



STATEMENT

**H.E EKKAPHAB PHANTHAVONG,
DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF ASEAN FOR
ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY**

**Asia-Pacific Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction (APP-DRR) Forum
Session 3: Reflections from the Governments and Stakeholders
Theme: Key priorities of action to strengthen disaster risk governance
in the region**

9 December 2021 (11:05, GMT +7) Video conference

Watch Recorded Statement: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLD5i9KXQHo>

Email: dmha.div@asean.org

Excellencies, distinguished participants, ladies, and gentlemen,

1. Good morning and Greetings from the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta. Allow me to begin by conveying my appreciation to the UNDRR Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific for inviting the ASEAN delegation to this forum.
2. On this occasion, we reflect on the implementation of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030 – a key guiding document providing UN Member States with concrete measures and actions for disaster management. In ASEAN, we have developed the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response Work Programme 2021-2025 to chart our regional priorities in disaster management, and has aligned itself to contribute to the relevant global targets of the SFDRR.
3. ASEAN is committed to build a disaster resilient and adaptive community in the face of climate change. As one of the world's most at-risk regions to natural disasters, disaster risk reduction stands as a crucial agenda for us.

ASEAN Member States are invested to promote disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at the forefront in an effort to reduce disaster losses and prevent rollback of development gains. To this end, ASEAN emphasises three key priorities in strengthening our disaster risk governance in the region.

4. **First, ASEAN promotes an Inclusive and Diverse Risk Governance across our regional initiatives.** In our efforts towards a disaster resilient ASEAN community, it is imperative to ensure that we leave no one behind. Our strategies must be inclusive and incorporate meaningful engagement with vulnerable communities to empower them. This means adopting a change in mindset from viewing women, children, elderly and people with disabilities as simply victims of disasters to survivors and agents of change. In this vein, ASEAN has launched the *Regional Framework on Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) in Disaster Management 2021-2025*, establishing a common vision to promote protection, gender and inclusion in disaster management.

5. **Second, ASEAN advocates for a Polycentric and Collaborative Risk Governance approach.** Disasters do not occur in a vacuum. Neither should our approach to disasters. The only way to ensure a comprehensive and effective disaster risk management strategy is to encourage the involvement of all stakeholders in the process, including the private sector, academia, and civil societies. Everyone has a stake in building a resilient community and the impacts of climate change in the region. Cognisant of this, ASEAN has adopted the *Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the Strategic and Holistic Initiative to link ASEAN Responses to Emergencies and Disasters (or the ASEAN SHIELD)*, promoting a multi-sectoral and coordinated framework across the ASEAN Community Pillars – a truly whole-of-ASEAN approach.

6. **Last, ASEAN encourages for a more Adaptive and Anticipatory Risk Governance model.** The potential impact of 1.5°C degrees celsius increase in global temperature in the ASEAN region is no longer debatable. We know the risks and we must endeavour to change or be left behind. ASEAN is committed

to anticipatory action, rather than being passive and reactive. Crucially, it is imperative for ASEAN to stay ahead of the curve and inculcate a forward-thinking mindset in anticipation of future challenges and emerging trends. In this spirit, ASEAN adopted the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Adaptation to Drought to mitigate impacts of climate hazards through early action. Colleagues, I assure you a preventative model to disaster risk will cost far less than hasty efforts, and will reap dividends for our future generations.

Excellencies,

7. Today's Forum provides us yet another opportunity to push the envelope in making sustainable progress in reducing disaster risk in the Asia-Pacific. I urge the distinguished delegations to build a disaster-resilient ASEAN and Asia-Pacific community together. I look forward to hearing the reflections from the other speakers in this session, and to discuss priorities in preparation for the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Thank you.
