Summary of the 7th HDP Nexus Committee Meeting

28 October 2026 | 11:00 – 11:30 (China Time)

The 7th Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus Committee Meeting, chaired by Gyeonggi Province, was held on 28 October 2026 to discuss key priorities for advancing the HDP Nexus approach, strengthen international cooperation, and promote collaboration among member local governments.

The meeting focused on two main agenda items: the adoption of a **Joint Statement on inclusive international AI cooperation for the HDP Nexus** and **the appointment of a new Co-Chair**. Key speakers and participants also exchanged views on responsible AI and data governance, sustaining peace in border regions, and people-centered approaches to the HDP Nexus.

1. Key Outcomes and Decisions

1) Adoption of the Joint Statement on Advancing Inclusive International AI Cooperation for the HDP Nexus

- The Committee adopted the Joint Statement on Advancing Inclusive International AI Cooperation for the HDP Nexus, reaffirming the importance of leveraging AI and digital innovation to support humanitarian action, sustainable development, and peacebuilding.
- The Statement identifies **four key priorities**:
  - **Locally Responsive AI Applications**: Promoting AI solutions that address the specific needs and contexts of local communities.
  - **Capacity Building and Bridging the Digital Divide**: Strengthening digital capacities and promoting equitable access to AI technologies.
  - **Responsible AI Governance**: Advancing inclusive, transparent, and accountable approaches to AI governance.
  - **Collaborative Platforms**: Encouraging international cooperation and knowledge-sharing among local governments and relevant stakeholders.

2) Appointment of a New Co-Chair

- The Committee appointed **Ms. Hemanthi Goonasekera as its new Co-Chair** following a transparent selection process. This appointment aims to ensure operational continuity and strengthen the Committee's leadership and coordination.

2. Key Discussion Highlights

1) Responsible AI and Data Governance

- Key speakers and participants highlighted the potential of AI to enhance early warning systems and facilitate more targeted humanitarian assistance. At the same time, they emphasized the importance of strengthening local data governance, ensuring inclusivity, and establishing appropriate safeguards to ensure that vulnerable populations are not left behind.

2) Sustaining Peace in Border Regions

- Key speakers and participants emphasized that economic exchange alone is insufficient to achieve lasting peace in border regions. The discussion highlighted five key considerations: Relationality, Memory, Co-ownership, Inclusion, and Sustainability.

3) Advancing a People-Centered HDP Nexus Approach

- Participants reaffirmed that HDP Nexus initiatives should translate into tangible improvements in people's lives. Particular emphasis was placed on improving livelihoods, expanding economic opportunities, and strengthening public services for affected communities.

3. Way Forward

The Committee identified the following priorities for continued collaboration and follow-up:

- **Implementation of the Joint Statement:** Promoting follow-up activities and initiatives aligned with the four priorities of the adopted statement on inclusive international AI cooperation.
- **Knowledge Exchange and Peer Learning**: Expanding opportunities for knowledge-sharing and peer learning among member local governments to exchange experiences and good practices.
- **Member-Led Project Development**: Encouraging member local governments to develop and propose collaborative projects to advance the HDP Nexus approach.
- **Strategic Leadership and Coordination**: The Gyeonggi Province will continue to provide strategic leadership in close partnership with the UCLG ASPAC Secretariat to strengthen the Committee's activities and ensure effective follow-up.