



## **Joint Statement of Local and Regional Governments to the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2024**

Thank you for the opportunity to take the floor. I am Governor Dakila Carlo Cua of Quirino Province, President of UCLG ASPAC and President of ULAP (Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines).

Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of local authority's major stakeholder group that convened yesterday at the Local and Regional Government Assembly, we local and regional governments are committed to enhancing evidence-based disaster and climate governance, strengthening collaboration with stakeholders and national governments, and implementation of local disaster risk reduction and climate action, and exploring alternative and innovative financing with following actions:

1. Develop and secure data infrastructure at the local level to effectively assess risks and vulnerabilities from climate change and disaster impacts.
2. Build capacity to adopt nature-based, sustainable, and tailor-made solutions to manage climate- and water-related disaster risks, particularly for vulnerable areas.
3. Collaborate with national governments and the private sector to invest in resilient infrastructure, including blue-green infrastructure, while enhancing cooperation to scale up DRR and climate financing.
4. Integrate gender-responsive planning, budgeting, and implementation in local disaster risk reduction and climate action.

We called upon national governments to:

- Ensure the accessibility and interoperability of risk, climate change, and disaster impact data systems across the different levels of government.
- Strengthen multi-level and multi-hazard risk governance by including local and regional governments and other stakeholders in national policymaking processes, and reduce barriers to community engagement.
- Provide financial assistance, technical support, and capacity development to empower local and regional governments in climate and disaster risk governance and sustainable resilience-building.
- Establish financing mechanisms that incentivise investments in resilient infrastructure including blue-green infrastructure, and promote innovative and accessible technologies and tools, and multi-hazard early warning systems.
- Facilitate access for local and regional governments to disaster risk and climate-related development cooperation and financing mechanisms.

To conclude this statement, we further encourage national governments (and other major stakeholders) to empower (strengthen cooperation with) local and regional governments in addressing the impact of climatic hazards by incentivising investment opportunities in resilient infrastructure and facilitating direct access to disaster risk and climate-related development cooperation and financing mobilisation.

Thank you and maraming salamat Po.