

## ***18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC)***

**Venue:**

**Jubilee Ballroom on the 11<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**The Berkeley Hotel, Pratunam**

**Bangkok, Thailand**

**23-24 January 2025**

## **UpFront Session 3: Gender and Social Inclusion in DRR**

**24 January 2025, Thursday 14:30 – 15:30**

### **1. Preamble**

Disasters disproportionately impact marginalized and vulnerable groups, including women, girls, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and the elderly. Recognizing this, effective disaster risk reduction (DRR) must prioritize gender and social inclusion (GESI) considerations. This "UpFront Session 3: Gender and Social Inclusion in DRR" will delve into the critical importance of integrating GESI perspectives throughout the entire DRR cycle, from risk assessment and planning to response and recovery.

Building upon the work of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) in promoting inclusive and equitable disaster risk reduction, this session will explore how GESI considerations can enhance the effectiveness and equity of DRR efforts. By understanding the unique vulnerabilities and capacities of different social groups, we can ensure that DRR interventions are more inclusive, responsive, and sustainable. This session will showcase successful examples and best practices in integrating GESI into DRR planning and implementation at the local and community levels, demonstrating how a GESI-sensitive approach can lead to more equitable and resilient outcomes for all.

Furthermore, we will identify key challenges and opportunities in effectively integrating GESI into DRR across the Asia-Pacific region. This includes examining the policy and institutional frameworks that support or hinder GESI mainstreaming in DRR, as well as exploring the role of regional cooperation and collaboration in addressing these challenges. By fostering a deeper understanding of GESI considerations in DRR and identifying practical solutions, this session aims to contribute to a more inclusive and equitable disaster risk reduction future for the Asia-Pacific region.

### **2. Objectives**

- 2.1 To enhance understanding among RCC members of the importance of gender and social inclusion (GESI) in disaster risk reduction (DRR). focusing on intersections, policy implications and operational challenges.
- 2.2 To showcase successful examples and best practices in integrating GESI considerations into DRR planning and implementation. in local/community level.
- 2.3 To identify key challenges and opportunities in effectively integrating GESI into DRR across the Asia-Pacific region.
- 2.4 To explore potential areas of regional cooperation and collaboration in strengthening GESI integration into DRR.

### 3. Key Outcomes

- 3.1 Increased awareness: Participants will have a better understanding of the importance of GESI considerations in DRR and their relevance to national and local contexts.
- 3.2 Identification of best practices: Successful examples and best practices in integrating GESI into DRR will be identified and shared.
- 3.3 Development of recommendations: Recommendations for ADPC on how to best support member countries in strengthening GESI integration into DRR will be developed.
- 3.4 Enhanced regional collaboration: Potential areas of regional cooperation and collaboration in strengthening GESI integration into DRR will be explored and discussed.

## Session Plan

Chair: Ms. Ranjini Mukherjee, CDRI

Moderator: Ms. Momota Hena, GESI Mainstreaming Officer, ADPC

Panelists:

- Dr. Jeeranuch Sakkhamduang, Senior Researcher, Thailand Environment Institute (TEI)
- Ms. Aisha Gul, Humanitarian and DRR Analyst, UNWOMEN
- Mr. Mak Srikhao, Director, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand

| Time          | Activity  | Note  |
|---------------|---|---|
| 14:30 – 14:35 | The Moderator starts the session by introducing the Chair and invites the Chair to open the session.  |   |
| 14:35 – 14:40 | Opening Remarks by the Chair (5 minutes)  |   |
| 14:40 – 14:55 | <p>The Moderator asks each of the panelists to tell a short story on how, in their work, GESI had been integrated into DRR actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Dr. Jeeranuch Sakkhamduang:</b> a story about an inclusive approach for community-level DRR and climate adaptation planning</li> <li>● <b>Ms. Aisha Gul:</b> a story about the Sendai Gender Action plan and how it will help countries integrate GESI into their DRR plans</li> <li>● <b>Mr. Mak Srikhao:</b> a story about locally-led climate actions among vulnerable groups (ethnic minorities) in Thailand</li> </ul> | Each panelist tells a short 5-minute story. |
| 14:55 – 15:05 | <p><b>Questions to the audience</b> to seek opinions, successes, or challenges faced by them</p> <p>Question 1: What are the most effective ways to integrate gender considerations into local DRR planning and implementation?</p> <p>Question 2: How can we better empower marginalized groups to participate in and benefit from DRR initiatives?</p>  |   |
| 15:05 – 15:20 | <p><b>Questions from the audience to the panelists:</b> open-floor questions to any of the panelists.</p> <p><i>Back-up questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>In your experience, how can a regional organization like ADPC help you scale</i></li> </ul>  |   |

| Time          | Activity  | Note |
|---------------|---|------|
|               | <p><i>up and scale out the success in GESI integration from one country to the others or from one region to another?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How has and how can ADPC support your organizations in integrating gender and social inclusion considerations into the national and local DRR plans and programs?</i></li> </ul> |      |
| 15:20 – 15:30 | Wrap-up by the Moderator, summarizing the discussion and linking them back to ADPC  |      |