Statement from GSHG for APP-DRR 2021

COVID19 brought a range of restrictions and limitations constraining movement related to our work and community life. Yet, many women and other marginalised groups have faced such restrictions all their lives because of who they are, their ability, where they live and the limitations placed on their rights and freedoms and this despite commitments and treaty obligations to human rights, gender equality and social inclusion.

We know that the multiple and intersecting impacts of pandemics, such as COVID19, and the climate crisis, including intensifying disasters, will enhance the challenges to live a life free from fear and want.

Global and regional commitments and their implementation must be in line with our shared aspirations for resilience, safety and protection.

The mid-term review of the Sendai Framework enables us to accelerate inclusion and accountability of outcomes on gender equality, women’s empowerment and leadership in the following ways:

We must be able to measure progress of gender mainstreaming at national level against explicit indicators so that all stakeholders are accountable to the outcomes of the Sendai Framework on gender equality, women’s empowerment and leadership as well as commitments to other international human rights treaties, including CEDAW, CRPD, CRC and CRM but also the ILO conventions, and the SDGs.

We need greater clarity on roles and functional coordination of all Disaster Risk Management institutions, as well as the national and provincial Development Planning institutions, and women’s machineries for effective realisation of the Sendai Framework outcomes on gender equality and women’s empowerment and leadership. They need to collaborate with organisations working on women’s rights and the rights of marginalised groups and be accountable to them.

We need clear and well-resourced strategies to ensure that women and other marginalised groups are equally represented in political and decision making spaces. We need to involve the diverse voices of women, including in COVID-19 recovery task forces and decision-making bodies at all levels.

We need to integrate efforts to prevent Gender Based Violence into every stage of disaster and crisis management by providing funds and human resource support to government agencies and women’s rights organisations that are engaging in preventative action including by building leadership and providing essential and lifesaving services (health, mental health and psychosocial support, SRH, safe shelters, economic support, etc.).
We need to dedicate resources to sustain and enhance women’s resilience to disasters, in the form of capacity building, equal access to information and infrastructure, livelihood support, finance and logistics, and inclusive policies and practices, social protection and services, education, leveraging science, technology and innovation, with a dedicated focus on building diverse young women’s leadership.

and finally, we must all acknowledge that gender equality and social inclusion in DRM is an opportunity to contribute to building peaceful and inclusive communities.

This reflection has been prepared by members of the Gender Stakeholder Group of APP-DRR
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