

## **Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**

### **I. Introduction**

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework) provides the way forward to prevent and reduce disaster risk in order to achieve resilient and sustainable development. Under the leadership of national governments and embracing all actors at all levels, the Sendai Framework offers a solution to saving lives, livelihoods and assets as well as for reducing the fiscal burden on governments to bail-out the aftermath of failed ‘development’.

The Sendai Framework’s primary focus on risk reduction and resilience is a common element highlighted in all the 2030 development agendas adopted by all member states of the United Nations, such as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development<sup>1</sup>, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Agenda for Humanity and New Urban Agenda.

The Sendai Framework highlights the need for *agreed regional and sub-regional strategies and mechanisms for cooperation* and for *progress to be reviewed by regional and global platforms*. At the 6th Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) in June 2014 and ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP)<sup>2</sup> deliberations after the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (3WCDRR), Asian countries and stakeholders agreed to develop an ‘Asia Regional Plan for implementation of the Sendai Framework’ (Regional Plan) to facilitate the cooperation and collaboration for building risk resilience in Asia.

This regional plan aims to provide:

- a) Broad **policy direction** to guide the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the context of the 2030 sustainable development agendas in the region;
- b) **Long term road map**, spanning the 15-year horizon of the Sendai Framework outlining a chronological pathway for implementation of priorities to achieve seven global targets;
- c) **Two-year action plan** with specific activities that are prioritized based on the long term road map and in line with the policy direction.

The Asia Regional Plan seeks to guide and support the national implementation of the Sendai Framework, but is not a replacement of national plans. It does so by identifying priorities at regional activities to support national and local actions, enhance exchange of good practice, knowledge and information among governments and stakeholders, in addition to strengthening regional cooperation to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

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<sup>1</sup> The Addis Ababa Action Agenda provides a global framework for financing sustainable development. It contains more than 100 concrete measures that address all sources of finance, and covers cooperation on a range of issues including technology, science, innovation, trade and capacity building.

<sup>2</sup> The ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) is an informal multi-stakeholder forum of Asian Governments and stakeholders to facilitate disaster risk reduction (DRR) through the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-15 (HFA) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. The IAP has been the main consultation forum for the Asia Ministerial Conferences (Regional Platform) in Asia. The forum includes regional inter-governmental organizations, governments, civil society organizations, UN and international organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors. The forum meets twice a year.

This regional plan is one of the main outcome documents of the AMCDRR in November 2016 in New Delhi, India.

The regional plan has been developed through the IAP and an Advisory Working Group (AWG) mechanism set up by the UNISDR secretariat in Asia Pacific. Three informal Advisory Working Groups were established to ensure the actions for all priority areas of the Sendai Framework are developed with engagement of key partners – the primary implementers of the Sendai Framework from the public, private and local level. This aligns with: the outcome of the 6th Asian Ministerial Conference; and further deliberations in the IAP. The AWG comprised individuals with expertise in public policy, private sector engagement and local level implementation respectively. They consulted governments, stakeholder groups and partners and provided the necessary implementation focus of the regional plan through inputs to the policy direction, road map, and in particular the 2-year action plan.

## II. Overview

Asia has enjoyed fast economic growth over recent decades. This has contributed to the progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In the next 15 years, many countries in the region aim to continue this progress and generate higher national income on the way to achieving sustainable and equitable development.

Asia is exposed and vulnerable to a wide range of natural and manmade hazards. In many respects it is the global epicenter for disasters. In 2015, the Nepal earthquake killed more people than any other disaster (8,831). The drought in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea affected the food security of more than 18 million. Four of the top five most disaster-hit countries<sup>3</sup> were in Asia: China (26 disasters); India (19), Philippines (15) and Indonesia (11). In terms of economic losses, China, India and Nepal were among the five worst-hit countries in the world. These figures are consistent with longer term trends over recent decades.

During the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, it was evident from national and regional progress reports that countries in Asia made initial progress in reducing disaster risk at all levels. In particular, the region moved forward on: dedicated legislation, policies and establishment of institutions to reduce disaster risk; establishment of tsunami, cyclone, and other hydro-meteorological early warning systems; improvements in information generation and dissemination, awareness-raising and school education on disaster risk reduction; and strengthened disaster preparedness and response capacity response at all levels. This has led to a decrease in mortality risk, particularly to hydro-meteorological hazards.

The region has, however, struggled to reduce the underlying risk factors. Rapid and poorly managed urbanization, natural resource exploitation and increasing social inequalities, amongst others, increased risk levels. Underlying risk drivers are either not well identified and understood or adequately addressed because of capacity constraints, lack of priority or a

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<sup>3</sup> As reported by the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED). CRED defines a disaster when one of the following occurs: 10 or more people reported killed; 100 or more people reported affected; a state of emergency is declared; and/or a call for international assistance made

scarcity of resources. This has resulted in development practices that are not fully risk-informed.

The overall impact of disasters on economies and communities is still rising. They are further challenged by the impact of climate change. Exposure of populations and assets in the region has increased faster than vulnerability has decreased. Much of this is because of rapid economic growth and private and public investments in hazardous areas such as tsunami- and cyclone-prone coasts, flood-exposed river basins and earthquake-prone cities. This has generated new risk and led to a steady rise in disaster losses with a significant economic, social, health, cultural and environmental impact across Asia. For instance, the socio-economic impact of the 2011 earthquake/tsunami/nuclear disaster in Japan, the 2011 floods in Thailand, and 2013 typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines are still being felt in the daily lives of millions of people. Disasters brings challenges to achieving sustainable development.

The Sendai Framework aims to achieve ‘The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries’ by 2030. This expected outcome will be monitored via indicators against 7 targets. These 7 targets aim to reduce a) mortality, b) the number of affected people, c) economic losses, and d) damage to critical infrastructure; and increase e) the number of national and local DRR strategies, f) level of international cooperation, and g) availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information.

The Sendai Framework set the goal to prevent the creation of new risk, reduce existing risk and strengthen resilience. It highlights the importance of: understanding, assessing and monitoring disaster risk; strengthening disaster risk governance and coordination across relevant institutions and sectors and the full and meaningful participation of relevant stakeholders at appropriate levels; investing in disaster risk prevention and reduction through structural and non-structural measures which are essential to enhance the economic, social, health, cultural resilience of persons , communities, countries and their assets, as well as the environment, also through technology and research; and enhancing multi-hazard early warning systems, preparedness, response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Countries in Asia have made initial progress in implementation of the Sendai Framework and have contributed to the development of indicators to measure its 7 global targets. This underpins the Sendai Framework’s stronger focus on risk reduction as a major contributor to sustainable development. Regional level plans and activities need to support national actions.

### **III. The policy direction for implementation of the Sendai Framework in Asia**

**(i) Coherence and integration:** The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (COP21) all strive towards making development resilient and sustainable. Effective disaster risk reduction is indispensable element towards this end. Integration of risk reduction in development will build resilience and protect development gains. Risk reduction and resilience is a common element across the various frameworks and agreements. This will help establish a more collaborative environment between the disaster risk reduction community and the development sectors. Further, the outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit and the Habitat III underline the significance of disaster risk reduction in their respective sectors, particularly through local actions. The incorporation of disaster risk

reduction into the 2030 development agendas will provide an opportunity to break down silo approaches within and between respective sectors.

The Sendai Framework states: *‘The development, strengthening and implementation of relevant policies, plans, practices and mechanisms need to aim at coherence, as appropriate, across sustainable development and growth, food security, health and safety, climate change and variability, environmental management and disaster risk reduction agendas. Disaster risk reduction is essential to achieve sustainable development (Para. 19.h).’*

The respective international frameworks/agendas mutually reinforce and depend on each other. For instance, the effective implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement will enable the Sendai Framework to contribute to the overall 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Consequently, countries in the region ***need to ensure that all planning on disaster risk reduction is an integral part of the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs while recognizing the need to achieve more specific targets and indicators of the Sendai Framework.***

**(ii) Guiding principles:** The Sendai Framework provides principles for resilient development that emphasize: the primary responsibility of the state to prevent and reduce disaster risks; shared responsibilities across all levels, sectors and stakeholders with an ‘all-of-society’ engagement approach; the integration of gender, age, disability and cultural perspective in all policies and practices; a multi-hazard approach; risk informed public and private investments; ‘Building Back Better’ in post-disaster recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction; effective and meaningful global partnerships; and adequate, sustainable and timely provision of support from developed to developing countries.

Countries should ***adopt and/or adapt these principles in their national policies and strategic action plans for implementation of the Sendai Framework.***

The first 4 of the Sendai Framework targets focus on substantial reduction of disaster losses and the remaining 3 focus on increasing capabilities.

To achieve these targets, countries will need to prioritize actions, outlined under the Sendai Framework’s four Priorities for Action. Target (e) requires the development and/or revision of risk-informed national and local DRR strategies by 2020. As such, countries should prioritize, as appropriate, the improvement of multi-hazard risk assessment. The strengthening of national disaster loss databases is also crucial so that the baselines for targets (a,b,c,d) can be set. Effective databases will provide evidence to inform policies and investments to reduce disaster risk and losses, particularly in the most affected sectors.

**(iii) Enabling environment:** For governments, stakeholders and organizations to implement the Sendai Framework actions will be required that create an enabling environment for risk resilient development.

**At the regional level,** a common understanding and approach is needed to tackle regional and trans-boundary issues. Assessment and monitoring of regional and trans-boundary hazards and emerging risks have improved. However, much remains to be done to enhance the understanding of regional and trans-boundary risks. The main inter-governmental regional organizations (IGO) in Asia – ASEAN, SAARC, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Tri-lateral Cooperation Secretariat, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) the Asia Pacific Economic Community (APEC), Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-

Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and The UNESCAP - Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) – need to strengthen their capacity to foster the implementation of the Sendai Framework from a regional perspective. This could include: building human and institutional capacity to carry out science-based trans-boundary risk assessments in the region; developing common policies, tools and political commitments towards implementing and monitoring the Sendai Framework; fostering data, information and knowledge exchange in the region; and so on. At the same time, other non-intergovernmental and informal networks need to promote regional cooperation through science, research and knowledge exchange. To enhance the regional mechanisms to ensure effective follow-up and implementation of the regional plan, there is a need to strengthen the biennial AMCDRR and its consultation mechanism the IAP as the principal means of regional disaster risk reduction governance.

**At the national level**, countries will need to align their DRR strategies and plans with the Sendai Framework. Over the coming years in order to expedite the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the region additional emphasis will be given to i) promoting policy coherence among DRR and development in-country; ii) making DRR a development practice to achieve resilient public investment and the SDGs iii) encouraging private sector engagement towards risk sensitive investments; and iv) building capacity and leadership to implement the Sendai Framework at the national and local level. These focus areas also need to be supported by provisioning of adequate capacity and resources at the local level; knowledge and information from the scientific and academic community; and practical guidance and tools. Adopting an inclusive approach – via multi-sector/stakeholder DRR platforms, both at national and local levels – is particularly important. **It should embrace the leadership of persons with disability, women, children and youth and the significant contribution of the business sector.**

**At the local level**, it is important to raise awareness on the Sendai Framework, through local campaigns. Target (e) provides an opportunity to promote local practices through the development and adoption of local disaster risk reduction strategies/plans by 2020. These strategies and plans should be based on improved local risk assessment and capacity to monitor hazards, exposure and vulnerabilities. Strengthening leadership and capacity of local authorities, communities, civil society, volunteers, organized voluntary work organizations and community-based organizations will be critical for them to work together through an inclusive approach. Peer learning and cooperation between local governments play an important role in this regard. At the same time, it is important to allocate resources to local governments as appropriate to implement DRR measures.

#### **IV. The Road Map for implementation of the Sendai Framework in Asia**

The 15-year timeframe of the Sendai Framework together with other international frameworks including the SDG's – provides an opportunity for greater coherence and integration in terms of planning, implementation and monitoring. By providing guidance towards the achievement of the Sendai Framework's seven global targets and by presenting a set of intended results in chronological order, the Road Map contributes to this process of mutual reinforcement in Asia.

The Road Map fits within the overarching policy direction and will steer the two-year action plan.

The below milestones are based on a shared vision across Asia towards risk prevention and resilience building that will achieve the 7 global targets of the Sendai Framework. The milestones are sequenced in a way to enable this. The earlier milestones – such as the development and establishment of countries’ disaster risk management status, disaster damage and loss databases, and national and local strategies and plans (target e) – are relevant for other targets, namely a reduction in mortality, people affected, economic losses and losses of critical infrastructure and services.

The regional plan will support progress against all Sendai Targets specially to target f) i.e. enhanced international cooperation. It also facilitates achievement of target g) i.e. the strengthening of trans-boundary early warning systems and the sharing of disaster risk information. The key milestones of the Road Map are as below.

### **By 2016**

1. Translation and dissemination of key messages and essence of the Sendai Framework in national languages to increase awareness.
2. All countries have identified their Sendai Framework focal point.
3. 20 percent of countries take stock of their current status of disaster risk reduction.
4. The AMCDRR agreed on implementation of the Asia Regional Plan for implementation of the Sendai Framework which was one of the outcomes of the Conference.

### **By 2018**

1. Technical guidance by UNISDR to national indicators is finalized with a link to SDG targets and indicators.
2. 50 percent of countries have prepared a design to establish a national mechanism to collect, analyze and disseminate information on disaster losses and risk aiming to achieve appropriate level of disaggregation for gender, age and disability.
3. 40 percent of countries have revised/ developed their national strategies and/ or plans for disaster risk reduction in line with the Sendai target e).
4. 50 percent of countries have reviewed their initial progress in implementation of the Sendai Framework through the Sendai Monitor.
5. 40 percent of countries have established multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder national and local platforms to foster the dialogue and cooperation between governments, science and technology community and other stakeholders for risk-sensitive development and innovative risk management.
6. 10 percent of countries have developed regulatory or policy frameworks to reinforce risk considerations and risk reduction measures into development initiatives, particularly in the infrastructure sector.

### **By 2020**

1. All countries have established methodologies to collect disaster loss data and risk profiles, with gender, age, disability disaggregated data.
2. All countries have revised/developed their national strategies and/or plans for disaster risk reduction with increased focus on local actions, achieving Sendai Framework Target e).

3. 30 percent of countries have developed regulatory or policy frameworks to reinforce risk considerations and risk reduction measures into development initiatives, in particular in the infrastructure sector
4. 60 percent of countries have established multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder national and local platforms.
5. Review regional targets under the Asian Regional Plan from 2022-2028, every biennium.

### **By 2022**

1. 50 percent of countries have developed regulatory or policy frameworks to reinforce risk considerations and risk reduction measures into development initiatives, in particular in the infrastructure sector.
2. 60 percent of countries have improved their early warning systems including improved monitoring and forecast systems evacuation procedures, analyses of risk, availability and access to early warning information.
3. All countries have established multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder national and local platforms.

### **By 2030**

1. All countries have demonstrated reduction in disaster-related mortality, affected population, economic losses and damages to critical infrastructure and basic services.
2. All countries have reviewed their progress of implementation through the Sendai Monitor.
3. A regional review report of the Sendai Framework is available.
4. All countries have risk-sensitive development planning and practice.
5. All countries have improved their governance and accountability for risk-resilient investment in both the public and private sector.
6. Sub-regional and regional cooperation mechanisms established for transboundary disaster risk reduction efforts.

## **V. Two-year Action plan (2017-2018)**

The two-year action plan is in line with the policy direction and contributes to the achievement of the milestones in the long term road map. The action plan is derived from priorities shared by governments and stakeholders during the development of the Asia Regional Plan and in consultations through the IAP. The two-year action plan will be reviewed and updated in line with the biennial Asian Ministerial Conferences and through the IAP forum.

### **Regional level actions**

These actions cover trans-boundary issues, regional cooperation mechanisms and so on. They will be implemented through the cooperation of countries and by regional and sub-regional actors such as inter-governmental organizations (IGOs); UN regional entities; other regional and international organizations; networks and consortiums; and stakeholders and partners. UNISDR, as the secretariat will have the role of facilitating and advocating for

implementation of these actions in line with the Sendai Framework. The actions are as follows:

- a) Strengthen the Regional Platform for DRR – i.e the Asian Ministerial Conference, the ISDR Asia Partnership and its secretariat – by means of enhanced high-level engagement of governments, intergovernmental organizations and partners to support the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework.
- b) Establish a collaborative mechanism of UNISDR, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and UNESCAP Regional Coordination Mechanism to support the implementation and monitoring of Sendai Framework in line with the SDGs.
- c) Strengthen existing regional mechanisms to reduce the risk of and enhance early warning and preparedness for trans-boundary disasters.
- d) Strengthen regional cooperation including through public-private partnership for the application of science, technology and innovation in policy making for disaster risk reduction.
- e) Promote and support gender-sensitive DRR actions at national and local level including universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, prevention and response to gender-based violence and women’s leadership.
- f) Strengthen the role of inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) and cooperation among them for information and knowledge exchange and concerted support to national actions.
- g) Establish regional cooperation for disaster resilient infrastructure development in the region with an aim of ‘preventing future risks’.
- h) Strengthen regional cooperation between private sector organizations and chambers of commerce to promote public private partnership for DRR.
- i) Enhance stakeholder groups’ engagement in the Sendai Framework by means of implementation and monitoring of their voluntary commitments.
- j) Implement the ‘United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience’ and integrate disaster risk reduction into UN country level operations through regional UN Development Group processes.
- k) Strengthen UNISDR to facilitate, coordinate and advocate for the implementation of the Asia Regional Plan by countries, partners, inter-governmental organizations, UN, international organizations and stakeholders.
- l) Promote the provision of human, financial and technical resources by multilateral and bilateral donors to support actions from the Asia Regional Plan. Raise public awareness of Tsunami taking the opportunity of the World Tsunami Awareness Day on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

**National and local level actions:**

The following national and local specific actions address priorities of Asia in the next two years and are guided by the Sendai Framework. Bearing in mind that countries will develop or revise their national DRR strategies and plans in the coming years, this set of actions will complement such plans and provide guidance on the setting of priorities. National and local activities can be implemented by governments, stakeholders and partners. The actions are as follows below.

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

- a) Establish/ strengthen consistent and appropriate level of disaggregation for gender, age and disability data disaster loss baseline data at national level with local data.
- b) Assess disaster risk, vulnerability, capacity, exposure, hazard characteristics and their possible impacts (risk profiling).
- c) Establish risk information systems and promote the collection, analysis, management, use and dissemination of the relevant data and information, using space and in situ information including geographic information system (GIS), and information & communication technology and innovations.
- d) Incentivize businesses to strengthen business continuity and conduct location-specific risk assessments of their operating environment and supply chain with a clear understanding of their hazard exposure, vulnerability and risks to hazards.
- e) Integrate disaster risk information into business investment planning and management across private sector entities, in particular Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), through business associations, chambers of commerce and national and local platforms on DRR.
- f) Mobilize public-private partnership initiatives for awareness raising, advocacy and education to strengthen private sector attitudes towards risk-sensitive development.
- g) Consolidate/adapt guidelines for local risk assessments and their use in local development planning, ensuring the complementarities of proven traditional, indigenous and local knowledge and practices, and science and technology.
- h) Institutionalize efforts to build the knowledge and capacity of local and national government officials, civil society, communities and volunteers to monitor hazards, exposure and social vulnerabilities.
- i) Raise public awareness of disasters by taking the opportunities provided by the International Day for Disaster Reduction and the World Tsunami Awareness Day.

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

- a) Review/ revise existing national and local disaster risk reduction strategies/ plans in line with the Sendai Framework, Paris Agreement, SDGs and New Urban Agenda to ensure disaster risk sensitive development.

- b) Establish/ strengthen multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral national and local platforms that are gender responsive and inclusive, with the participation of local community representatives and other stakeholders.
- c) Improve the legal, policy and regulatory environment to incentivize businesses to reinforce DRR.
- d) Build corporate governance and risk-sensitive investment beyond corporate social responsibility, through business associations, chambers of commerce and national and local platforms on DRR.
- e) Develop guidelines for coherent implementation of the 2030 development agendas at the local and national level involving the relevant national authority.
- f) Promote implementation of health aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, including the Bangkok Principles, with a view to ensuring more systematic cooperation, coherence and integration between disaster and health risk management.
- g) Undertake an inventory of available local DRR strategies/plans and work towards achieving the Sendai Framework Target e) on 'risk-informed local DRR strategies/plans' by 2020.
- h) Foster local leadership and forums such as the 'Asian Local Disaster Risk and Resilience Forum'.
- i) Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in disaster risk reduction.

### **Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience**

- a) Establish/strengthen regulatory frameworks to reinforce risk consideration in structural and non-structural investments.
- b) Promote national mechanisms for disaster risk transfer and insurance as appropriate.
- c) Increase resilience and integrate disaster risk reduction into business models, corporate practices, and supply chains through intensified partnerships between the private sector, local government and other stakeholders.
- d) Promote appropriate financial mechanisms to integrate disaster risk reduction considerations and measures to support the building of disaster resilient communities by engaging development funds, banks, private foundations and stakeholders.
- e) Allocate resources to local governments as appropriate to implement DRR measures.
- f) Institutionalize community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) to strengthen resilience of households and communities.

- g) Strengthen education on disaster and climate risk reduction and accelerate the implementation of comprehensive school safety.
- h) Invest in the development of resilient health systems, and design and implementation of inclusive policies to ensure access to social safety nets and primary health care services, including maternal, newborn and child health, sexual and reproductive health.

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

- a) Prepare/ update disaster preparedness and contingency plans at local, national and regional levels with a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach, ensuring comprehensive and accessible service and referral mechanisms to promote specific needs of women and children, the elderly, people with disabilities and other at-risk populations.
- b) Strengthen multi-hazard early warning systems to ensure last-mile accessibility.
- c) Integrate disaster risk concerns and measures in post-disaster recovery and reconstruction planning and practice, such as developing / revising building codes and standards in recovery and reconstruction practices at the national and local levels.
- d) Expand private sector engagement in preparedness for response, recovery, and to ‘build back better’ through more systematic public-private cooperation.
- e) Develop and implement disaster management plans that would include early warning, response coordination, evacuation plans, stockpiling of necessary materials to implement rescue and relief activities.
- f) Build capacity of local authorities, including strengthening leadership of women, persons with disability and youth to develop local disaster recovery plans that include retrofitting, reconstruction, building code enforcement, post-trauma programmes, resilient livelihoods, shelter provision for displaced population etc.
- g) Mainstream ecosystem-based approaches through transboundary cooperation to build resilience.

## **VI. Implementation and monitoring of the Asia Regional Plan**

The regional plan is intended to guide the implementation of the Sendai Framework at national and local level. The application of the policy direction; pursuing the roadmap; and monitoring the 2-year action plan requires some level of dedicated support in terms of advocacy, monitoring and the provision of technical support.

In this regard, cooperation at the regional level through North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation will be important, including through the exchange of experiences and

home-grown approaches of countries in the region, such as the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy of Thailand.

The overall roles and responsibilities of international, regional and sub-regional organizations and entities will be in-line with the Sendai Framework (General Assembly Resolution A/RES/69/283).

The IAP forum – under the stewardship of UNISDR’s Regional Office for Asia Pacific and with the engagement of governments (via Sendai focal points), inter-governmental organizations, the UN, international organizations, civil society organizations and various other stakeholders – constitutes a regional technical support mechanism.

Among its responsibilities, the regional technical support mechanism will: periodically assess the progress of the regional plan; identify key gaps in DRR in the region from the national perspective; provide or mobilize technical expertise and guidance at the regional level; and advocate for accelerated implementation of the Sendai Framework.

UNISDR is mandated to facilitate implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Sendai Framework. As part of its support to the regional technical support mechanism, UNISDR’s Regional Office for Asia Pacific requires strengthening with adequate resources and capacities. This may include resourcing through various funding mechanisms, including increased, timely, stable and predictable contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction as well as enhancing the role of the Trust Fund in relation to the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

The following factors will support effective implementation of the Asia Regional Plan:

- Regional inter-governmental organizations playing a stronger role in the regional platform for disaster risk reduction and enhanced regional cooperation to enable policy and planning for the implementation of trans-boundary risk assessments; mutual learning and exchange of good practices and information.
- The entities of the United Nations system – including the regional commission, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies – promoting and supporting implementation of the regional plan through technical assistance upon request.
- UNISDR’s Regional Office for Asia Pacific providing a range of support, including: (i) advocating for and facilitating the implementation, follow-up and review of the Asia Regional Plan through partners and the IAP forum including the Advisory Working Group for AMCDRR; (ii) supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework monitoring system at the national level; (iii) providing technical support to countries to establish disaster loss baselines; (iv) convening the Asian Ministerial Conference with governments, regional organizations and partners; (v) mobilizing science and technical work for disaster risk reduction through an enhanced role of its Asian Science and Technology Advisory Group in close cooperation with the Science and Technology Advisory Group of the UNISDR; and (vi) facilitating engagement of the various stakeholder groups, including the private sector, civil society organizations and local

actors, in the implementation of the Asia Regional Plan.

- The various stakeholder groups providing support to States, in accordance with national policies, laws and regulations, in the implementation of the Sendai Framework at all levels. This will build on their past disaster risk reduction actions. Stakeholders have consistently provided and reviewed ‘Voluntary Statements of Action’ at previous AMCDRRs. The Asia Regional Plan and all ‘Voluntary Statements of Action’ from stakeholder groups will constitute two principal regional instruments for tracking progress.
  
- The periodic review of the Asia Regional Plan by governments and partners through the annual meetings of the IAP forum. There will be no separate monitoring system or mechanism specifically for the Asia Regional Plan. The progress will be reviewed through the overall monitoring of the Sendai Framework. The monitoring of the Sendai Framework will follow the internationally agreed set of indicators and monitoring system, expected to be agreed at the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group (OEIWG) in November 2016 and will be endorsed by the member States at the UN General Assembly. The Asian Ministerial Conferences from 2018 onwards will provide an opportunity for the Regional Plan to be reviewed and revised based on the emerging priorities and needs. Experience sharing and peer learning among countries within the region and beyond, will be promoted toward standardized data and best practices.

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