



SAARC
Disaster Management Centre

Statement from the desk of Director, SDMC (IU)

At



GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



INDONESIA
23-28 MAY 2022

**ASIA-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP ON
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FORUM**

| 23 May 2022 – 9h00 to 11h00 Conference Room Jakarta AB

Bali International Convention Centre, Bali, Indonesia |

Good Morning Everyone,

Thank you Chair for providing this opportunity to the Interim Unit of the SAARC DMC to share its statement on probable pathways to a resilient future of the SAARC region.

2.0 COVID-19 has clearly showed us how **risk is systemic but crises are cascading** and therefore, there is an urgent need to adopt 'systems thinking' approach to be able to **manage and govern** future and emergent risks and uncertainties.

3.0 The 6th Assessment Report of IPCC has signalled a red flag for the South Asian region, indicating frequent and intensive extreme weather events. As per the said report, there is a 93% likelihood of at least one year between 2022-2026 becoming the warmest on record. If the current trends continue, we are looking at 560 disasters per year by

2030, which is a 40% increase during the lifetime of the Sendai Framework. Further, we need to add the complex menace of cascading and compound risks to this.

4.0 While the future may appear to be dire, our efforts in the SAARC region towards comprehensive disaster risk management have also grown substantially. 7 out of the 8 SAARC Member States are part of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. 50% of the Member States are part of the International Solar Alliance and almost all of the Member States have fulfilled Target E of the SFDRR. Each Member State has taken up multi-hazard risk reduction endeavours which are exceptional in their own right; for example Bangladesh's Disaster and Climate Risk Information Platform, Bhutan's carbon neutral, rather carbon negative approach, India's National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project and National Seismic Risk Mitigation Program, Substantive DRR and CCA measures by Maldives, Nepal's BIPAD platform for risk-informed decision support system, Pakistan's Policy of risk-informed development and Sri Lanka's commendable usage of DesInventar.

5.0 Unfortunately, all of these is falling short to manage our ever-increasing riskscape. Therefore, there's an urgent need to come together to build resilience at the grassroots as **disaster are global but resilience is always local**. We are fully committed to DRR Agenda in the region.

Thank you.
