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## **2024 CSO Commitment to Action:**

### **Addressing Hotspots of Vulnerabilities to Advance SFDRR Implementation**

The survey administered by the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN), followed by consultation before the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR), revealed key gaps the region faces in its pursuit to enhance resilience against growing disaster risks. These risks are often exacerbated by underlying factors that lead to hotspots of vulnerabilities, disproportionately affecting marginalised and intersectional communities. Climate change impacts, with intensified hydro-meteorological and climatological disasters such as floods and droughts, severely affect marginalised communities with relatively high vulnerabilities, including exposure to hazards due to factors such as socio-economic status, gender, disability, and geographic location. With six years remaining to achieve the SFDRR goals, significant local and national actions are required to adapt to rising risk levels.

As civil society organisations (CSOs) committed to building resilient and sustainable communities, we pledge the following actions to commit to reducing the gaps of current status and the desired goals of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR):

#### **1 | Community Resilience at the Centre**

- Intensify awareness campaigns and educational programs on location-specific disaster risks, and preparedness to mitigate losses at the local level, ensuring that messages are accessible to marginalised communities, language differences, disability needs.
- Organise simulation drills and exercises to integrate diverse community voices, in both rural and urban communities, to strengthen preparedness and response capacities, including first aid and early evacuations against increasing risks from climate variability.
- Empower communities with location-specific, inclusive anticipatory action planning, with linkages to early warning information, to protect the vulnerable populations, including those facing multiple and overlapping risks.

#### **2 | Capacity Sharing for Tangible Change**

- Uplift training programmes on disaster risk reduction, especially for vulnerable groups, to understand specific know-how on how to mitigate disaster impact to safeguard their settlement and livelihood and ensure that knowledge transfer is equitable and accessible.
- Share capacities among CSO's on research and evidence-based approach to risk reduction, including local and indigenous knowledge.
- Integrate adaptation to climate risks with support to sustainable livelihood initiatives and local ecosystem to enhance community resilience by promoting inclusive access to resources and opportunities.



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### 3 | Policy Coherence for Local Action

- Collaborate with policymakers to integrate inclusive disaster risk reduction into national and local development plans and encourage budget allocation for locally led disaster risk reduction initiatives.
- Promote inclusive and locally driven risk reduction that integrates with social welfare and protection mechanisms, with active participation of women, youth, and marginalised groups in planning and implementation.
- Track progress and evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the disaster risk reduction initiatives in various countries, and actively share the findings with all stakeholders.

### 4 | Partnerships and Collaboration for Solving the Unsolved

- Further strengthen partnerships with local and national government agencies, private sector, research/academic institutions, and local community-based groups to identify and scale effective risk reduction strategies.
- Proactively adopt innovative technologies for disaster risk reduction that are accessible to all segments of the society, including early warning systems, risk mapping/monitoring, and risk communication tools to enhance local resilience.
- Create linkages with disaster data management with locally led risk reduction actions, ensuring that data is disaggregated by gender, disability and socioeconomic status to inform equitable interventions and actively share learnings of 'what works' across boundaries.

### 5 | Monitor Progress and Addressing Gaps

- Enhancing resilience is a whole-of-society effort, and CSOs will monitor where it is working and where it is not, and proactively voice out when the gaps or disparities are identified.
- Collect and disseminate the progress of CSO efforts that highlight the differential experiences of vulnerability across communities, including additional and/or alternative resources mobilised for local action.
- Monitor the identified 'vulnerability hotspots' in the region, and report back how the risk reduction efforts are impacting the vulnerability at the next APMCDRR in 2026, ensuring that lessons learned inform future initiatives.

By committing to these actions, we, as CSOs, pledge to play a pivotal role in reducing disaster risks, enhancing community resilience, and contributing to the effective implementation of the SFDRR in our respective countries and regions. CSO stakeholders commit to advancing above mentioned actions to fulfil our responsibilities as a key stakeholder group at APMCDRR. ADRRN, with its Strategy 2030 and thematic hubs, will create an enabling environment and support mechanism for CSO colleagues in the region in implementing the above actions.

**October 2024**  
**Manila, Philippines**

*Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) with CSO stakeholder group members in the region.*