15th RCC

REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE on DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Enhancing Regional Cooperation and Coherence for Resilient and Inclusive Societies

15 - 17 January 2020
Bangkok, Thailand

BACKGROUND NOTE

Supported by **Sweden Sverige**

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Dates: 15 - 17 January, 2020
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1. Introduction

The Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC) mechanism seeks to enhance regional cooperation, promote peer advocacy, and exchange expertise towards reducing disaster and climate risks in Asia and the Pacific. Established in 2000, over 20 member countries continue to participate in the mechanism to achieve the common goal of building resilience by exploring ways to transform policies into practice and enhancing regional cooperation.

The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), as the RCC's Secretariat, is committed to bringing together member countries, along with observers and development partners to build on the momentum established by global frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Paris Climate Agreement.

To date, 14 RCC meetings have been held, hosted by: Thailand (2000 and 2001); India (2002); Bangladesh (2004); Viet Nam (2005); China (2006); Sri Lanka (2007); Philippines (2010); Cambodia (2011); Mongolia (2013); Myanmar (2014); Bhutan (2015); Pakistan (2016); and Nepal (2018).

Since its inception, the RCC's role has continued to expand by building complementarities as a means to developing programs of wider application while encouraging more comprehensive program approaches within individual countries. RCC continues to focus on operational and technical contexts which are aligned with relevant global frameworks by promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) learning and knowledge exchange.

Each meeting adopts an action agenda and specifically requests ADPC in its capacity as the Secretariat to develop national programs and to provide technical support to countries in pursuing their national DRR strategies.

As a follow-up to the 14th RCC meeting on *"Policies and Practices for Coherence between Global Frameworks"* held in Kathmandu, Nepal in December 2018, and the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction on *"Resilience Dividend: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Societies",* held in Geneva, Switzerland in May 2019, the 15th RCC meeting will continue to facilitate opportunities for learning and exchanging of best practices to move the momentum forward in a bid to accelerate efforts towards building resilient and inclusive societies in the region.

2. The 15th RCC Meeting

The 15th RCC meeting will be held in Bangkok, Thailand in collaboration with the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) of Thailand.

The overarching theme of the 15th RCC meeting is *"Enhancing Regional Cooperation and Coherence for Resilient and Inclusive Societies".*

This is supplemented by four (4) sub-themes:

- **Sub-theme 1:** Coherence and inclusion: Enhancing the implementation of coherence between the global frameworks through inclusive resilience
- **Sub-theme 2:** Building resilience through inclusive and rights-based approaches
- **Sub-theme 3:** Understanding and using data for resilience
- **Sub-theme 4:** Defining resilience in fragile contexts

In line with the context of the theme and sub-themes, the following are the objectives of the 15th RCC meeting:

- Discuss and identify milestones and critical priorities on the progress of the RCC member countries in reporting Target E by 2020, and ensuring coherence for resilient, integrated, and inclusive societies in Asia and the Pacific;
- Facilitate, share and present good practices and practical integration on building resilience through inclusive and human rights-based approaches in RCC member countries;
- Share milestones, needs, and challenges of the RCC member countries on the Sendai Framework Monitoring (SFM), and identify innovative approaches in utilizing data for efficient and effective disaster and climate resilience measures; and
- Discuss experiences and strategies towards building resilience in fragile contexts.

The 15th RCC meeting builds on the momentum established from the Islamabad Statement (13th RCC, 2016) and the Kathmandu Statement (14th RCC, 2018) on coherence, as well as the Asia Regional Plan (2016), the Ulaanbaatar Declaration (2018), and most recently from the Global Platform on DRR (2019). The 15th RCC meeting is also expected to contribute to the 2020 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR).

3. Overarching Theme: Enhancing Regional Cooperation and Coherence for Resilient and Inclusive Societies

The inevitable relationship between DRR, sustainable development, and climate resilience (CR) has become a dominant paradigm over the past decade. While evidence of significant achievements by countries in Asia and the Pacific is clear, there was less success recorded in relation to tackling the underlying risk (UNISDR, 2019). These factors relate to development practices, climate change, and other fundamental issues that determine the levels of vulnerability, exposure, and risk to a certain degree. Therefore, SFDRR explicitly focuses on risk reduction actions at all levels, while the concepts of "risk reduction" or "resilience" remain embedded within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other frameworks. Emphasized by United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the SFDRR deliberately cuts across the different frameworks, and identifies measures for integration at all levels.

Global frameworks are mutually reinforcing and their success is dependent on each other to achieve common goals. The SFDRR observes that mutually reinforcing approaches to implement different frameworks provides valuable support to strengthening the resilience of communities and countries.

The 14th RCC meeting held in Kathmandu, Nepal served as an opportunity for RCC member countries to establish a shared definition of coherence to facilitate the achievement of common goals. In the context of the RCC, the three key global frameworks

include the SFDRR, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Paris Climate Agreement.

While these global frameworks refer to their respective objectives and mandates for DRR, sustainable development, and climate change issues, the different themes which the frameworks address are intricately linked. These linkages have gained prominence over the years since the inception of the global frameworks in 2015. For example, prior to the 14th RCC in Kathmandu, the 13th RCC held in Islamabad, Pakistan (2016) was the first RCC meeting after the adoption of the three global frameworks. The theme of the meeting was *"Operationalizing the Global Frameworks towards Resilient Development in Asia",* and the *Islamabad Statement* expressed the desire of RCC countries to achieve greater coherence in national-level planning, implementation, and monitoring of the three global frameworks in support of resilient and sustainable development.

The benefits of coherent planning, implementation, and reporting of the global frameworks are evident; it does not only promote the success of all the frameworks but also limits duplication of efforts and insufficient use of human, technical, and financial resources.

In the 2018 AMCDRR, countries adopted the *Ulaanbaatar Declaration,* which called on governments and stakeholders to commit to translating coherence of global frameworks into policies and practices. However, despite recent progress on these discussions, the practical approaches and entry points to coherent planning, implementation, and reporting of frameworks require greater attention.

To date, the main challenges of coherence are:

- *Cross-sectoral coordination:* there is still a lack of clarity regarding how different ministries interrelate and how changes across different institutional frameworks can be implemented;
- *Too little use of synergies* by national policy processes, causing duplication and overlapping;
- *Capacity gaps:* the institutional capacity and technical/ managerial expertise of countries need to be strengthened in order to implement the transformative frameworks;
- *Lack of quality data and information* across a wide range of indicators: there is a need for higher resolution and local-scale data, as resilience-building planning processes and activities are usually implemented at a local level.

The 14th RCC meeting's *Kathmandu Statement* expressed that the RCC mechanism recognizes the value in enhancing coherence across policies, institutions, goals, indicators, and measurement systems for implementing the key global frameworks[1], particularly the SFDRR, the SDGs, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change[2], the Agenda for Humanity[3], and the New Urban Agenda[4]. The RCC, as a mechanism, will continue to assist member countries in strengthening existing regional and national risk monitoring systems and enhancing capacities for better monitoring and progress reporting of the SFDRR, and the DRR-related SDGs[5].

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1 Par. 3.a., Kathmandu Statement, 2018
2 Setting out a global call for action to limit global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius
3 As a result of the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016
4 As a result of Habitat III, the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in 2016
5 Para 3.c., Kathmandu Statement, 2018

The 15th RCC meeting continues to recognize the priorities of member countries highlighted in the 14th RCC meeting and will thus continue to push for the agenda of coherence.

The Sixth (6th) session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) held on 13-17 May, 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland convened by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction UNDRR[6], focused on the theme *"Resilience Dividend: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Societies".*

The 15th RCC meeting will build on the momentum convened from the 14th RCC meeting in 2018, and the 2019 GPDRR, leading to the 2020 APMCDRR which is expected to focus on the need for local and inclusive action to build community resilience in the face of growing disaster risks.

4. Sub-Themes

Sub-theme 1: Coherence and Inclusion: Enhancing the implementation of coherence between the global frameworks through inclusive resilience

Inclusivity falls under the priority objectives of global resilience and sustainability frameworks.

The goal of the SFDRR is to:

"Prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience."

Para 17, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development hightlights the need to:

"...end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources.

...to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities".

It is further enhanced in relation to resilience through:

"Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation".

"Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable".

The 14th RCC participants called for enabling coherence through the provision of technical support to member countries in the implementation of relevant policies, plans, and practices of the global and regional DRR, CCA, and sustainable development frameworks at the national, sub-national and local levels ensuring gender-equal, pro-poor, rights-based, and inclusive approaches[7]; and to promote regional cooperation for coherence and inclusiveness to achieve the targets of the SFDRR and SDGs at national,

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6 Previously, it was called as United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)

7 Para 4.i., Kathmandu Statement, 2018

sub-national, and local levels through developing data and information management systems and capacity development of government officials, among others[8].

However, commitments towards integrated and inclusive approaches to DRR, recognizing the indispensable role of disproportionately affected at-risk groups, including women, displaced people, persons with disabilities, elderly, and children in DRR have not yet sufficiently translated into action (UNDRR, 2019).

Achieving resilient and inclusive societies will require countries, communities, enterprises, and individuals to increase capacities to participate in preventing and reducing risks. Addressing the capacity needs of not only governments but also addressing the capacity needs of the vulnerable to advance the implementation of the global frameworks requires a more strategic approach. DRR and resilient development policies, strategies, and programs should target drivers of inequality and exclusion and be informed by a human rights-based approach.

At the core of any risk governance framework is the need for inclusive processes for co-designing and co-generating solutions. The SFDRR calls for a multi-hazard approach and inclusive risk-informed decision-making while promoting principles of participation and inclusive governance and coordination by removing barriers to cooperation (UNDRR, 2015).

The 2020 deadline for Target E is fast approaching. The development of national and local DRR strategies and plans by 2020 is a dedicated target of the SFDRR, which calls to "substantially increase the number of countries with national and local DRR strategies".

An inclusive, "all-of-government" and "whole-of-society" approach towards the development of a national disaster risk reduction strategy ensures its legitimacy, ownership and buy-in by core national actors in DRR and development and its smooth adoption and sustainable implementation at the country level.

The Asia Regional Plan identifies that 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 in-country policy coherence among DRR and development; ii) making DRR a development practice to achieve resilient public investment..."

While 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".

The desire to support and engage people and communities is a common objective across the frameworks, and the benefits of coherence will be realized mostly at the local-level. Therefore, people-centered, inclusive, and locally-oriented approaches can support coherence in practice.

The session on milestones on achieving coherence in RCC member countries contributes to regional discussions on ways to enhance coherence, and identify

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8 Para 4.iv., Kathmandu Statement, 2018

integrated and inclusive solutions from Asia and the Pacific in achieving coherence at the national, sub-national, and local levels.

The previous 14th RCC meeting showcased what member countries have done and identified the challenges towards coherence. This 15th RCC meeting will look at how the member countries have generated significant progress and achievements, and what have they done differently to increase coherence between the implementation of the global frameworks.

In order to support learning and knowledge exchange, the session will provide a platform for member countries to share their experiences, challenges, and the future actions in continuing to build coherence.

To enhance the momentum and conversations on the coherence, a special session in the RCC is arranged to contribute to achieving Target E of the Sendai Framework by 2020.

One of the priorities of the *Ulaanbaatar Declaration* was to urgently accelerate actions to develop and implement national and local strategies in DRR, thereby achieving Target E of the Sendai Framework by 2020. The target requires the development and/or revision of risk-informed national and local DRR strategies by 2020.

At the national level, countries need to align their DRR strategies and plans with the SFDRR in order to expedite the implementation in the region which adopts an inclusive approach through multi-sector and stakeholder DRR platforms, both at the national and local levels. This special session contributes to the momentum of coherence with the urgency of discussing ways to achieve Target E by 2020, and will be

identifying practices, challenges, and areas of support in Asia and the Pacific.

Ensuring the success of resilience and sustainability requires an integrated and inclusive solution to achieve the common goals of the global frameworks. Practices on DRR and CR need to be inclusive in order to be efficient and effective. Such practices are expected to engage with relevant stakeholders, including women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, people in poverty, migrants and the displaced, volunteers, the community of practitioners, and the elderly in the design and implementation of policies, plans and standards.

Sub-theme 2: Building resilience through inclusive and rights-based approaches

Inclusiveness remains a key goal of the SFDRR, which seeks to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive resilience. This sub-theme is dedicated to promoting inclusive and rights-based approaches for disaster and climate resilience and discussing the challenges and practical solutions towards inclusive resilience in the region.

Marginalized groups suffer from inequalities that impact individuals, communities, and countries differently. These inequalities lead to compounding vulnerabilities of populations to disasters and climate change risks. It is essential that future development activities are aimed at reducing inequalities within societies as well as strengthening people's resilience.

A rights-based approach towards DRR and CR can be an effective means to reducing risk and building resilience for all throughout the region. Implying that the governance and management of DRR, CR, and the rights

of people in all their diversity, as well as sustainable development are not isolated from each other.

Rights-based approaches are distinctive because they attach responsibility for protecting people from and during disasters firmly with the state. Addressing disaster risk and strengthening climate resilience is not about charity or humanitarianism; it rather represents the core duty of the state to protect persons within its jurisdiction.

Human rights are one of the key guiding principles of the SFDRR, which states that:

"Managing the risk of disasters is aimed at protecting persons and their property, health, livelihoods, and productive assets, as well as cultural and environmental assets, while promoting and protecting all human rights, including the right to development".

Para 19(c), Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015

In line with the SFDRR's call to promote universally accessible approaches, gender equality and women leadership have also been recognized as fundamental principles to be promoted:

"Women and their participation are critical to effectively managing disaster risk and designing, resourcing and implementing gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes; and adequate capacity building measures need to be taken to empower women for preparedness as well as to build their capacity to secure alternate means of livelihood in post-disaster situations".

Para 36(a)(i), Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015

Ulaanbaatar Declaration further reinforces this by calling on governments and stakeholders to,

"Ensure a human rights-based, people-centered, and whole-of-society approach in development, implementation and monitoring of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies inclusive of women and girls, children and youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, displaced and migrant populations, and those in vulnerable situations such as the poor and marginalized".

Para 11, Ulaanbaatar Declaration, AMCDRR 2018

Human rights were also clearly recognized during the 14th RCC, where the member countries and participants called for:

"...enabling coherence through the provision of technical support to member countries in the implementation of relevant policies, plans, and practices of the global and regional DRR, CCA, and sustainable development frameworks at national, sub-national, and local levels ensuring gender-equal, pro-poor, rights-based, and inclusive approaches".

Para 4.1. Kathmandu Statement, 14th RCC meeting 2018

It was further articulated in the GPDRR's Co-Chairs' Summary:

"Disaster risk reduction policies, strategies, and programs, including risk assessment, should target drivers of inequality and exclusion and be informed by a human rights-based approach. Legislation and governance mechanisms should ensure the needs of the most at risk and marginalized groups are prioritized".

Para C. 18., Co-Chairs' Summary, GPDRR 2019

From global to local levels, there is an explicit relevance of human rights and principles with DRR and CR. However, existing policies have not clearly called for the adoption of rights-based approaches and have not considered social inequalities and power dynamics in relation to creating underlying risks. For example, women and girls are exposed to greater burdens and impacts of climate change and hazards due to economic, social and cultural factors that increase their vulnerabilities, but these structural barriers are often overlooked, leading disasters to further exacerbate pre-existing gender inequalities.

Absent or weak language on human rights is likely to lead to incomplete and ineffective implementation of policies; missing significant opportunities for ensuring equality within DRR and CR initiatives. However, in some cases, the notion of human rights remains politically sensitive, yet examples of a stronger use of language were also found.

A visible challenge is the translation of rights-based principles into practice, which remains to be thoroughly articulated. While underlying causes of risk and unequal capacities are recognized, a greater understanding of them and how they can be addressed in DRR and CR efforts is desired. Because DRR requires a collective engagement and solid partnerships, ADPC aims through one of its ongoing initiatives called "Building Resilience through Inclusive and Climate-Adaptive Disaster Risk Reduction (BRDR), to strengthen national institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs) and women's organizations, and provide them with the necessary resources, skills and leadership capacities to lead, advise, monitor and carry out gender responsive strategies, creating an enabling environment to enhance women's active role in DRR.

The 15th RCC meeting will seek to build on the momentum of the discussions, and promotion of human rights in DRR and CCA, and identify practical integration of gender equality and human rights-based approaches in the context of building inclusive and sustainable resilience.

A session on ensuring rights-based approaches towards effective implementation of DRR and CR is set to enhance the understanding of utilizing rights-based approaches. Human rights-based approaches to DRR and CR are in their infancy, and there is consequently limited evidence to demonstrate the added value of adopting such an approach. ADPC, along with Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI), the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), and the Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP) has conducted a thorough scoping of the extent to which international, regional, and sub-regional DRR and CR laws and policies, as well as operational guidelines and methodologies, reflect rights-based considerations. However, the extent to which human rights is actually integrated in practices, and its added value, have not yet been identified.

The human rights-based approach developed within the BRDR program identifies four key elements:

Substantive: Direct and intentional linkage to human rights

Governance: Transparency and accountability

Procedural: Consultation, participation and access to information

Non-discrimination and equality: Non-discrimination and special attention to the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups

This session will look towards highlighting perspectives, obstacles, practical integration by RCC member countries, development partners, including UN agencies, CSO and non-government organizations (NGOs), academe, regional organizations, and the private sector in four identified elements of gender equality and human rights-based approaches. The session will also generate recommendations towards promoting and enhancing human rights-based approaches in DRR and CR in Asia and the Pacific, develop and share practical tools, information and best practices for the effective integration of gender equality and women empowerment across relevant sectors, and encourage RCC member countries and observers to actively promote and institutionalize women in leadership within DRR at all levels.

Sub-theme 3: Understanding and using data for resilience

One of the key challenges towards resilience denotes the lack of quality data and information across a wide range of indicators. With the global frameworks' strong emphasis on the need for disaggregated data, including sex, age, and disability, countries require capacity development related to its collection, analysis and application.

In order to have risk-informed sustainable development there is a need to have robust data and statistics that are timely, accurate, disaggregated, and accessible which enable users to capture progress and develop strategies accordingly. Integrated monitoring and reporting on the SFDRR and disaster-related SDGs has been a reality as a result of common metrics and the online SFM[9]. National statistical offices are building the framework to include disaster-related data within the domain of official statistics. Data availability and quality continues to improve, and the state of statistical capacity building is accommodating collaborations and synergies across increasingly complex data systems.

The 15th RCC Meeting will highlight key challenges and potential solutions in the area of quality data for resilience.

Four years after the adoption of the SDGs and the SFDRR, countries have taken significant strides towards meeting the monitoring needs of its targets and goals. However, many countries are also unable to report adequately on progress in implementing the SFDRR and the risk-related SDGs. Others lack the capacity to analyze and use data, even if they have the means to collect it.

RCC member countries are already undertaking efforts to develop and implement national DRR strategies which are aligned with the SFDRR to achieve Target E by 2020, and in coherence with National Adaptation Plans, and National Development Plans. Countries must also increase efforts towards systematically reporting to the SFM. As stated in the Asia Regional Plan, all countries must have established methodologies by 2020 to collet disaster loss data and risk profiles, with gender, age, disability, and disaggregated data.

The progress of RCC member countries in reporting to the Sendai Framework Monitor varies due to the capacities, availability, sources, and quality of existing data. A session is dedicated for RCC member countries to share experiences, challenges, progress, and practices on the SFM.

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9 UNDRR, 2019

A wealth of essential information from new non-traditional data pools is not fully tapped into. Disaggregated data by sex, age, and disability are still lacking to a large extent. There is also a need to continue leveraging efforts that are on-going across different global frameworks.

However, developments in open data and analysis, shared and interoperable software, computing power and other technologies are enablers of improved data science, risk assessments, risk modelling, reporting, and ultimately evidence-based policies (UNDRR, 2019). A session on data ecosystems for resilience will be dedicated to showcasing the different data ecosystems for improving effective and efficient decision-making.

The session will look to discuss the importance of mapping, big data, and machine learning to improve decision-making towards building inclusive resilience. This will also provide an opportunity to identify good practices, challenges, and innovative approaches in utilizing data for efficient and effective disaster and climate risk reduction measures.

Sub-theme 4: Defining resilience in fragile contexts

Practitioners and academics have examined the interactions between disasters and conflicts, emphasizing that these events are often related to more intense vulnerabilities that put populations at risk of both conflict and disasters (UNDP, 2011). The Overseas Development Institute (ODI) states that "fragile and conflict affected states experience shocks and stresses related to natural hazards simultaneously to the challenges of conflict and fragility. Much can be done to reduce, manage and prepare for natural disasters in more appropriate, and interconnected ways"[10]. The ODI (2018) also found that "the more fragile a country, the less likely it is to have a national DRR strategy that has been adopted and implemented"[11]. However, despite research finding links between disasters, conflicts and fragility, ideas on how to address these issues with a combined approach, are minimal.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) (2018) finds that the disaster-conflict nexus is demonstrated whereby conflicts reduce the capacity to deliver efficient and effective DRR, and disasters can exacerbate social fault lines and inequality leading to conflict. Some contributing factors to this interplay are changes in environmental circumstance; climate change, environmental mismanagement and natural resource competition. In times of disaster, the stress placed on natural resources can be a cause for conflict, while in times of conflict, the mismanagement of natural resources can lead to further environmental degradation, leading to increased disaster risk. UNESCAP states that "in situations where conflict is based on competition for scarce resources, better management of natural resources, combined with climate change adaptation, can channel competing interests into non-violent resolutions"[12]. Other factors include stable livelihoods, food security, access to health care and education, social inclusion, economic stability, institutional strength and good governance.

The SFDRR urges the need to identify and address pre-conditions that make people more vulnerable to disasters; the "underlying disaster risk drivers" (UNISDR,

10 https://www.unisdr.org/files/37777 plenaryintegratingdrrandccaforresil%5B1%5D.pdf_
11 https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/12284.pdf
_12 https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/APDR%20 Summary%202017%20date%2022032018_0.pdf_

2015).[13] The shared vulnerabilities related to disasters and conflicts could make an argument for the SFDRR to be used as a tool for addressing both issues. However, the linkages between disasters and conflict in the context of Asia and the Pacific need to be understood in order to identify strategies which can reduce the vulnerability to both stresses. The 15th RCC provides a platform for member countries, development partners and donors, practitioners, and academics to increase the momentum of discussing and sharing knowledge on disasters and conflict in the region.

The session on disaster and conflict in Asia and the Pacific will contextualize the relationship between disasters and conflicts in the region. Participants will share their experiences, perspectives, and the challenges towards identifying common solutions with regards to disasters and conflicts. This session will seek to enhance the linkages, identify entry points, and find ways to integrating DRR and conflict mitigation under the RCC mechanism.

In addition, the prevention and mitigation of disasters and conflict have been treated separately, with different frameworks, institutions, and the SDGs. However, there is a strong recognition by UNDRR that DRR promotes civility, civic mindedness, and resilience, and therein lies a key element of its potential to boost understanding and contribute to sustainable peace.[14]

ODI developed a paper entitled "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as a vehicle for conflict prevention: attainable or tenuous?" which contributes to the growing debate on the potential alignment, synergies, and shared ambitions between DRR and conflict prevention. The paper states that "while DRR may potentially contribute to conflict prevention, it may also contribute to conflict escalation if the Sendai Framework and related DRR targets under Target E are designed and implemented in ways that marginalize and exclude certain groups, communities or regions of the country."

A session on the SFDRR and conflict prevention will discuss ways on how countries in Asia and the Pacific can potentially maximize the utility of the SFDRR as a mechanism towards conflict prevention through its inclusive processes. The objectives of the sessions would be to identify what conflict means in the context of the SFDRR and vice versa, and discuss how it can be used to address conflict risk as part of a broader resilience framework

5. Meeting Outputs

The outputs of the 15th RCC meeting are expected to contribute in three different ways:

- First, the meeting contributes to regional initiatives by purposely linking the sub-themes from the outputs of the GPDRR (Switzerland), and the preceding AMCDRR (Mongolia) as well as the 14th RCC (Nepal). As a result, the 15th RCC is also expected to contribute to the 2020 APMCDRR to be held in in Australia.
- Secondly, the 15th RCC will help highlight the progress and challenges with regard to enhancing coherence, ensuring the achievement of Target E, and identifying opportunities to improve in-country mechanisms for the Sendai Monitoring Framework.
- Lastly, the meeting will contribute to local level inclusive resilience building by discussing practical integration of human rights-based approaches in DRR and CR.

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13 https://www.unisdr.org/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf
14 Peters, K.; Peters, L. et al. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as a vehicle for conflict prevention: attainable or tenuous?. Contributing Paper to GAR 2019