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International
Development

CDMP

Comprehensive Disaster
Management Programme

Disaster Management in South Asia: A Comprehensive Regional Framework for Action 2006-2015

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Background of the SAARC Framework on Disaster Management

The SAARC Technical Committee meeting on Environment and Forestry held in Thimpu from 11-12 June 2004

- n The Meeting decided to do the following:
 - n The delegation of India will prepare a Concept Note on “SAARC - Information Sharing on Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation”.
 - n Bangladesh will host an Expert Group Meeting in Dhaka on Formulating a Comprehensive Framework on Disaster Management and Disaster Prevention.
 - n To include “Regional Cooperation Measures in dealing with Mass Scale Natural Disasters” in the agenda of the 26th Council of Ministers and 31st Steering Committee meetings preceding the 13th SAARC Dhaka Summit.

Background of the SAARC Framework on Disaster Management

Indian Concept Note- 1

As a follow-up to the above decisions, India prepared and shared with all SAARC countries the Concept Note on “SAARC Information Sharing on Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation” for review and comments. The paper proposed a programme for cooperation among all SAARC countries in the following areas:

- n Exchange of experts for the development of national disaster management frameworks
- n Technical cooperation for developing and mapping of hazard profile
- n Exchange of trainers and use of facilities for training and capacity building
- n Exchange visits
- n Research
- n IT and GIS-based information systems for disaster management
- n Application of space capabilities in disaster management
- n International agreement for sharing resources
- n Knowledge management among SAARC member countries

Background of the SAARC Framework on Disaster Management

Specific Indian Proposals

- n In order to facilitate the cooperation among member countries the concept note suggested establishment of a SAARC Cell for disaster preparedness and mitigation.
- n India offered to host the Cell in Delhi and
- n Sought support of member countries to have National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), New Delhi, declared as the regional Training Centre in disaster management for the SAARC countries.

**Background of
the SAARC
Framework on
Disaster
Management**

**Special Session of SAARC Environment
Ministers held in Male on 25 June, 2005**

- n Regarding Regional Cooperation Measures in dealing with Mass Scale Natural Disasters the Special Session came up with a number of decisions:
 - n The meeting agreed to conduct the proposed Expert Group Meeting in Dhaka with national focal points for early warning, disaster preparedness and management to formulate a Comprehensive Framework on Early Warning, Disaster Management and Disaster Prevention, prior to the Seventh Ministerial Meeting on Environment in Bangladesh.
 - n These have been further discussed in the 26th Council of Ministers Meeting held in Dhaka on 11 November, 2005 and finally endorsed by the Heads of State or Government in the 13th SAARC Dhaka Summit.

Background of the SAARC Framework on Disaster Management

The 13th Dhaka Summit

- n The Heads of State or Government in the 13th Dhaka Summit called for elaboration of a Comprehensive Framework on Early Warning and Disaster Management.
- n In view of the recent Asia Tsunami and the Pakistan Earthquake, the Heads of State or Government also underscored the urgency to put in place a regional response mechanism dedicated to disaster preparedness, emergency relief and rehabilitation to ensure immediate response.
- n They directed the concerned national authorities to coordinate their activities in such areas of disaster management as early warning, exchange of information, training and sharing of experiences and best practices in emergency relief efforts.

Background of the SAARC Framework on Disaster Management

The Indian Concept Note 2

- n At the 13th SAARC Summit India offered to host the SAARC Centre on Disaster Management at New Delhi
- n Retracting the previously circulated concept note, India circulated another Concept Note to establish the proposed centre at New Delhi.
- n This concept note was presented at the SAARC Expert Group Meeting on Disaster Management at Savar, Dhaka from 7-9 February 2006
- n The Expert Group suggested to hold another meeting to consider the concept note
- n Accordingly, India agreed to hold a special Expert Group Meeting in New Delhi from 1-2 June 2006

Background of the SAARC Framework on Disaster Management

SAARC Expert Group Meeting on Disaster Management held at Savar, Dhaka from 7-9 February 2006

- n As a follow up to the decision taken during the Thirteenth SAARC Summit held in Dhaka in November 2005 to set up the SAARC Centre for Disaster Management and Preparedness in New Delhi, India presented a Concept Paper. It was decided that the modalities for setting up the Centre will be discussed in detail in a separate meeting to be hosted by the Government of India.
- n Nepal presented a Concept Paper on 'Proposal for Satellite Centre for Earthquake Risk Reduction under the Framework of Permanent Regional Response Mechanism in South Asia
- n As per the mandate of the Meeting and taking into account the deliberations of the Meeting, Bangladesh circulated a draft Comprehensive Framework on Disaster Management titled- 'Disaster Management in South Asia: A Comprehensive Regional Framework for Action 2006-2015', for consideration. After detailed discussions and amendments, the Framework was adopted in the Meeting

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Outline of the Framework

- n Context
- n Regional Objectives, Expected Outcomes and Strategic Goals
 - n A. Objectives
 - n B. Expected Outcomes
 - n C. Strategic Goals
- n Priorities for Action 2006-2015
 - n General considerations
 - n Priorities for action
- n Implementation and Follow-up
 - n General considerations
 - n Specific considerations

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**Regional Objectives, Expected Outcomes
and Strategic Goals**

Objectives

- n Establish and strengthen the regional disaster management system to reduce risks and to improve response and recovery management at all levels;
- n Identify and elaborate country and regional priorities for action;
- n Share best practices and lessons learnt from disaster risk reduction efforts at national levels;
- n Establish a regional system to develop and implement regional programmes and projects for early warning;
- n Establish a regional system of exchanging information on prevention, preparedness and management of natural disasters;
- n Create a regional response mechanism dedicated to disaster preparedness, emergency relief and rehabilitation to ensure immediate response; and
- n Create a regional mechanism to facilitate monitoring and evaluation of achievements towards goals and strategies.

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**Regional Objectives, Expected Outcomes
and Strategic Goals**

Expected Outcome

- n An efficient Disaster Management System;
- n Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into the development policies and practices of the government at all levels;
- n Disaster resilient communities that have enhanced coping capacities in relation to all hazards;
- n Development of policies and programmes that recognizes all risks to the communities, and mitigation strategies that are based on a risk management assessment;
- n Greater levels of coordination and cooperation at national, regional and international levels; and
- n Enhanced information, warning and reporting systems within governments at all levels.

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**Regional Objectives, Expected Outcomes
and Strategic Goals**

Strategic Goals

- n Professionalising the disaster management system;
- n Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction;
- n Strengthening of community institutional mechanisms;
- n Empowering community at risk particularly women, the poor and the disadvantaged;
- n Expanding risk reduction programming across a broader range of hazards (all hazards approach);
- n Strengthening emergency response systems; and
- n Developing and strengthening networks of relevant national, regional and international organizations.

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Priorities for Action 2006-2015

General considerations

- n 12 considerations (in line with the HFA)

Priority areas

- n Develop and implement risk reduction strategies
- n Establish Regional and National Response Mechanisms
- n Establish a Regional Information Sharing Mechanism and Develop Network of Institutions and Organizations
- n Develop and implement Disaster Management training, education, research and awareness programmes
- n Apply the ICT for disaster management.
- n Establish an effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism.

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Implementation and Follow-up

General considerations

- n** The strategic goals and priorities for action should be addressed by different stakeholders in a multi-sectoral approach, including the development sector.
- n** Member States and regional organizations will integrate disaster risk reduction considerations into their sustainable development policy, planning and programming at all levels.
- n** Civil society, including volunteers and community-based organizations, the scientific community and the private sector are vital stakeholders in supporting the implementation of disaster risk reduction at all levels.
- n** While each Member State has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, an enabling regional environment is vital to stimulate and contribute to developing the knowledge, capacities and motivation needed to build disaster resilient nations and communities.

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Implementation and Follow-up

General considerations (continued)

- n All the Member States will be encouraged to apply a holistic approach and maintain consistency in programming and building multi-stakeholder partnerships at all levels, as appropriate, to contribute to the implementation of this Framework for Action.
- n Member States and other actors are encouraged to promote the strengthening or establishment of volunteer corps, which can be made available during disasters.

Specific considerations

- n Member countries shall develop their own plan of action for implementation of this framework.
- n The regional cooperation components of this framework shall be implemented by the concerned regional mechanisms.

Follow-up

- n SAARC Technical Committee Meeting on Environment and Forestry
- n SAARC Senior Officials Meeting Preceding the SAARC Environment Ministers' Meeting
- n Above meetings were held in Dhaka from 22-24 May 2006
- n Dr. Aslam Alam presented the framework to the above meetings
- n The meetings considered the draft framework one after another and recommended for adoption of the framework by the SAARC Environment Ministers' Meeting

Follow-up

SAARC Environment Ministers' Meeting

22-24 May 2006

- n Member states have been urged to prepare their own plans of actions for implementation of the SAARC framework and forward to the SAARC Secretariat by December 2006
- n Welcomed the offer of Bangladesh to host an Expert Group Meeting to harmonize national plans and formulate a regional plan of action

Follow-up

SAARC Expert Group Meeting on Disaster Management held in New Delhi from 1-2 June 2006

- n Finalized TOR for the SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC)
- n SDMC would be a vibrant centre of excellence for knowledge, research and capacity development on disaster management
- n Centre to have four divisions:
 - n Policy, planning and related issues
 - n Water and climate related disasters
 - n Geologically related disasters
 - n Biological and other human induced disasters

Way Forward

- n Preparation of National Plan of Action based on the SAARC Framework through stakeholder consultation
- n Harmonizing National Plan of Actions of SAARC countries
- n Drafting a Regional Plan of Action
- n Holding SAARC Expert Group Meeting in 2007 to adopt the Regional Plan of Action
- n Strengthening SAARC Meteorological Research Centre (SMRC)

Thank You Very Much