

Official Statement of the Government of Nepal at the
**Asia-Pacific Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction (APP-DRR) Forum
2021**

Respected Chair,

The dignitaries and participants

I am honored to participate in this important session and deliver official statement of the Government of Nepal.

As we are dealing with multi-hazards risk, the compounding natural and biological hazards further intensify the recurring disasters and pave the way for emerging risks. Further, health hazards such as the Covid-19 pandemic add uncertainties in disaster risk governance.

As other countries, COVID-19 has already caused huge losses in terms of human casualties and economic sector. Its impacts certainly persist for significantly longer time in Nepal. Despite the huge direct and indirect losses, COVID-19 recovery has provided valuable insights on disaster risk governance. Recovery definitely will be costly unless comprehensive multi-hazards risk reduction approach is localized.

In the context of Nepal, policy, institution and fund are localized at three tiers of governments. Effective civil-military coordination along with stakeholder's participation helped to reduce the losses to greater extent.

International collaboration on information sharing, extending medical facilities, outreach capabilities and vaccination drive globally presents strong will of the global unity for shared security. This incredible effort towards 'humanity beyond citizenship' is highly commendable. The 'whole of society' approach and international partnership showed by the world should continue in the disaster risk reduction.

Business continuity plan provided fast resumption of lifeline facilities and vital public services during the pandemic too. This needs to penetrate further to small scale entrepreneurs too so as to revive their livelihoods quicker aftermath of disasters. Mode, approach and delivery of public services demand shift to digital governance-an induced swift change observed in Nepal's public service landscape following this pandemic.

Nepal has already initiated the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework and National Strategic Action Plan formulated maintaining coherence with the Sendai Framework to know our pace and assess the direction of efforts. Based on overall updated achievements, we can identify targets achievable, likely achievable and hard to achieve. Thus, the review will provide insights on resource required, area of focus, revisit and revise targets reasonably on time so as to accelerate implementation.

In these contexts of the uncertainties and unfolding disasters, we need to enhance skills and capabilities for better disaster risk governance. Towards these objectives, I am confident that this workshop facilitated the exchange of immense experiences, multi-sectoral expertise, and open avenues for network of practitioners.

I am grateful to the organizers of this forum and highly appreciate the insightful thoughts shared by the distinguished speakers.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Humkala Pandey

Joint Secretary

Ministry of Home Affairs

Government of Nepal