Talking Points for Sarah Knibbs, Officer in Charge, UN Women ROAP
The Asia-Pacific Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction (APP-DRR) Forum

Date and Time: Thursday, 9 December 2021 at 11:00 – 12:30 hrs.
(2 minutes will be allocated)
During the session on “Reflections from the Governments and Stakeholders”

- My profound thanks to UNDRR and the Government of Australia for organizing this Forum on DRR.

- The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the ways in which vulnerabilities to disasters are systemic and interconnected. The feminization of poverty, food insecurity, forced migration and resource depletion within the context of climate change means disaster risk and impacts are not gender neutral.

- Data has shown that women, are disproportionately impacted by disasters—be it natural hazards or a pandemic. That said, COVID-19 has also demonstrated the capacity of women, their resilience and strength as inclusive decision-makers and leaders, to respond to crises.

- The Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework is an opportunity for us to recognize the progress made and reflect on the gaps. While the Framework acknowledges women as key drivers for disaster policy and programming, women continue to lack agency, meaningful participation, and leadership opportunities in formal disaster risk management.

- We have seen gender and social inclusion as guiding principles in risk governance in the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response Work Programme 2021-2025. We hope to see this replicated elsewhere.

- Momentum needs to be leveraged to engage disaster management mechanisms with community-led, women-focused organizations that represent vulnerable and marginalized populations.

- UN Women’s flagship programme on Women’s Resilience to Disasters is guided by the principles of localization and ownership. It capitalizes on women’s knowledge and skills to strengthen disaster risk management and enhance women’s equality and economic opportunities – ultimately, elevating communities.

- We look forward to working together to ensure women, in all their diversity, are mobilized to advance disaster risk resilience. Thank you.