

Local and Regional Government Assembly

Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

14 October 2024, 10:00-16:00

Reception Hall Mezzanine, Philippine International Convention Center, Pasay City, Philippines

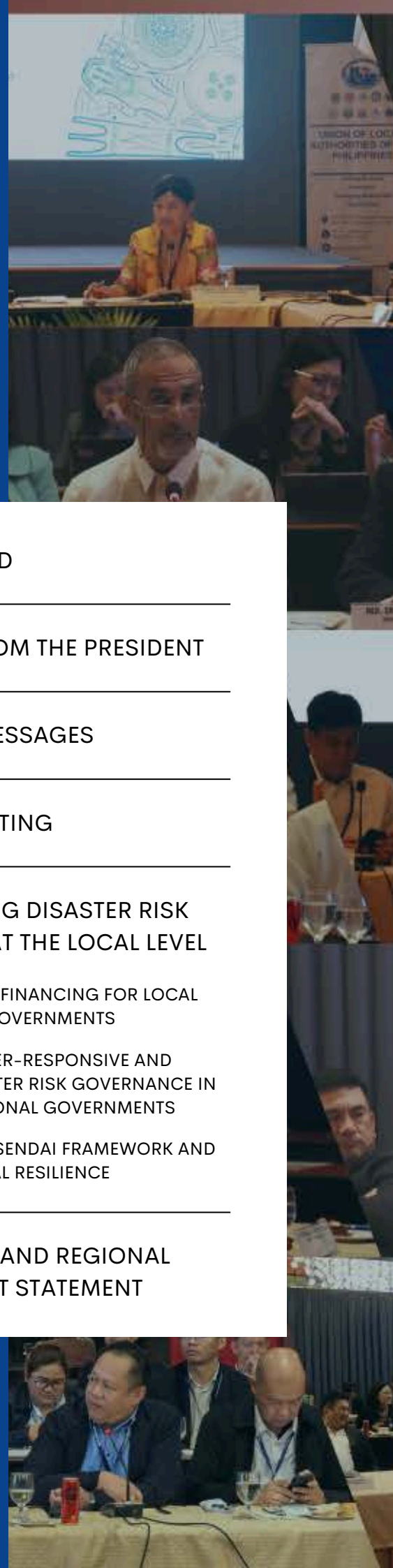




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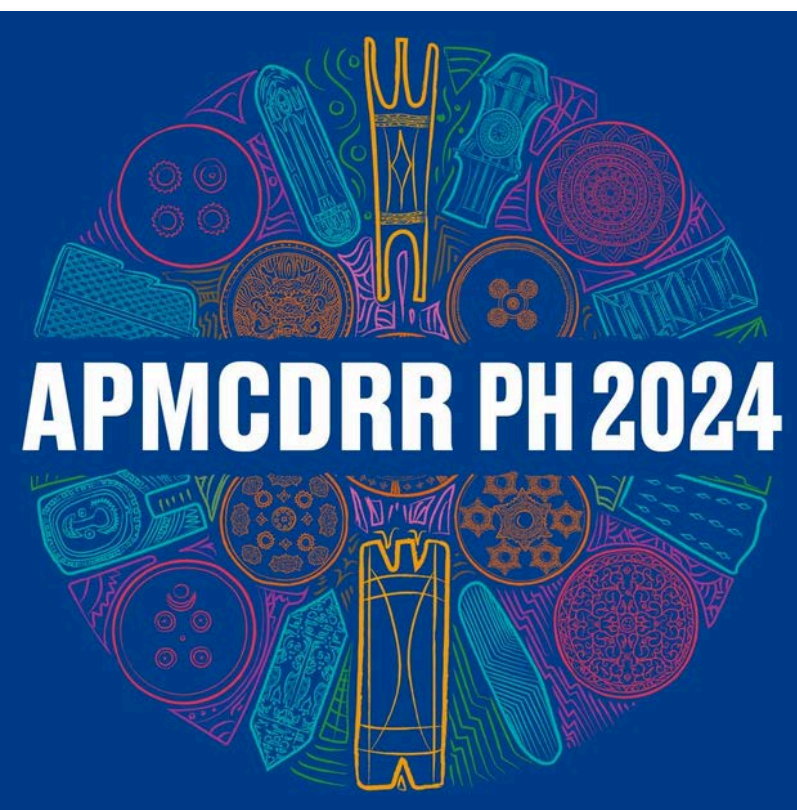


APLG

Local and Regional Government
Assembly

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Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2024



THE ASIA-PACIFIC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) 2024, co-organized by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the Government of the Philippines, took place from October 14 to 18, 2024, in Pasay City, Metro Manila. The conference was held under the theme **“Surge to 2030: Enhancing Ambition in Asia-Pacific to Accelerate Disaster Risk Reduction.”** The event focused on three main pillars: (1) Practical solutions to enhance disaster risk reduction financing, (2) Gender-responsive and inclusive disaster risk governance, ensuring no one is left behind, and (3) Strengthening both urban and rural resilience through localization. Additionally, four cross-cutting themes were emphasized throughout the discussions: (1) Advancing science, technology, and knowledge, (2) Promoting multi-stakeholder coordination and collaboration, (3) Fostering convergence and coherence across sectors, and (4) Ensuring full engagement of the private sector in disaster risk reduction efforts.

As part of APMCDRR, the Asia-Pacific Local Government Coordinating Body, in partnership with the United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC), organized the **Local and Regional Government Assembly**, a key pre-event dedicated to local authorities. This Assembly was hosted by the Department of the Interior and Local Government of the Philippines and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines. The objective of the Assembly was to review local and regional government actions aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and to consolidate a joint statement from local and regional governments to present at the APMCDRR. This platform provided an opportunity for local leaders to contribute their insights and reaffirm their commitment to disaster risk reduction and resilience-building in their respective communities.



WELCOME MESSAGES



HON. DAX CUA

President, UCLG ASPAC
President, ULAP
Governor, Quirino Province



HON. IMELDA CALIXTO RUBIANO

Mayor, Pasay City (Host City)



HON. JUANITO VICTOR REMULLA, JR.

Secretary, Department of
Interior and Local Government

In his welcome message, **Gov. Dakila Carlo Cua, President of UCLG ASPAC, President of ULAP, and Governor of Quirino Province**, emphasized that ***“it is at the local level where the first impact of a disaster is felt, and it is also where the most immediate and effective solutions must be deployed.”*** He stressed the urgent need to integrate disaster risk reduction and climate action, noting that these efforts cannot succeed without adequate support, capacity building, and financing for local governments. Mr. Cua highlighted that local governments play a critical role in mitigating disaster risks and ensuring sustainable climate adaptation, but they require more resources and stronger institutional capacities to meet these challenges effectively.

Hon. Imelda Calixto Rubiano, Mayor of Pasay City, underscored the city’s proactive approach to disaster risk reduction, stating, ***“We have worked hard to involve all stakeholders in our mission to safeguard progress while ensuring safety and resilience in our city.”*** She emphasized that Pasay City is developing efficient, modern, and innovative strategies to reduce and manage disaster risk. These efforts are exemplified by the initiatives of the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO), which spearheads local disaster preparedness and resilience-building activities.

Hon. Juanito Victor Remulla, Jr., Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, expressed his commitment to strengthening local governments’ capacities in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. ***“Through this Assembly, we hope to secure the commitment of all stakeholders to take decisive and urgent local actions on disaster risk reduction and management more swiftly,”*** he said. Secretary Remulla outlined several DILG initiatives, including Operation LISTO, a disaster preparedness manual for local governments; the Seal of Good Local Governance, which includes disaster preparedness as a key area of assessment; the Central Office Disaster Information Coordinating Center (DILG CODIX), which coordinates disaster risk reduction and management efforts with various agencies; and the Local Governance Summit, which prioritizes climate and disaster resilience as a central focus. These programs reflect DILG’s ongoing efforts to equip local governments with the tools and knowledge needed to effectively manage disaster risks and protect communities.



Local and Regional Government Assembly

CONTEXT SETTING

Mr. Marco Toscano-Rivalta, Chief of the UNDRR Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, emphasized that local realities should be at the heart of disaster risk reduction discussions, stating, “You are setting the tone for the conversations that will unfold over the next few days.” He outlined four key considerations to guide these discussions:

1. Climate variability manifests locally, making it crucial to address unique regional challenges.
2. Effective recovery and readiness require strong partnerships between central and local governments, as well as collaboration with local actors, including the private sector.
3. Strengthening early warning systems is essential for timely and effective disaster response.
4. Transforming the built environment is necessary to reduce vulnerabilities and enhance resilience.

Dr. Raditya Jati, Deputy Minister for System and Strategy at Indonesia's National Disaster Management Authority, echoed the importance of breaking down barriers to achieve sustainable development. “Achieving the SDGs will not be possible with a segmented approach. We must dismantle silos and transcend administrative boundaries,” he stressed, highlighting the need for partnerships and collaboration across sectors and levels of governance to build a safer and more resilient future for all.

These perspectives from Mr. Toscano-Rivalta and Dr. Jati set the stage for a deeper dialogue on the need for more adaptive, locally-driven approaches to disaster risk management, where local governments are not just implementers but strategic partners in shaping resilient futures.





ENHANCING DRR FINANCING FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

*ACCELERATING DISASTER RISK
REDUCTION AT THE LOCAL
LEVEL*





Enhancing DRR Financing for a Sustainable City

HON. MAR-LEN ABIGAIL BINAY

Mayor, Makati City

In her presentation titled “Enhancing DRR Financing for a Sustainable City,” Mayor Abby Binay outlined Makati City’s approach to strengthening disaster risk reduction (DRR) and financing strategies for resilience. She highlighted Makati’s commitment to integrating climate change adaptation and mitigation (CCAM) and disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) into local development plans, emphasizing a whole-of-society approach that involves all stakeholders in the city’s resilience journey.

Mayor Binay emphasized the use of the Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR 2030) tools in developing the city’s resilience roadmap. She noted that Makati’s planning processes are gender-responsive and people-centered, ensuring that DRR strategies are inclusive and balanced. An integral part of the city’s resilience strategy is the integration of Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET) into key city plans, such as the Comprehensive Development Plan, the Local Development Investment Program, and the Annual Program Review and Planning Workshop. This helps ensure that climate-related investments are prioritized within the city’s budgetary frameworks.



Additionally, Mayor Binay discussed the city's innovative partnerships with private sector entities, particularly in promoting sustainable infrastructure. She highlighted collaborations such as the partnership with KOICA for a smart transport system and the joint efforts with Makati Central Estate Association, Inc. (MACEA) and MERALCO to build electric vehicle (EV) charging stations throughout the city. These initiatives not only contribute to the city's climate goals but also promote sustainable urban mobility.

The presentation also introduced Makati's forward-thinking approach to climate finance, particularly the development of the Climate Insurance-Linked Resilient Infrastructure Financing (CILRIF) program, offering affordable long-term climate insurance for resilient infrastructure; a Loss and Damage Fund to address financial impacts from climate-related disasters; and Citywide Parametric Disaster Insurance, which provides rapid post-disaster financing for early recovery. She also emphasized the importance of partnerships with Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to ensure cities can access the necessary funding to build sustainable and resilient urban infrastructure, ensuring a comprehensive approach to disaster risk reduction and climate action.

Mayor Binay's presentation emphasized that collaboration between multilateral development banks (MDBs), local governments, and stakeholders is essential for unlocking cities' full potential in climate action. She underscored that understanding the unique needs of urban areas, facilitating direct access to finance, and supporting the development of sustainable, resilient, and equitable cities are key to making progress. Through innovative and targeted initiatives like those in Makati, cities can become dynamic hubs for climate resilience and disaster preparedness.

"I could not overemphasize the critical need for subnational governments to have direct access to the Loss and Damage Fund."



Enhancing Disaster Risk Reduction and CCA Financing, the Antipolo Experience

HON. CASIMIRO A. YNARES III, M.D.

Mayor, Antipolo City

Presented by Councilor Lorenzo Juan III Y. Sumulong, on behalf of Mr. Casimiro Ynares III, Mayor of Antipolo City, the city outlined its comprehensive approach to enhancing disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) financing. Councilor Sumulong emphasized the integration of key plans such as the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP), Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP), Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (LDRRMP), and Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP) to guide the city's development in a sustainable and resilient manner. Policies such as the use of solar-powered infrastructure, promotion of green and resilient development, and the enforcement of no-build zones reflect the city's commitment to reducing vulnerability. Antipolo City also incentivizes environmentally responsible businesses through its Investments and Incentives Code. Financing for these initiatives comes from a mix of local funds (including 20% development and 5% LDRRM funds), national government grants, and contributions from the private sector and civic organizations, such as reforestation efforts and flood mitigation projects. Collaborative projects like water holding tanks for flood mitigation and the Hinulugang Taktak Sewerage System further highlight the city's partnership with various sectors to build resilience.



Cotabato City: Enhancing DRR Financing, GEDSI, and Localizing the Sendai Framework

HON. BRUCE MATABALAO

Mayor, Cotabato City

In the presentation on Cotabato City's disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation efforts, the city was described as being highly vulnerable to various hazards, including flooding, earthquakes, tsunamis, and landslides. Cotabato's location, low elevation, proximity to fault lines, and challenges like climate change, water hyacinth buildup, and the presence of informal settlers in dangerous areas exacerbate these risks. The city has experienced increasing frequency and intensity of floods, most notably during Typhoon Paeng in 2022. To address these challenges, the city government adheres to its Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (LDRRMP), which aligns with national frameworks like the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The city allocates at least 5% of its national tax allotment to DRR, with 70% focused on prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and rehabilitation, and 30% reserved for disaster response via a Quick Response Fund. The city also seeks external funding from organizations such as USAID, JICA, and the Green Climate Fund to support major projects like flood control, urban drainage, and mangrove reforestation. Cotabato City's disaster risk reduction initiatives are also gender-responsive, incorporating a Gender and Development (GAD) plan to address the vulnerabilities of women and girls in disasters. The city recognizes climate change as a critical threat, requiring collective action, political leadership, and sufficient financing to implement effective DRR policies and programs. Major DRRM programmes that will be implemented include comprehensive urban drainage and sewerage master plan and feasibility studies, flood control project, river rehabilitation programme, mangrove nursery project, climate smart agriculture program, and mangrove and bamboo planting activities.



“Collective action, political leadership, and financing are vital necessities to respond to the challenges of implementing DRR policies, programmes, and activities.”





Borongan City: Enhancing DRR Funding

HON. JOSE IVAN DAYAN AGDA

Mayor, Borongan City

Mayor Jose Ivan Agda of Borongan City outlined the city's journey toward enhancing disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) funding. As the capital of Eastern Samar and home to over 70,000 residents, Borongan faces significant challenges due to its high vulnerability to natural hazards, including typhoons, earthquakes, tsunamis, and both coastal and riverine flooding. Over 60% of Borongan's land area is covered by forests, which the city aims to preserve, while also taking proactive steps to mitigate the impacts of climate change and natural disasters.

Mayor Agda emphasized that Borongan had previously struggled to access climate resilience funding but had since made notable strides through concerted efforts to improve governance, planning, and project management. One of the city's most significant achievements was securing PHP 118.86 million from the People's Survival Fund (PSF) to support the "Reinforcement of Lo-om River Flood Protection System and Redevelopment for Resilient Communities and Livelihood," which will benefit 11 barangays. This funding followed a series of consultations with stakeholders, including Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Conservation International, to ensure the project's effectiveness. The PSF grant was ceremonially turned over by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in November 2023, and in May 2024, the city signed the financing agreement with the Department of Finance (DOF) to begin project execution.



In addition to the PSF grant, Borongan City was one of two recipients in the Philippines, alongside San Francisco, Camotes, Cebu, of the Bloomberg Philanthropies' Youth Climate Action Fund, receiving USD 50,000. This funding was secured through the collaborative efforts of CRS, the city's youth leaders, and LGU staff, who collectively developed a proposal for climate action activities to be spearheaded by local youth. The grant announcement was made in April 2024.

Mayor Agda attributed the city's success in securing these funds to several key strategies. First, all proposals were rooted in a deep commitment to Borongan's people and their future, ensuring that each project addressed the real and pressing needs of the community. Second, the city actively promoted transparency, accountability, and good governance, which attracted talented individuals to join and contribute their expertise to the city's DRR and climate action initiatives. Third, Borongan involved a broad range of stakeholders, including civil society organizations and partners such as CRS, USAID, KOICA, the Rocky Mountain Institute, the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF), and the Galing Pook Foundation, to enhance project design and implementation.

Furthermore, Mayor Agda stressed the importance of establishing dedicated teams for project management and proposal development. Borongan's project management office, with the assistance of the city planning office and the mayor's office, led the city's efforts to secure funding. The mayor also highlighted that Borongan's commitment to initiating its own projects and advocating for climate resilience, even before securing external grants, demonstrated the city's seriousness and capacity to carry out large-scale initiatives.

*True good governance
and accountability can
defeat natural and man-
made disasters.*



Enhancing DRR Financing for Local and Regional Governments

DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL TSUYOSHI YUNOMURA

City Planning Policy Bureau, City of Sendai

Deputy Director General Tsuyoshi Yunomura of the City Planning Policy Bureau of Sendai City discussed the city's comprehensive approach to financing disaster risk reduction (DRR) initiatives. He began by reflecting on the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, which caused severe damage to Sendai's coastal areas, and expressed gratitude for international support in the city's recovery. As the namesake of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the city remains committed to building a disaster-resilient and environmentally friendly community. This effort involves three pillars: community building, human capacity building, and passing down the lessons learned from past disasters.

Mr. Yunomura highlighted Sendai's recent midterm review of the Sendai Framework, conducted in collaboration with Tohoku University. This review revealed an increase in climate-related disasters, such as floods and windstorms, prompting the city to prioritize infrastructure improvements, particularly drainage systems, to better manage these risks. He emphasized the importance of disaster statistics in ensuring effective DRR investment.



Realizing a Sustainable Society
as we accelerate the creation of a Disaster-Resilient and Environmentally-Friendly City

Uses for funds (example)

Project	Effects expected
Adaptation to the climate change [DRR measures for roads, and road improvements (or drainage performance and permeability) River improvement, measures against inundation DRR measures for green areas on steep slopes	During disasters such as floods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of secure and reliable transportation • Reduction of inundation • Prevention of landslide disasters and reduction of damages

River improvement and measures against inundation

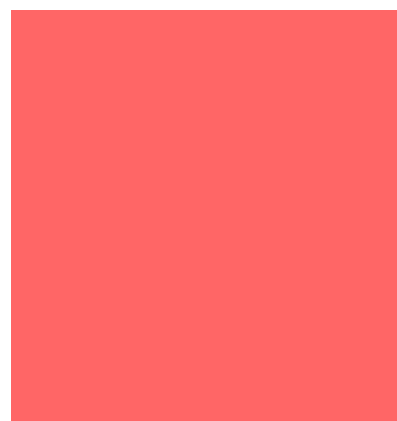


To assure security and safety in citizens' lives during times of heavy rainfall

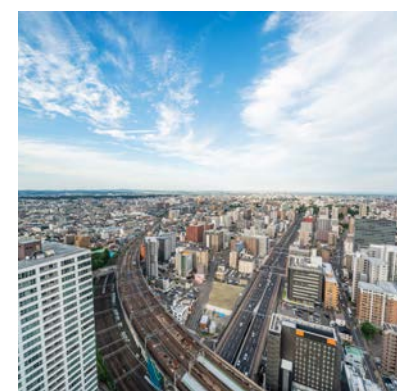


A key aspect of Sendai's DRR financing strategy is the issuance of Green Bonds, which started in 2022. These bonds raise funds for environmental projects, including infrastructure improvements to address heavy rainfall and flooding. Yunomura noted that the initiative not only supports decarbonization efforts but also allows citizens and businesses to contribute to achieving sustainable development goals, creating a disaster-resilient society.

Finally, Mr. Yunomura stressed the importance of cooperation agreements with the private sector, which have been instrumental in reducing the costs of disaster response and speeding up recovery efforts. Over 200 agreements have been signed with various organizations to assist in infrastructure restoration and the provision of essential services during disasters. He concluded by reaffirming Sendai's commitment to the "Build Back Better" principle and the city's ongoing efforts to strengthen its disaster resilience.



" Based on the idea of Build Back Better, we will continue to be steadfast in strengthening our disaster risk reduction policies. **"**



Enhancing Disaster Risk Reduction in the Province of Iloilo

HON. ARTHUR DEFENSOR JR.

Governor, Province of Iloilo

Police Colonel Cornelio R. Salinas (Ret.), Department Head of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) of Iloilo, representing Governor Defensor emphasized that “the success of any disaster risk reduction plan hinges on how well it is financed.” He explained that while traditional funding mechanisms remain important, they are often insufficient to fully address the growing challenges posed by climate change and increasing disaster risks. To bridge this gap, Iloilo Province is actively exploring non-traditional financing mechanisms that can provide more sustainable and responsive support for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate adaptation efforts.

One key approach that the province is considering is the implementation of disaster insurance schemes, which provide rapid financial relief in the aftermath of disasters, allowing for swift recovery and rebuilding efforts. Salinas highlighted that such schemes are particularly useful in areas highly vulnerable to natural hazards, where conventional funding mechanisms may be slow to mobilize or insufficient to cover the extensive damage caused by disasters. Additionally, Iloilo is seeking partnerships with multilateral institutions and international agencies to enhance its access to technical assistance, grants, and low-interest loans.

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The success of any disaster risk reduction plan hinges on how well it is financed.

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Interventions

During the discussion, Mr. Edgar Dayanghirang, Regional Director of the Office of Civil Defense in the Davao Region, raised a question about the level of attention and funding allocated to the prevention and mitigation pillar in disaster risk reduction efforts. In response, Mayor Abby Binay explained that while there are various infrastructure projects aimed at prevention, these initiatives are not limited to the 5% fund, which is primarily focused on disaster preparedness rather than long-term resiliency. Mr. Dayanghirang then asked whether it is possible to go beyond resilience by disaster- or typhoon-proofing government infrastructure. Mayor Binay acknowledged that achieving such climate-proofing requires strong political will and active cooperation from the community to ensure understanding and participation in these efforts.

Atty. Odilon Pasaraba, Undersecretary for Project Development Management at the Department of the Interior and Local Government, highlighted the broader importance of inclusive governance, noting that governance that prioritizes children benefits the entire population. Supporting this sentiment, Ms. Stephany Uy-Tan, Councilor of Catbalogan City, echoed Mayor Agda's call for local governments to take on a proactive role in assisting neighboring towns and cities during disasters. Mayor Agda emphasized that transparency in such inter-local government disaster responses is crucial, as assistance could otherwise be perceived as politically motivated.

Further contributing to the discussion, Undersecretary Marlo Iringan of the DILG pointed out that the allocation of resources for prevention efforts will naturally vary between cities, depending on their specific needs and conditions. Meanwhile, Governor Dakila Cua requested support from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) in providing information on cost-effective technologies that could aid in disaster risk reduction.

Ms. Violeta Seva, General Secretary of the Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative, suggested that the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines should promote a nationwide sign-up for local governments to join the Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative. In a related vein, Police Colonel Cornelio Salinas shared details about the Purok Resilience Programme, a socialized housing initiative designed to protect vulnerable communities from hazards such as landslides, typhoons, and storm surges. Lastly, Mayor Jose Ivan Agda of Borongan City requested negotiations on securing balanced premium rates for disaster insurance under the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) to make it more affordable for local governments.





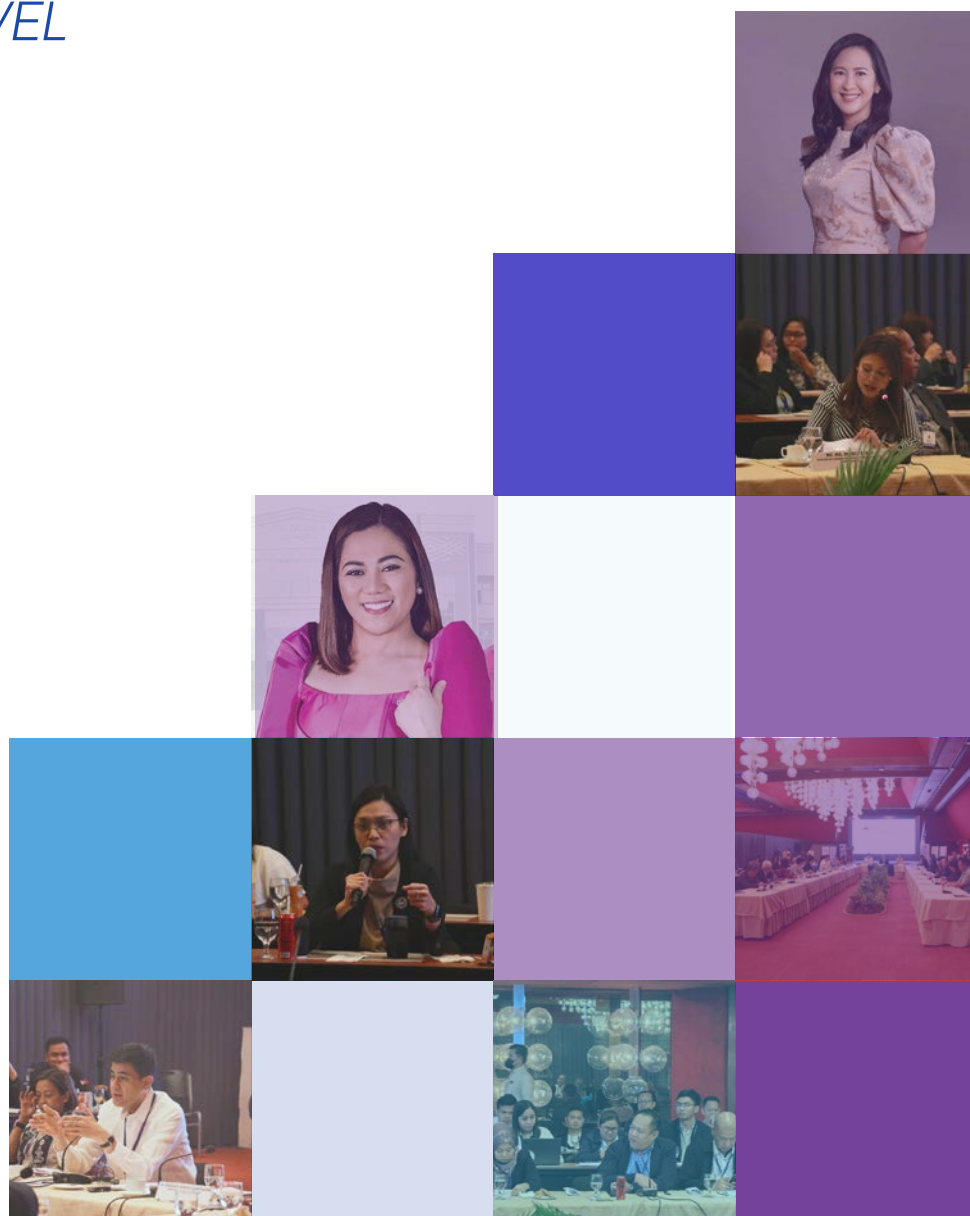
TJANDRADEWI
UCLC ASPAC

MR. JUNG-DAE AN
DEPUTY MAYOR FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS OF
ULSAN METRO-POLITAN CITY (SOUTH KOREA)



ENSURING GENDER-RESPONSIVE & INCLUSIVE DRR IN LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

ACCELERATING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL





HON. LOVELY REYNOSO

Mayor, Tayabas City

Mayor Lovely Reynoso of Tayabas City shared the city's efforts to align local disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) initiatives with national strategies under Republic Act No. 10121, the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010. Tayabas, a city known for its rich cultural heritage and historic Spanish colonial bridges, faces significant risks from natural hazards such as flooding due to its river systems, which are vulnerable to heavy rains and typhoons. Additionally, human-induced hazards, including fires and vehicular accidents, also pose challenges to the city.

Mayor Reynoso emphasized that Tayabas City allocates at least 5% of its revenue to the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (LDRRMF), as mandated by law, to support a wide array of local disaster management activities. The city's disaster preparedness is centered around key initiatives such as emergency response planning and community awareness campaigns. These campaigns include practical and annual drills for vehicular extrication, water search and swift water rescue training, and basic life support and first aid training to ensure readiness for emergencies. Incorporating science and technology is a crucial part of Tayabas City's strategy. The city has installed CCTV cameras in accident-prone areas to enhance its early warning system for vehicular incidents. This, combined with efforts to elevate climate adaptation measures and gender-responsive governance, ensures that the city's disaster risk management approach is inclusive and leaves no one behind. Mayor Reynoso also highlighted the importance of the city's response and recovery mechanisms, which include relief operations, evacuation plans, and emergency response teams ready to assist during disasters. Financial aid is also provided to affected individuals, ensuring that the city not only responds to disasters but also supports recovery efforts. In closing, the mayor reinforced the city's commitment to building a disaster-resilient community by strengthening the role of local authorities and integrating multi-hazard climate change adaptation strategies into its long-term planning.

Quezon City: Inclusive Disaster Risk Governance

HON. JOY BELMONTE-ALIMURUNG

Mayor, Quezon City

Mayor Belmonte was ably represented in the LRGA by Ms. Ma. Bianca Perez, Officer-In-Charge of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office of Quezon City. The city showcased its commitment to inclusive disaster risk governance and data-driven, community-centered strategies. As the largest city in the National Capital Region, with a population of 3.1 million and an area of 17,170 hectares, Quezon City faces numerous hazards, including frequent tropical cyclones, flooding from its four major rivers and 44 tributaries, an average of 100 residential fires annually, and the looming threat of a potential 7.2 magnitude earthquake due to the West Valley Fault. These vulnerabilities are exacerbated by climate change, which is projected to increase the city's maximum daily rainfall by 4.56% over the next 15 years.

Quezon City has taken significant steps to ensure that disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts are gender-responsive and inclusive. The city's DRR strategies focus on addressing the gendered impacts of calamities, with special attention given to vulnerable groups, including women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.





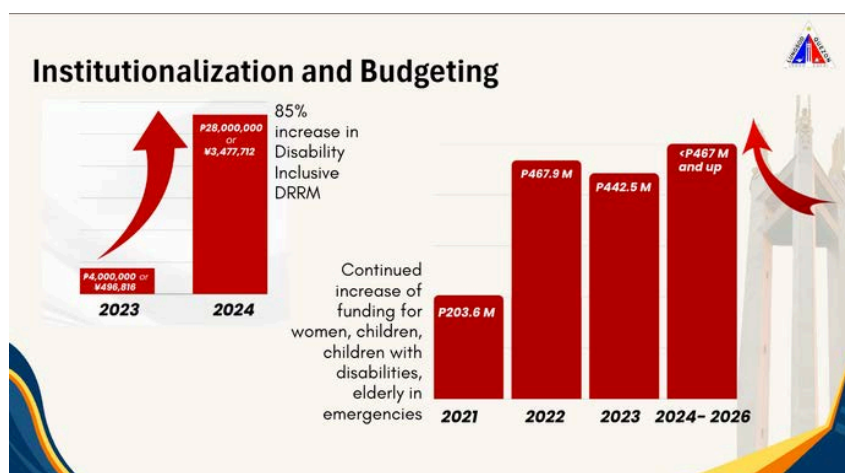
We honour our women by providing avenues to strengthen their self-agency and their capacity for leadership.



Key initiatives include providing health insurance for female personnel, community-driven campaigns across the city's 142 barangays, and forming the Quezon City Protection Cluster to ensure inclusive disaster response efforts. In response to calamities, the city has supported 20,927 displaced households with feminine hygiene supplies and created child-friendly spaces and maternal breastfeeding stations in evacuation centers. Additionally, the city operates a human milk bank to support breastfeeding mothers during emergencies.

Quezon City's disaster risk reduction efforts are also supported by strong institutional frameworks and financial commitments. The city has seen a continuous increase in DRR funding, particularly for programs benefiting women, children, people with disabilities, and the elderly. The budget allocated for disability-inclusive DRR initiatives has grown by 85%, and overall DRR funding has more than doubled from PHP 203.6 million in 2021 to PHP 467.9 million by 2022, with sustained funding increases projected through 2026.

The city's approach also emphasizes the importance of community participation, with 46,902 women—52% of all individuals trained since 2019—actively involved in DRR efforts. Women-led community savings groups have also been established to bolster resilience. The city's efforts in disaster risk management and climate adaptation are a testament to its goal of building an inclusive and resilient community, ensuring that no one is left behind in times of crisis.

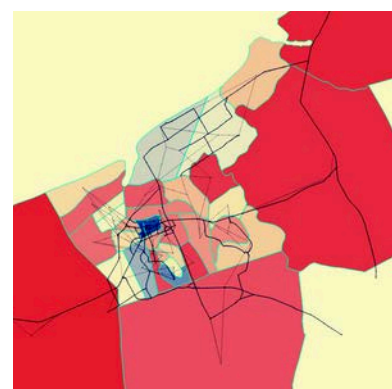




Interventions

Ms. Mona Liza Labitoria-Visperas, Disability Affairs Officer of San Miguel, Bulacan, expressed that the presentation offered a sense of hope for persons with disabilities, and she inquired about the availability of a manual that could be adopted by other local governments to enhance their disaster resilience efforts. In response, Ms. Perez explained that their initiative began with the Making Cities Resilient 2030 scorecard, specifically focusing on disaster resilience for persons with disabilities. By administering the scorecard, they identified significant gaps in accessibility, which led to a targeted increase in investments toward more inclusive disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies.

Mr. Juniel Tagarino, the DRRM Officer of Catbalogan City, also contributed to the discussion, highlighting how they actively engage stakeholders and collaborate with various civil society organizations (CSOs) and other partners to strengthen community resilience. This collaborative approach ensures that DRR strategies are inclusive and reflective of the needs of all members of the community, especially the most vulnerable.







LOCALISING THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK AND URBAN AND RURAL RESILIENCE

*ACCELERATING DISASTER RISK
REDUCTION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL*



Ulsan City's Disaster Resilience Enhancement Strategy: Regional Implementation of the Sendai Framework and Future Vision

HON. SUNG-DAE AN

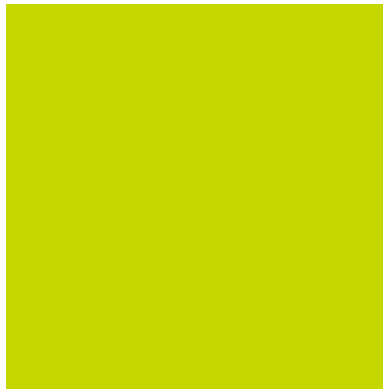
Deputy Mayor of Ulsan Metropolitan City

Deputy Mayor Sung-dae An of Ulsan Metropolitan City outlined Ulsan's comprehensive strategy for enhancing disaster resilience, focusing on the local implementation of the Sendai Framework and the city's future vision. Ulsan, a leading industrial city in South Korea with a population of 1.12 million, has not only become a hub for automobile manufacturing, shipbuilding, and petrochemical industries but also strives to integrate environmental sustainability into its urban development. The city is recognized for its efforts in restoring the Taehwa River and was certified as a Resilience Hub by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) in 2023, demonstrating its leadership in disaster risk management.

Deputy Mayor An highlighted how Ulsan has embraced the Sendai Framework's four priorities: understanding disaster risk, strengthening risk governance, investing in resilience, and enhancing disaster preparedness. Ulsan has developed an integrated disaster management system and formed collaborative networks with various stakeholders at local, national, and global levels. The city actively cooperates with the national government and international organizations, such as the UNDRR, to exchange knowledge and improve disaster response and recovery capacities.

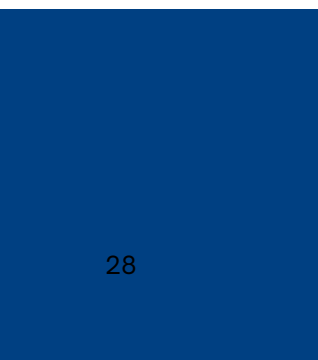
"The certification as a Resilience Hub by UNDRR recognises Ulsan's strong efforts to improve disaster resilience."





One of Ulsan's flagship initiatives is the issuance of Green Bonds to finance infrastructure projects aimed at climate adaptation, such as improving drainage systems and flood prevention measures. The city has also implemented a Digital Twin and Smart Integrated Control System, which uses artificial intelligence (AI) and data analytics to enhance disaster preparedness and response. Ulsan's focus on community participation is evident through disaster drills, citizen forums on climate adaptation, and collaborations with local businesses and civil society organizations to build a resilient community.

Ulsan's future vision includes expanding its leadership in disaster resilience by sharing its innovations and best practices globally, contributing to the global conversation on sustainable development and climate change adaptation. The city is committed to creating a harmonious balance between industrial growth, environmental preservation, and community safety. Through continued investment in smart technologies and international cooperation, Ulsan aims to become a global model city where industry, safety, and sustainability coexist.



LOCALISING THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK

HON. DATUK NORSHIDA BINTI IBRAHIM

Councilor, Segamat Municipal Council

Datuk Norshida Binti Ibrahim, Councilor of Segamat Municipal Council, outlined the city's localized efforts in implementing the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction. Segamat, a district in Malaysia frequently affected by river floods, has experienced significant disasters in 1991, 2006, 2011, and most recently in 2023. The presentation focused on the city's efforts to mitigate flood impacts and enhance post-flood recovery, underscoring the importance of community engagement, local governance, and infrastructure investment.

Datuk Norshida highlighted Segamat's ongoing challenges with river flooding, exacerbated by heavy rainfall during the North East Monsoon. She detailed the city's disaster management structure, which is coordinated by the District Disaster Management Committee under Malaysia's National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA). This committee ensures swift, organized responses to flooding, including rescue efforts, food distribution, and post-flood management. The establishment of a Post Flood Command Centre has been key to coordinating relief efforts centrally, improving the speed and effectiveness of recovery.





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Infrastructure investment certainly help in making sure that a city recovers quickly after disaster.

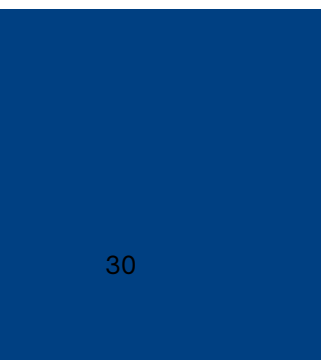
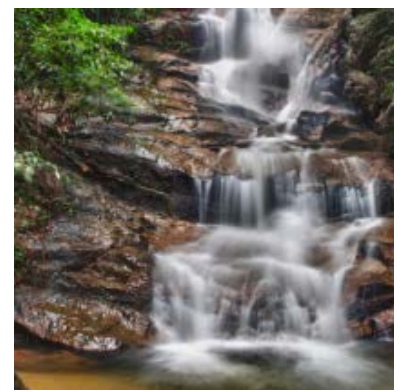
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Community engagement is a central pillar of Segamat's disaster resilience strategy. Initiatives include workshops, disaster response team formation, and awareness campaigns, all of which empower residents to take active roles in disaster preparedness. Strengthening local governance is also critical, with collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, and community leaders to promote policies that prioritize disaster resilience.

A crucial part of Segamat's resilience strategy is investing in infrastructure. The city has upgraded its drainage systems, strengthened building codes, and improved disaster evacuation centers by providing facilities like generators, toilets, and food supplies. Strict development control in flood-prone areas, especially along river riparian reserves, has also been enforced to minimize risk and protect residents from future flooding.

Datuk Norshida also emphasized the importance of early warning systems and real-time monitoring. By leveraging multi-hazard platforms like social media and public announcements, Segamat has been able to keep its residents informed during potential flood events. The integration of local flood alert systems, shared through platforms like Facebook, has proven effective in raising community awareness.

Moving forward, Datuk Norshida outlined several areas for improvement, such as enhancing food provision and sanitation at evacuation centers. She stressed that localizing the Sendai Framework in Segamat requires a multifaceted approach that combines community engagement, strong governance, and resilient infrastructure. By focusing on these key strategies, Segamat aims to build a disaster-resilient future and better prepare for potential disasters.



Interventions

Ms. Liza Velle Ramos, Head of the Research and Planning Division of DRRM in Makati, acknowledged Ulsan's role as a co-Resilience Hub in the Asia-Pacific region and commended Segamat's disaster resilience efforts. She encouraged participants to attend the Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR 2030) session at the Philippine Pavilion on 17 October at 10:30 AM, where discussions would focus on how Resilience Hubs can offer support to other local governments in the region. Additionally, she invited the Philippine delegation to the upcoming national consultation on the National DRRM Law, scheduled for 27-29 October 2024. Ms. Ramos also highlighted that Makati provides technical assistance, including coaching and mentoring, on the MCR 2030 scorecard to support other local governments.

Ms. Lilian De Leon, Assistant Secretary for International Relations at the Department of the Interior and Local Government, inquired about the importance of co-creation and co-management in implementing the Sendai Framework. In response, Deputy Mayor An of Ulsan emphasized the city's strong relationships with community organizations, which play a vital role in disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts.

Ms. Pamela Briones, Vice President of Stout Risk Reduction Management Training Services, raised concerns about bridging the gap with grassroots communities who may not be accustomed to the new technologies being introduced. Deputy Mayor An noted that in Korea, a significant number of people, even in the fishing and agricultural sectors, use smartphones. DRR messages are tailored to ensure they are easily understood by diverse recipients. Ms. Joyce Sy, Planning Officer of Makati, added that collaboration and adapting new technologies to local contexts are crucial. Meanwhile, Ms. Perez mentioned that incentivizing compliance with new technologies and engaging the youth in promoting these innovations have been effective strategies in technology adoption at the grassroots level.





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

We, leaders and representatives of local and regional governments in the Asia-Pacific region convened in Metro Manila, the Philippines for the Local and Regional Government Assembly on 14 October 2024, hosted by the Philippine Department of the Interior and Local Government and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, and the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) on 14 to 18 October 2024 under the theme "Surge to 2030: Enhancing ambition in Asia-Pacific to accelerate disaster risk reduction".

Reaffirmed our commitment to the actions outlined in the Local Authorities Stakeholder Group's Statement of Actions, as made during the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2016 and 2018, and the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2022.

Acknowledged the consultation process conducted by the United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC) as facilitator of the Asia-Pacific Local Government Coordinating Body (APLG) to consolidate the perspective of local and regional governments in the Asia-Pacific region. This process included survey, focus group discussion, and other activities.

Welcomed the adoption of the Asia-Pacific Action Plan 2024-2027 for Implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. We appreciated the opportunity provided by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNDRR ROAP) to contribute to the review process.

Recognised the synergies between, the urgencies in the implementation of, and the need to localise the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development.

Further committed to:

Priority 1 (Understanding disaster risk)

1. Develop and secure data infrastructure at the local level to effectively assess risks and vulnerabilities from climate change and disaster impacts.
2. Enhance collaboration and information sharing with stakeholders and the private sector to increase understanding of climate and disaster risk.

Priority 2 (Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk)

3. Institutionalise stakeholder engagement in local disaster risk reduction and climate policymaking and planning processes, ensuring representation and meaningful participation of communities and organisations.
4. Build capacity to adopt nature-based, sustainable, and tailor-made solutions to manage climate- and water-related disaster risks particularly for vulnerable areas.

Priority 3 (Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience)

5. 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.
6. Integrate gender-responsive planning, budgeting, and implementation in local disaster risk reduction and climate action.
7. Allocate financing for preparedness and anticipatory action, and disaster and climate resilience of various sectors, including the rehabilitation and recovery programme of the agriculture sector.
8. Explore alternative and innovative financing for disaster and climate resilience, such as disaster insurance and the loss and damage fund.

Priority 4 (Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction)

9. Enhance decentralised cooperation and knowledge exchange on disaster preparedness, climate action, and resilient infrastructure through relevant platforms and networks.

Called upon national governments to:

1. Ensure the accessibility and interoperability of risk, climate change, and disaster impact data systems across the different levels of government.
2. 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.
3. Provide financial assistance, technical support, and capacity development to empower local and regional governments in climate and disaster risk governance and sustainable resilience-building.
4. 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.
5. Strengthen the different sectors’ capacity, through a bottom-up approach involving women, children, youth, people with disabilities, and indigenous peoples, to address and adapt to disaster and climate change impacts.
6. Strengthen sustainable supply chain initiative supported by partnership, promoting public and private collaboration in response to disaster and climate change actions.
7. Facilitate access for local and regional governments to disaster risk and climate-related development cooperation and financing mechanisms.



Coordinator:



Members:



Partners:





**UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ASIA PACIFIC
ASIA PACIFIC LOCAL GOVERNMENT COORDINATING BODY
UNION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**