



## **East Asia Summit (EAS) Statement on Rapid Disaster Response**

**We**, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia, People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russian Federation and the United States of America on the occasion of the 9<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit (EAS) in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on 13 November 2014;

**Expressing** condolences and sympathy to the victims, their families, the Government and the people of the countries that have suffered significant human, social and economic losses and damages from disasters experienced by members of the EAS; and also expressing concern at the long-term negative consequences for nations from these disasters which hamper the achievement of their sustainable development;

**Reaffirming** our collective commitment to pursue effective disaster risk reduction and disaster management in the spirit of partnership and cooperation in order to reduce the vulnerabilities and enhance the capacities of peoples to be more resilient and self-reliant in mitigating the impact of disasters;

**Recalling** the Cha-am Hua Hin Statement on EAS Disaster Management of 2009, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) 2005, the Beijing Action for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia of 2005, the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the East Asia Summit of 2005, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Statement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response of 2006, the Delhi Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia of 2007, the 2013 Australia-Indonesia EAS Rapid Disaster Response Workshop Communiqué and Action Plan and General Assembly resolutions 46/182 on Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations, 57/150 on Strengthening the

effectiveness and coordination of international urban search and rescue assistance, 62/192 on the International strategy for disaster reduction, and other relevant UNGA Resolutions;

**Expressing** our commitment to cooperate for the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Sendai, Japan in March 2015 to adopt an effective framework succeeding the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015;

**Reaffirming** support for sustaining and developing effective regional approaches, mechanisms and capacities to enhance preparedness and support efforts of affected countries to mitigate and respond to natural disasters; and recognizing the efforts of ASEAN, particularly the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) as the main driver of AADMER, the Conference of Parties (COP) to AADMER, the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM), the ARF, the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus and other regional initiatives to enhance cooperation on disaster risk reduction and disaster management;

**Recognising** the active cooperation and various regional initiatives of ASEAN, and noting ASEAN's contribution through the ASEAN-led coordinating mechanism for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) in the Philippines;

**Reaffirming** that States have the primary responsibility for sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and disaster management, and the importance of international cooperation and partnerships to support States in pursuing efforts to this end;

**Respecting** the importance of amity and cooperation, and the principles of sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity and national unity of States, the principle of non-interference and non-intervention in internal affairs, as well as international law governing states in the process of rapid disaster response;

**Emphasising** the importance of ensuring that humanitarian assistance is provided in accordance with the national laws of the respective EAS participating countries and internationally accepted principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence;

**Recognising** the important contribution to disaster management by regional and international organisations, national governments, civil society and other organisations, the need to continue strengthening existing arrangements, and the importance of avoiding duplication and ensuring greater coherence of efforts;

**Recognising** the diversity of approaches to disaster management in EAS participating countries and acknowledging that many EAS participating countries have already adopted disaster management systems, including national, legislative and other mandates and the consequent need to give space for the specificity of each country's approach, need and requirement within the regional framework;

**Acknowledging** the 2007 ARF General Guidelines for Disaster Relief Cooperation, the 2010 ARF Strategic Guidance for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response, the 2008 ASEAN Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP), and other regional instruments on disaster management and emergency response; and recognizing the importance of close coordination between national, regional and international bodies;

**Affirming** that any bilateral or collective response to disaster relief could be activated only upon receiving a request from the Affected Country;

**Recognising** the need for a coordinated and planned regional approach to responding rapidly to a request from, or offer assistance to, a disaster affected country; and that the quality and efficiency of rapid disaster response requires constant preparedness, planning, capacity building and testing of response plans, systems and mechanisms at national and regional levels;

**Expressing** determination to learn from the experience of past disasters in strengthening disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response, and recovery through the implementation of practical measures to guide their rapid disaster response;

**Emphasising** the need for maintaining disaster risk reduction in development as a cost-effective investment to prepare for disasters;

In readiness to provide assistance rapidly, EAS participating countries should endeavour to implement the following guidelines in a manner consistent with the laws, rules and regulations in force in each country as well as any regional agreements in which EAS participating countries signed and are obliged to adhere;

1. **Establish** a whole-of-nation (governments, communities, individuals and the private sector including civil society and non-government organisations) resilience-based approach to enhance the capacity of States to reduce risk, prepared for, respond to, and recover from, natural disasters;
2. **Prioritise** preparedness in developing emergency plans, and standard operating procedures (SOPS), training of personnel, exercises, purchasing and maintenance of equipment and undertaking community awareness and activities;
3. **Conduct** risk assessments and identify and undertake actions to build resilience and reduce the risks and impact of an event through mitigation measures such as land-use planning, building standards, education, training, the application of science and technology and early warning;
4. **Monitor** impending and emerging disasters both nationally and in the region, and commence early planning for possible response and assistance; including the provision of early warning to the public and the pre-positioning of supplies, goods and personnel where relevant;
5. **Identify** and earmark assets and capabilities which may be made available and rapidly mobilized for rapid disaster response;
6. **Establish** pre-arranged standard operation procedures (SOPs) for customs, immigration and quarantine (CIQ) purposes to facilitate the rapid entry and departure of pre-notified personnel, equipment facilities and materials, and make these exempt from taxation, duties and other charges;
7. **Designate** and advise other EAS participating countries and relevant international organizations of a National Focal Point (NFP), an entity authorized as the single point of contact, who has the role of processing requests and offers of assistance;
8. **Share** information on formal arrangements and requirements for receiving rapid response assistance, particularly information on any restrictions or limitations;

9. **Cooperate**, communicate and coordinate with each other, and the humanitarian disaster relief activities of the UN and other international, regional, and civil society organizations;
10. **Ensure** that approaches and measures are responsive to the needs of vulnerable groups within the affected population, particularly women, children, the elderly, disabled people. Specifically ensure the provision of women and child-friendly spaces in evacuation camps and communities where they can confidentially discuss issues related to their safety and well-being;
11. **Recognise** the need to address the humanitarian and development needs arising from internal displacement from natural disasters, and encourage all relevant actors to consider utilising the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement;
12. **Provide** internally displaced persons arising from natural disasters, without discrimination, with safe access to essential food and potable water, basic shelter and housing, appropriate clothing and essential medical services and sanitation, as well as giving due regard to their protection needs;
13. **Support** efforts to strengthen cooperation and enhance capacity of EAS participating countries, reflecting the principles outlined above, through relevant policies, plans, procedures and systems, training of people and interoperability of mechanisms in disaster preparedness, response and planning, management, reconstruction and recovery building, where possible, based on regional and international best practice and lessons learned;
14. **Make** decisions to accept or offer assistance by mutual agreement;
15. **Standardise** the registration form and certificate of pre-notified personnel among member states;

EAS participating countries affected by a disaster (Affected (Receiving) Country) should endeavor, consistent with the laws, rules and regulations in effect in each country as well as any regional agreements in which EAS participating countries signed and are obliged to adhere, to:

33. **Provide** response at no cost to the Affected country, unless otherwise decided between the Affected and Assisting Country;
34. **Provide** de-brief reports (including records of the operational tasks performed) and an exit strategy to the Affected Country;
35. **Withdraw** assistance (with timeframes to be mutually determined) when requested by the Affected Country, including removal of all equipment, facilities and material brought in, except where these are donated with the consent of the Affected Country;
36. **Deploy** foreign military assets and enablers only upon request of the Affected Country, and the deployment of such assets and enablers are coordinated with the Affected Country's authorities in accordance with the national disaster plan.

EAS participating countries across which personnel, equipment or supplies transit will endeavour, consistent with the laws, rules and regulations in effect in each country, as well as any regional agreements in which EAS participating countries signed and are obliged to adhere, to:

37. **Follow** pre-arranged SOPs for CIQ purposes to facilitate the rapid transit of pre-notified personnel, equipment, facilities and materials.

EAS participating countries shall follow-up on the above measures through existing regional frameworks and mechanisms related to AADMER, including the ACDM Session on EAS Cooperation in Disaster Management, and through close consultation among the EAS participating countries and other relevant partners.

The EAS Leaders affirm AADMER as the common platform and regional policy backbone for disaster management in ASEAN. This Statement will be consistent with AADMER principles and mechanisms.

**Adopted** in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on the thirteenth Day of November in the year Two Thousand and Fourteen.