



Colombo Declaration
of
Multi-Hazard Early Warning
and
Disaster Risk Reduction: 2020



MHEW 2020
DRR Symposium





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and
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Promoting the accessibility and
application of science, technology, and
research for enhanced multi-hazard
early warning and disaster risk
reduction, and supporting
implementation of the Sendai
Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
towards 2030





We, the Disaster Management Centre of the State Ministry of National Security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management, with other disaster risk reduction related Ministries and Technical Agencies of the Government of Sri Lanka, together with other national and international key stakeholders and participating delegates responsible for disaster risk reduction, having met in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 14th – 16th December 2020, at the International Symposium on Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Disaster Risk Reduction:

1. Express deep concern at the growing frequency and intensity of extreme weather and climate-related challenges, and their continuing impact of disasters, resulting in an unacceptable loss of human lives and livelihoods, displacement of people, and environmental and economic damages;
2. Recognise the need to strengthen and mainstream the inclusion of research, science, and technology applications in disaster risk reduction and build a community of practice consisting of multiple disciplines;
3. Stress the need to focus on developing a holistic understanding of societal challenges, risks and drivers, including poverty, climate change, loss of protective eco-systems and biodiversity, rapid urbanisation and unplanned development in hazard prone areas, socio-economic inequalities, and population growth, along with their interactions;
4. Underline the need to build resilience against all hazards, including emerging and unforeseen hazards such as biological, human-animal transfers of diseases, hormones and microplastics, while paying attention to adopt nature based solutions combined with engineering applications;
5. Recognise the importance of ensuring coherence among the global frameworks such as the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR), and the New Urban Agenda, among others and their effective implementation at the national, subnational and local levels through evidence-based multi-stakeholder partnership approaches;
6. Renew our commitment to ensure continuity of the work in the field of disaster risk reduction;
7. Recognise the need for a ‘whole society’ approach, welcoming the vital role played by all stakeholder groups as enablers, partnering with governments and communities, and work towards research-informed and evidence-based implementation of the SFDRR.



In taking the SFDRR as an opportunity for resilient and sustainable countries, cities and communities, and building on the key outcomes of the International Symposium on Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Disaster Risk Reduction 2020, we call upon all relevant stakeholders and development partners to:

1. Commit to form and strengthen national science platforms and look through a scientific lens in contributing towards building a disaster-resilient nation and accelerate actions focusing on the four priority areas of SFDRR;
2. Commit to translate and adopt greater coherence of global frameworks into appropriate policy and practice, with strong links to UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and other relevant global conventions on land degradation and biodiversity;
3. Establish effective multi-stakeholder partnerships across science, technology, policy, and practice as mechanisms to accelerate the use of science and technology for disaster risk reduction, recognising the importance of scientific and technical inputs for disaster risk reduction policy formulation, investments and practice;
4. Promote disaster literacy and develop, curate, and disseminate knowledge and science provision in understanding disaster risk reduction and health-related emergency risks;
5. Extend disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk reduction and potential health-emergencies, as well as strengthen community-level preparedness and response;
6. Commit to greater accountability, protection, gender, and empowerment of the most vulnerable groups through the strengthening of governance arrangements and resource targeting, towards effective and efficient management of disaster risk;
7. Promote the use of data for policy formulation related to disaster risk reduction, including the use of large data sets to uncover hidden patterns, unknown correlations, trends, other aspects;
8. Promote an end-to-end multi-hazard approach to early warning through appropriate legal frameworks and focusing on at-risk communities during their design, implementation, post-implementation reviews and improvements;
9. Strengthen weather and climate related service delivery partnerships among national meteorological and hydrological services, disaster reduction and civil protection agencies, and other actors within local, municipal or national governments, to benefit from impact-based forecast and warning services;



10. Strengthen understanding and awareness of disaster risk reduction among city leaders and planners, and wider urban development and construction industry stakeholders;
11. Promote evidence-based, climate-smart, risk-sensitive public and private investments, including the development and retrofitting of disaster resilient buildings and infrastructure, while paying adequate attention to the costs and benefits of nature based solutions;
12. Mainstream disaster risk management into key development and service sectors such as education, health, infrastructure, and public works, agriculture, irrigation, among others, and integrate cross-cutting themes of capacity building and communication (of science) across sectors for greater impacts on development investment and to inculcate a culture of change;
13. Empower the most vulnerable groups of population, including men, women, girls, boys, differently abled people, elderly, migrants and refugees, to meaningfully participate in disaster risk reduction policies, strategies and practices by leveraging community-based organisations and adopting an inclusive approach to disaster risk reduction;
14. Recognise the value and contribution by national, sub-national, and local partners, and promote locally led disaster risk management actions and practices in accelerating implementation of the SFDRR.

Adopted on 16th December 2020, in Colombo, Sri Lanka.



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Annex - List of Stakeholders

National

- Association of Disaster Risk Management Professionals in Sri Lanka (ADRIIMP)
- Child Fund Sri Lanka
- Department of Meteorology, Sri Lanka
- Disaster Management Centre, Sri Lanka
- General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka
- Geological Survey & Mines Bureau, Sri Lanka
- Ministry of Defence, Sri Lanka
- Ministry of Public Security, Sri Lanka
- Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medicine, Sri Lanka
- Ministry of Irrigation, Sri Lanka
- National Building Research Organization, Sri Lanka
- National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka
- State Ministry of National Security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management, Government of Sri Lanka
- State Ministry of Rural Roads and other Infrastructures, Sri Lanka
- Sri Lanka Army
- Sri Lanka Navy
- Sri Lanka Airforce
- Sri Lanka Police
- University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
- University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
- University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
- University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka



Annex - List of Stakeholders

International

- Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), Thailand
- Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management
- Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB), Indonesia
- CABARET (Capacity Building in Asia for Resilience EducaTion) project on fostering regional cooperation for more effective multi-hazard early warning and increased disaster resilience among coastal communities
- Global Disaster Resilience Centre, University of Huddersfield, UK
- Improving COVID-19 and pandemic preparedness and response through the downstream of multi-hazard early warning systems project
- International Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO), Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWMS) ICG/IOTWMS WG 1 on Tsunami Risk, Community Awareness and Preparedness
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- REGARD (REbuildinG AfteR Displacement) project
- Regional dialog of Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- The United Nations World Food Programme (UFP)
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)