

Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2022

Pre and post conference deliberations and roadmap for “From Crisis to Resilience: Brisbane to India”

Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) is an intergovernmental meeting held in support of UNISDR which assess the progress made by nation states and related agencies in disaster risk management in different priority areas/sectors. This year the APMCDRR meeting was held in Brisbane (Australia) from 19th-22nd September 2022.

Indian Delegation at APMCDRR-2022 (Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction) had a meeting with Shri Nityanand Rai, Honorable Minister of State for Home Affairs, Government of India, alongside Shri Harsh Gupta, Project Director, National Disaster Management Authority; Shri Kamal Kishore, Member and Secretary, National Disaster Management Authority, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India; Shri Suneet Mehta, High Commission of India, Canberra, Australia; and Shri Sanjeev Jindal, Joint Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs in Brisbane, Australia. Discussions were held on accelerating progress on disaster risk reduction, improving coordination and cooperation, existing challenges, and way forwards.



There were multiple discussions organised on various platforms ahead of the conference and post conference, Members of India delegation at APMCDRR-2022 in Brisbane, Australia also came together to discuss the learning and way forward from the conference, outlining various milestones and roadmap for “From Crisis to Resilience: Brisbane to India”. Key discussion and action points from these pre and post conference deliberations are shared below:

- **Bring Global to Local:** There is a substantial need to bring strategies and learnings from Global and Regional platforms to Local and Grassroots level. As accentuated by PMs 10 point Agenda as well, there is a need to build on local capacity and initiative to enhance disaster risk reduction. Such efforts reduce risk and create opportunities for local development and sustainable livelihoods. Most of the response and resilience building programs can be strengthened, if the grassroot multi sector and multi stakeholder coordination is strengthened.
- **Mainstreaming DRR in Development (SDGs):** While the effective response is essential, much more crucial is to be proactive in our approach and pre-pave our way to be ready for any emergencies or disastrous events. This means understanding and embracing the need for Disaster Risk Reduction and its grounded implementation in development initiatives as well.

Towards this, Sphere India in collaboration with NIDM is working on developing guidelines for Mainstreaming DRR and Climate Action in SDGs.

- **Midterm Review of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction:** A retrospective and prospective stocktaking and review exercise of SFDRR, should be undertaken at National and Stakeholder to assess progress made, examine challenges experienced in preventing new and reducing existing disaster risk, explore context shifts and emerging issues, and so identify renovations to risk governance and risk management.
- **Creating Community Disaster Response Force (CDRF) for Strengthening Volunteerism:** As people's participation pre and post emergencies is very critical and is the first line of defence, initiatives like Aapda Mitra need to be scaled up and strengthened, which can be done by utilising existing capacities like NCC and NSS. We should aim should be to have at least 1% of the total population trained in Basics of Disaster Management, which can be achieved by creating Community Disaster Response Force (CDRF). Community outreach also needs to be scaled up and innovative ideas have to be explored to achieve that, which will further help in tapping, indigenous knowledge and resources of the community.
- **Network of Universities:** Universities/Academic institutions of late have very actively been participating and supporting emergency interventions, but the short response window of disaster preparedness and its constituent challenges desires more proactive involvement in the entire disaster management cycle. There is a need to leverage the strength of Academic institutes and Academia to work with communities and Civil Society Organisations and Local partners for sharing scientific data and tools and further strengthen inter and intra academia coordination and also support in ideating innovative ways of knowledge sharing, skill development, and knowledge management.
- **Collective Initiatives:** United efforts for risk management and resilience building can give way to new and innovative projects and resources that can promote collective resilience in scalable, meaningful ways.
- **Leveraging potential of Media:** The local and mainstream media has a lot of potential, which can be leveraged for reaching out to the unreached. While doing so, communication can also be done in a bilingual manner for ensuring no one is left behind.
- **Creating forum or mechanism for inter-agency coordination (especially with Govt):** To ensure continuity of consultative process at the government level, there is a need for a bottom-up approach, this can be achieved by creating a multistakeholder forum which can coordinate with government counterparts.
- **Training programmes and capacity building programmes:** More training programmes and capacity building programmes have to be initiated to developed community's capacity and ensure their better engagement in DRR. Identifying different regions having general risks and vulnerabilities, which generally turns into a hazard every year can be an initial step. Further, those regions can be prioritised first for providing basic training and awareness program and further contingency plans can be developed for building efficient response and relief strategies to address the long-term issues.

- **Focus on Hospital and School Safety:** There is an urgent need to take a look at the infrastructural capacity of hospitals and schools and necessary steps should to be taken to make it resilient, as they are key critical infrastructure post emergencies.
- **Climate Budgeting:** From the Budget 2022-23 announced for India, it is evident that the country has shifted its focus on prioritizing climate action considering the ongoing climate emergency and India's commitments in the Glasgow COP26 in 2021. However, despite some initiatives mentioned in the budget with allocations for mitigating climate change, their adequacy and implementability remain uncertain. Thus, there is an evident need to advocate for a dedicated Climate Budgeting in India.
- **Resilience Index:** There is a need for Resilience Index Framework for India to compare and rank the performance of ministries/departments at the state/union level in terms of financial allocation, proposed projects/schemes, usage of budget, implementation, operation and benefits.
- **Partnership Standards:** There is a need to build trust between Govt, CSRs, CSOs and other stakeholders for effective partnerships and collaborations. Towards that, Sphere India and Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) have been working together to explore the available good practice across sectors, evolved new ideas through brainstorming sessions to harmonize and link ISO standards for CSR, Core Humanitarian Standards and technical standards like Sphere, Project Management Standards of PMBOK by PMI followed widely by Corporates as a draft Partnership Standards.
- **Grassroots Call for Action:** Ahead of APMCDRR 2022, CARN-AP (Climate Action Resource Network) organized an online meeting to receive reflections of grassroots people and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and NGOs. The participants in this consultation suggested that people at the grassroots are yet to raise proper demand at right place and with the right intensity for receiving necessary services and due to this reason public service providing agencies still remained to be in business-as-usual fashion to perform their DRR related activities. The long-standing feeble conditions of the people cause them generally to be ignored, unseen and also a number of political economy conditions keep people away from the receiving necessary public services. The local NGOs may play an important role to facilitate people in claiming their demands and rights but the NGOs remained to be disconnected, disintegrated and thus cannot play necessary roles. In risk assessments, some countries developed tools like CRA (Community Risk Assessment), RRAP (Risk Reduction Action Plans) but those are generally not in practice because of lack of data, tools/methods, skills development trainings. Improvements in these areas are necessary to ensure 'disaster management in everyone's business' and it may help to create an enabling environment towards creating relatively safer place for people and communities.
- **Letter to Honorable Minister of State for Home Affairs, Government of India:** To take these recommendations and actions forward, a collective letter will be sent to Honorable Minister of State for Home Affairs, Government of India outlining the reflections from these pre and post event deliberations, as well as discussions and recommendations from upcoming multistakeholder consultations.

To take these discussions forward, Sphere India in collaboration with National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), is initiating **Reimagining Disaster Risk Reduction Campaign**, which will be flagged off with **INDIA RESILIENCE DIALOGUE 2022: Reimagining Disaster Risk Reduction**, to mark the occasion of International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction on 13th October 2022, in New Delhi.

The **Reimagining Disaster Risk Reduction Campaign** will focus on taking stock of the implementation of the Sendai Framework to date, assessing progress made and challenges experienced in preventing and reducing disaster risk, providing critical analysis so as to assist stakeholders formulate recommendations and roadmap for prioritised, accelerated and integrated actions. More details for the same will follow.



The banner features a background image of children in a boat on water. At the top, it includes logos for NIDM, the 75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, and Sphere India. The main text reads: 'Flagging-off REIMAGINING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION CAMPAIGN with India Resilience Dialogue-2022'. To the right, it says 'Join us on OCT 13 2022'. Below this, it states 'To commemorate International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction-2022'. At the bottom, it provides the venue 'India Habitat Centre, New Delhi', a registration link 'bit.ly/IDDRR-131022', a QR code, and social media handles '#ReimaginingDRR #IndiaResilience Dialogue #DRRDay @Sphere_India'. It also mentions support from UNICEF and HCL Foundation.

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Read APMCDRR Co-chairs' Statement here: <https://apmcdrr.undrr.org/program/program-7-co-chairs-statement>