

ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM
STATEMENT ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT COOPERATION
(Draft)

Expressing sadness over the significant loss of life and property caused by earthquakes, tsunamis, typhoons, floods, landslides and other major disasters in ASEAN Regional Forum participants and other regional countries in recent years; and **expressing** deep concern over disasters' damage and impediment to sustainable development of economy, society and ecological environment in various countries;

Recalling the spirit, principles and recommendations in disaster management documents of the ARF and other regional and international institutions, including the 2006 *ARF Statement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response*, the 2007 *ARF General Guidelines for Disaster Relief Cooperation*, the 2010 *ARF Strategic Guidance for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief*, the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* and the 2015 *ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response*;

Applauding the humanitarian assistance provided by the international community, including ARF participants, in response to major disasters in the region in recent years, such as Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and Wenchuan earthquake in China in 2008, Yushu earthquake and Zhouqu mudslide in China in 2010, the earthquake and tsunami in Japan in 2011, Super Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013, and the earthquake in Nepal in 2015, as well as the spirit of solidarity and humanitarianism reflected therein;

Reaffirming active support for efforts in disaster management and risk reduction by the UN and its relevant agencies, the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR), and ASEAN-centered mechanisms including ARF, East Asia Summit, the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Center) and the

ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM);

Reiterating that disaster relief is a priority area of cooperation for the ARF, and that ARF participants should better leverage ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief and strengthen disaster relief cooperation;

Recognizing the primary role of the governments of regional countries in enhancing disaster management and safeguarding the safety and welfare of their peoples, and **recognizing and commending** their efforts in recent years to establish and improve disaster management mechanisms and institutions and their progress in capacity building;

Acknowledging the gap and weakness in the capacity of regional countries to manage major disasters, make coordinated responses, and provide timely and effective humanitarian assistance;

Realizing the importance of further improving disaster response capacity of various countries, of promoting bilateral and multilateral cooperation in international assistance coordination, information and experience sharing, technology exchange, personnel training, joint training and exercises, and of enhancing coordination among regional mechanisms;

Recognizing the aggravating effect of climate change on natural disasters in the region, and the need to formulate policies to mitigate its negative impact;

Emphasizing the importance of civil-military coordination;

HEREBY ENDEAVOR TO:

1. Develop or improve comprehensive and integrated national strategy covering the whole process of disaster management, including monitoring

and early warning, risk management, emergency response, recovery and reconstruction, and incorporate it into master plan for national development.

2. Attach importance to protecting ecological environment and achieve sustainable development.

3. Adopt legislations and policies to reinforce concrete and sustainable efforts to tackle climate change, in order to reduce disaster risks. Earnestly implement recommended measures in key documents on disaster management, including *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* and UN agreements on climate change.

4. Support ASEAN centrality in regional disaster relief cooperation and attainment of targets in the *ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response*. Support the active role of other regional organizations and mechanisms on disaster management, and enhance coordination with them to avoid duplication of work and waste of resources.

5. Pay special attention to capacity building for disaster management of developing countries, and provide them with proper support in funding, technology, personnel training and other aspects.

6. Give full play to the role of communities, companies, social organizations, individuals and other stakeholders, and ensure that they can have adequate access to information and participate in the whole process of disaster management more actively.

7. Promote exchanges of experience and technologies in disaster monitoring and early warning, emergency response, disaster relief, damage assessment, post-disaster reconstruction, environment protection and other aspects.

8. Improve civil-military coordination capability through training and

exercises, increase participation and input in the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise, and enhance its coordination with other disaster relief exercises in the region. Consider holding ARF Disaster Relief Exercise back to back with ASEAN Disaster Relief Exercise.

9. Improve the sharing of technologies, data and information of disaster warning. Explore the possibility of establishing regional disaster warning mechanisms such as Global Multi-Hazard Alert System-Asia (GMAS-A) and Asia-Pacific Typhoon Warning Center.

10. Give full play to Track II mechanisms including ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) and the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP), and hold active discussions on applying preventive diplomacy in disaster management.