

UNEP-ROAP Statement at Asia-Pacific Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction

Duration: 2 Minutes

Dear participants, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the organizers for inviting UNEP in this important event.

While countries of the Asia Pacific region have significantly strengthened their resilience against natural hazards in past two decades and in particular since the adoption of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015; addressing multiplicity of disaster risks and systems thinking to manage such risks are still at infancy level. The Asia pacific Disaster report 2021 estimates that cost of such cascading and converging risks could decline the regional GDP by 4.2 percent **under the worst-case climate change scenario** and people at high risk in the region will increase by one third – particularly people who are most vulnerable. Alarmingly, Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2021 notes that the region has substantially regressed on Goal 13: Climate Action.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly altered the global riskscape and threatens attainment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Different experiences of countries to address the pandemic also showed that better preparedness capacity, proactive approaches and use of frontier technologies were extremely helpful to manage the pandemic risks. Risk-informed decision making backed up by necessary skills and capacities have been proven to be most effective to manage the pandemic.

Against this backdrop, UNEP will continue to focus on -

- (1) Enhancing SDG Goal 13 – climate actions in the region – from national level planning (e.g., NAPs/NDCs) to local level implementation.
- (2) Promote nature-based solutions for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation specifically targeting the most vulnerable population (women, children, marginalized communities) and ecosystems in vulnerable hotspots.
- (3) Support building country level skills and capacities for proactive, systemic and risk-informed approaches for sustainable development.
- (4) Convening and contributing towards knowledge management and exchanges in the region for contextualized, effective and proven approaches and solutions for risk managed development (e.g., APAN, GAN).

Let me end by mention establishment of two-year work programme on Global Goal on Adaptation, and agreement on functions of Santiago Network on Loss and Damage which are important outcomes during COP26 in Glasgow and has potential of fostering disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change.