

**Joint Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) Statement  
for the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction  
(AMCDRR)  
3-6 July, 2018, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**

We, the Asia Pacific Faith-based Coalition for sustainable development (APFC), a regional coalition and all member organizations have a regional presence in the Asia- Pacific Region. We are a learning, sharing and action-oriented coalition of FBOs of different faiths committed to sustainable development.

At the core of the mission of FBOs is to address the root causes of vulnerabilities and to bring hope and well-being to the communities at the margins of societies. Our work embeds us in communities-at-risk.

FBOs are deeply rooted in our communities and nations, with a unique reach to poor and vulnerable people through their development, humanitarian, diaconal and spiritual action. FBOs are present in remote and hard-to-reach areas, where sometimes no other institutions work. This, in combination with their vast experience in development and humanitarian work, provides FBOs with a unique understanding of the needs and capacities of the poor and the marginalized. This is an asset for the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) implementation with a strong focus on reducing the risk and protection gaps among the most vulnerable.

Faith-based groups have been playing a crucial role in the localization of risk reduction, resilience building and humanitarian action. They are always among the first responders in emergencies, providing shelter during evacuation and meeting other basic needs (i.e. food, water, clothing) of those affected. They have been sources of community-based and managed social capital for healing and recovery. Furthermore, FBOs are contributing substantial material, financial and social resources for risk prevention, reduction and humanitarian action worldwide, particularly in Asia.

FBOs can complement other aid sectors' activity at the grassroots level, contributing as a vector to localize humanitarian response and preparedness, as well as enhance mainstreaming of risk reduction and response preparedness measures in development programming.

In order to support the effectiveness of SFDRR implementation in Asia and The Pacific region, we, the Asia Pacific Faith Coalition, call on all governments and partners to:

1. Support the meaningful and substantive engagement of FBOs and Local Faith Communities (LFCs) in SFDRR processes to provide the opportunity to reach the most at-risk communities, even in remote conditions, and engage them in resilience-building and decision-making processes.
2. Collaborate with FBOs and LFCs and use their capacity to communicate to local communities to raise the level of understanding and awareness on and investments in DRR and climate change. so as to avoid losses and damage in lives and assets.

3. Involve FBOs and LFCs at all levels (international, national and local levels) to help monitor DRR impact at household and community levels based on the set of SFDRR indicators and Asia Regional Plan for implementation of SFDRR for purposes of better risk governance.
4. Use and encourage the collaborative networks of LFCs/FBOs across the region to respond to the causes and impacts of disasters and climate change by raising investments for resilience at local, national, regional, and global levels.
5. Allocate resources to FBOs and LFCs to develop and implement DRR measures, both in terms of risk mapping, prevention/mitigation and resilience building projects/activities, as well as preparedness activities and early action against disasters.
6. Engage and support FBOs in relief and post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation to galvanize local humanitarian response / preparedness and to facilitate effective and efficient initiatives that will enable communities to BUILD BACK BETTER.
7. Recognize the value of empowerment in enhancing social capital and social safety nets in addressing climate and disaster-related risks and the role of LFCs for such enhancement. Investing in entitlements that affirm human rights and dignity is key to reducing vulnerabilities to evolving and powerful natural and human-induced hazards humanity now faces.
8. Strengthen the synergy between the implementation of the SFDRR, the Paris Climate Agreement, the WHS Commitments to Action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by giving priority to vulnerability reduction and resilience building and affirm the importance of implementing these frameworks in a manner that is inclusive, ambitious, equitable, gender sensitive and human rights based.
9. Address root causes of vulnerabilities such as socio-economic inequality and exclusion through public and private sectors' investment in risk prevention and reduction, resilience, and sustainable development.
10. Provide the enabling environment for innovations, policy dialogues, and the access to technologies that address practical and strategic climate and disaster-related risks like water security in the face of droughts and slow-onset hazards and displacement and loss and damage of economic and non-economic assets due to rapid onset events affecting Asia-Pacific.

Members of APFC:

- Action by Churches Together Alliance (ACT Alliance)
- Arigatou International
- Islamic Relief Worldwide
- Soka Gakkai International (SGI)
- World Vision International

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