



PUTTING WOMEN AND GIRLS AT THE CENTRE OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

UNFPA statement, Asia Pacific Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction (APP-DRR),

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Please share your reflections on how the region can take advantage of the opportunities created by COVID-19 recovery and the MTR-SF to further accelerate the implementation of the priorities on the Sendai Framework and ensure more inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction?

Thank you chair, and good morning distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by disasters. The COVID-19 pandemic was no exception. It has compounded deep-rooted forms of gender discrimination and inequalities, and increased harm and risks for women, girls, and gender diverse people both in their homes and in their communities.

The pandemic, however, also created opportunities for development and humanitarian actors to work together across the triple nexus, and for local and national actors, particularly women and youth-led organizations, to innovate, adapt and lead community-based solutions to respond to critical issues magnified by the pandemic, such as the increase in risk of exposure to gender-based violence and harmful practices. The importance of providing integrated support for women's health and wellbeing—particularly in relation to their sexual and reproductive health and rights—cannot be understated. The Asia Pacific Action Plan calls for us to protect and promote the rights of marginalized groups and to support universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, including the right to live free of violence.

The Midterm Review is an opportunity to take stock of progress and to pave the way for accelerated action on unfinished agendas. We must collectively ensure that disaster risk reduction is gender responsive, builds resilience not just of our infrastructure and economies, but also of our communities and people, particularly women and girls. Women and their meaningful participation in leadership and decision-making are essential in this process.

We must also consider the increasing impact of the climate crisis on our region. Young people will have a lived experience of climate change within their lifetimes, impacting their opportunities to reach their full potential. The cost of inaction will be the most vulnerable, especially women and girls, being even further left behind. Ensuring resilient, equitable, sustainable and climate-sensitive societies is a necessity for all of us to thrive.

Thank you.

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