenda**

The third sub-theme of the 13th RCC will bring together the two previous sub- themes and will highlight practical options for operationalizing the post-2015 agenda at the national level. Science, technology, and innovation will be supported by establishing a platform for countries to share their existing practices on large-scale technologies as well as focusing on appropriate local-level technologies. Options will also be explored to see how forums such as the Heart of Asia, and regional mechanisms such as ASEAN and SAARC could assist in the implementation of the post-2015 agenda. This is aimed at promoting bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the region, especially for RCC member countries.

Knowledge- and technology-transfer efforts are based on the premise that science, technology and innovation goes beyond construction, equipment, machineries, and other forms of hardware and software. It is a combination of materials, tools and equipment, knowledge and skills, organizations and produces. DRR planners and project managers have a wide range of technology choices on offer to apply to different aspects of the disaster problem. The traditional area of science and technological interventions has been through structural engineering to control hazards, protect facilities and provide places of safety during times of disasters (Twigg, 2015).

High-tech, large-scale technologies that is being used to reduce large-scale risks, such as building dams and embankments for flood control, and advanced methodologies of resilient building structures against multiple hazards has had significant impacts. However, these are typically applied in developed countries and societies, or in developing and underdeveloped countries financed by international aid agencies (Twigg, 2015).

An alternative approach encourages the development and use of what is called to as “alternative” or “appropriate” technology which are usually referred to as smaller-scale technologies that can be owned and managed by households or communities, and that it integrates environmental, economic and social sustainability. Appropriate technology has long featured in development programming, where there is substantial experiences where communities can draw from. There is also a growing body of knowledge about appropriate technologies in DRR, linked to better understanding of indigenous knowledge, and coping strategies.

Partnerships are about relationships. The purpose of partnership is do achieve together what we could not achieve alone, and working in partnership requires those involved to practice a set of principles that create trust, equity and mutual accountability. What is important is that risks and benefits are shared, and that the partnership is co-created. When organizations work together, change can occur at a faster pace and be more effective as trust is generated, expertise and resources and pooled, learning is fostered, common issues are tackled collectively and duplication is more easily avoided (HPN, 2016).

Section 6 of the SFDRR discusses internal cooperation and global partnership, where in given their different capacities, as well as the linkage between the level of support provided to them and the extent to which they will be able to implement the present Framework, developing countries require an enhanced provision of means of implementation, including adequate, sustainable and timely resources, through international cooperation and global partnerships for development, and continued international support, so as to strengthen their efforts to reduce disaster risk.

The SFDRR further states that in order to reinforce the efforts, it is necessary to reaffirm that developing countries need enhanced provision of coordinated, sustained and adequate international support for disaster risk reduction, in particular for the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, through bilateral and multilateral channels, including through enhanced technical and financial support and technology transfer on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, for the development and strengthening of their capacities.

Similarly it is also necessary to enhance access of States, in particular developing countries, to finance, environmentally sound technology, science and inclusive innovation, as well as knowledge and information sharing through existing mechanisms, namely bilateral, regional and multilateral collaborative arrangements, including the United Nations and other relevant bodies; promote the use and expansion of thematic platforms of cooperation, such as global technology pools and global systems to share know-how, innovation and research and ensure access to technology and information on disaster risk reduction; and incorporate disaster risk reduction measures into multilateral and bilateral development assistance programmes within and across all sectors, as appropriate, related to poverty reduction, sustainable development, natural resource management, the environment, urban development and adaptation to climate change.

It has been 15 years since the RCC mechanism was first developed, and over that time period, there has been significant changes in the regional and global landscapes of DRR. Due to the changes in the trends of risks and emerging new risks, it was deemed necessary for communities, sectors, countries, regional and global platforms to adapt and create modifications into their increasing institutional, technical and policy needs.

There have been a number of regional initiatives with similar mandates which have been developed in the last decade in Asia. Due to this, it is necessary to discuss the value added of the RCC for member countries and explore options for aligning the work of the RCC mechanism with these other initiatives.

Also within the last 15 years, the overlap of disaster risk management with other aspects of humanitarian action and development are now better understood including adaptation to the impacts of climate change, the need for resilience in creating sustainable development and the specific hazard risks and vulnerabilities within urban areas. Each theme is often addressed by

one regional initiative and the RCC is in a strong position to be the platform for which all these issues are addressed.

#### **Sub-theme-4: Supporting the Heart of Asia (HOA) for Enhancing Regional Cooperation on DRR, CCA and SDGs**

The fourth and final sub-theme of the 13th RCC will discuss the road map and action plan of the Heart of Asia and look for creating synergies with other regional mechanisms and options discussed under sub-theme 3. This is aimed at maximizing the impact of efforts and strengthening risk reduction capacities of HIA countries with focus on promoting regional cooperation.

Each region has unique characteristics that shape the nature and activities of its regional bodies. Although they see value in working together to prevent disasters and to respond to disasters occurring in the region, the role of regional cooperation in a longer-term Asian context seem to be limited.

Heart of Asia (HOA) is a regional initiative focused on a secure, stable and prosperous Afghanistan in a secure and stable region by promoting regional security and cooperation requires measures to build confidence and trust among countries. HOA Disaster Management - Confidence Building Measures (DM-CBMs), with Pakistan and Kazakhstan as co-leads, is one of the priority areas resulting from the Istanbul Conference for Afghanistan: Security and Cooperation in the Heart of Asia on 2 November 2011. In the Record of Meeting of the 3rd Regional Technical Group Meeting of Disaster Management - Confidence Building Measures (DM - CBM) held on 14 May 2014, participants agreed to include the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) as HOA Technical Partner to support the process. In June 2014, ADPC developed a Roadmap for the DM-CBMs and a Resourcing Strategy. This one-year action plan, followed on from the Roadmap, serves as a guideline for member countries in the implementation of prioritized activities related to effective disaster management in the region and as proposals to potential donors for resource mobilization.

Disaster Management is particularly important in the HOA, a region that has suffered some of the most devastating disasters in recent history. Developing regional programmes and guidelines to address both trans-border and country-specific challenges will be a valuable contribution to enhance disaster management in the HOA countries. It is of great importance to address climate change and the threat of natural disasters caused by climate change especially at the regional level, for sustainable development and growth as well as being a platform to resolve related issues. Long-term solutions for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation efforts can be initiated trans-boundary between HOA countries. Regional cooperation through partnerships is also crucial for this process to develop not only as a great example of regional collaboration but a catalyzer of change and transformation for development and peace in the region.

Eight member countries of HOA are currently participating in the DM-CBM initiative: Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey. Each has their

own particular risks and vulnerabilities but there are many that are common to several or all countries and some also have the potential for trans-border emergencies. Earthquakes, floods, flash floods, droughts, avalanches, landslides, glacial lake outbursts, tsunamis, cyclones and typhoons, sandstorms, forest fires, epidemic, and man-made disasters impact heavily on the lives of the communities and have a profound impact on regional, national and community resilience.

The largest disasters across the HOA countries tend to be earthquakes, floods, and drought. China, Pakistan, Iran and Turkey have all suffered devastating earthquakes in recent years. Floods and droughts have struck almost all of the HOA countries. The economic and human costs have been high with loss of lives, livelihoods, crops, livestock, homes and infrastructure. Displaced populations moving to other areas also place further burdens on already overcrowded cities increasing urban vulnerability.

It is urgent and critical to anticipate, plan for and reduce disaster risk in order to effectively protect people, communities and countries, their livelihoods, health, cultural heritage, socioeconomic assets and ecosystems, and thus strengthen their resilience. Therefore, the development of joint guidelines for cooperation in the field of disaster management is of vital importance for the member countries and the region. In order to advance in this goal, a set of actions is required. The implementation plan of DM-CBMs was refined to four (4) areas for focus as a way forward. These four DM-CBMs are the focus of future HOA initiatives:

Four core focus areas of DM-CBMs:

1. Developing a Regional Risk Picture for informed and resilient development planning through DRR mainstreaming for response contingency planning
2. Creating regional response capacity
3. Developing “Host Nation Support Mechanism”
4. Climate risk management to address the impacts of changing climate patterns in the region

## Expected outputs

The expected outputs from the 13th RCC meeting are:

- ✓ Summary of feedback on the draft implementation plan of the SFDRR together with a set of recommendations to be shared at the AMCDRR;
- ✓ Consolidated report of findings on creating National DRM Status Review reports as part of the SFDRR implementation process;
- ✓ Identifying key entry points on integrating key global frameworks in national DRM agenda in RCC countries; and
- ✓ Summary of recommendations on enhancing sub-regional and regional cooperation for DRM among RCC countries; and
- ✓ Summary of key actions to be implemented in RCC countries over a period 3 years to complement the complement the ongoing DRM efforts.

## Contributions of the 13<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting to DRR in Asia

It is expected that the 13<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting will contribute to the advancement of DRR in Asia in terms of the following:

### *A. Contributions to Asia Ministerial Conference on DRR*

The summary of feedback on the draft implementation plan of the SFDRR will provide a useful contribution to the ongoing discussions in preparation for the AMCDRR in Delhi. The 13<sup>th</sup> RCC, which is the last RCC meeting before the implementation plan for the SFDRR will be set, provides a unique opportunity for the RCC member countries to contribute to the Asian discussions.

### *B. Contributions to RCC member countries*

The RCC serves its member countries as a platform for dialogue and information-sharing on the subject of DRM in Asia. The 13<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting will continue this by fostering the sharing of experiences on the theme and sub-themes outlined above. The meeting will also support the member countries by building their knowledge and capacity for effective implementation of the SFDRR as part of their country's development planning and implementation processes.

### *C. Contributions to other Key Global Frameworks*

The RCC will provide a platform to initiate discussions on the potential key entry points on the integration of the SFDRR, SDGs, COP21 (focus on CCA), Addis Ababa Agenda, and the World Humanitarian Summit. The meeting will support the member countries, the UN agencies, and CSOs present to understand the holistic perspective, linkages, differences,

potential country leads to optimize the outcomes and impacts of country efforts for building country efforts on DRR, CCA and to contribute to resilient development.

## References

IPCC (2014). *Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report*. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

UN (2015). *Sendai: UN conference adopts new, people-centered disaster risk reduction strategy*. UN News Centre. Accessed at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50361#.VROGoZP1j1k>

UNISDR (2015). *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*. United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. Access at [http://www.wcdrr.org/uploads/Sendai\\_Framework\\_for\\_Disaster\\_Risk\\_Reduction\\_2015-2030.pdf](http://www.wcdrr.org/uploads/Sendai_Framework_for_Disaster_Risk_Reduction_2015-2030.pdf)

Erian, W. (2015). *A Background Paper on: Strengthening the Role of Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Arab Region*.

Twigg, J. (2015). *Disaster Risk Reduction: Good Practice Review 9*. London: Overseas Development Institute.





Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC)



RCC Secretariat

