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THE 10th ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Agenda item 5: Review of regional progress and opportunities for achieving
the SDGs - Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at
the subregional level.**

29 March 2023, 14:00 – 15:30, Video Conference

Q1. Can you share what are some of the initiatives by ASEAN that build resilience against future risks?

Esteemed panelists, ladies and gentlemen,

1. Good afternoon, First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) for organizing the 10th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development. It is my utmost pleasure to represent the ASEAN Secretariat and speak here today in this forum, particularly in this roundtable discussion on **review of regional progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and opportunities for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals**. I believe our discussion today is very important as it covers topics related to climate change action, building resilience against catastrophic risks, and reforms to address imbalances in the global financial system. Allow me to share best practices based on ASEAN's experience in building resilience to disasters in the region to highlight its relevance to SDG 11 and 17.

Ladies and gentlemen,

2. Southeast Asia is one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world. Countries in this region are not only dealing with fast-onset hazards such as floods, storms, and typhons, but also dealing with slow-onset hazards such as droughts. In recent years, our region faces new challenges as the ever-changing landscape of disasters risks has become even more complex. Climate change is also projected to increase disasters' frequency and intensity in the region.
3. Therefore, it is essential for ASEAN to continue enhancing our regional mechanisms for cooperation, coordination, technical assistance, and resource mobilization in all aspects of disaster management. We are glad to share with you that ASEAN has adopted the **ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)** in 2009 to ensure coherent strategies in dealing with disasters and build community resilience. The **ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM)** is in charge of for the achievement AADMER's of Priority Programmes. Furthermore, we also agree to strengthen regional capability

to adapt and recover from multi-hazards through the implementation of the **Strategic and Holistic Initiative to Link ASEAN Responses to Emergencies and Disasters (ASEAN SHIELD)**, which is a strategic, holistic, cross-sectoral, and coordinated approach. Which aims to ensure ASEAN's collective, rapid, effective, and timely response in mitigating the impacts of disasters affecting the region. In the spirit of the whole-of-ASEAN approach to disaster management, the **ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM)** reaffirmed its resolve to strengthen collaboration in building disaster resilience in the region.

4. Moreover, responding to the growing threat of climate change and evolving of risk landscape, we have launched the **ASEAN Framework on Anticipatory Action in Disaster Management**. This Framework provides guidance for defining and contextualizing Anticipatory Action at the regional level. This will help to ensure that early warnings are reliably translated into effective Anticipatory Action to reduce the impacts of disasters in the region.
5. In order to guide our work, we formulate the **AADMER Work Programme (AWP)**, every 5 years, to guide the ACDM. Our AWP 2021-2025 is also aligned with SDGs, particularly SDG 1, 11, 13 and 17, which reiterates our commitment and support in addressing the most pressing global challenges. The current AWP covers five (5) priority programmes:

On **Risk Assessment and Monitoring (RAM)**, Several key programmes including:

- **Disaster Monitoring and Response System (DMRS)** by AHA Centre;
- **Resilient Cities**, providing practical measures for local government and relevant institutions in reducing local risks and mainstreaming DRR in urban planning and development plans; this will contribute to SDG 11 on cities resilience.
- **Various reports on climate change**;
- **ASEAN-UNESCAP Project on Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Strengthening of Adaptation to Drought**, to strengthen regional cooperation in provision of data, drought risk assessment, and strengthening multi-stakeholder cooperation.

On **Prevention and Mitigation (P&M)**

- We are conducting **Transboundary Disaster Risk Assessment and Scenario Planning for Tropical Cyclone and Droughts in the ASEAN Region**.

Preparedness and Response (PRR)

- We realized that no country can single handedly address disasters alone. For that reason, we signed the **One ASEAN, One Response** Declaration which guides ASEAN's disaster management coordination and response, in which AHA Centre serves as the operational engine.

Key programmes in PRR include:

- **ASEAN-Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT)**, which is a rapidly deployable response team to support the AMS during major sudden and slow onset disasters. Moreover, we have also launched **the Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA)** focuses on three (3) main elements which are regional emergency stockpiles, institutional capacity building, and communication and awareness.

Resilient Recovery (RR)

- ASEAN is no strangers to large-scale disasters that necessitate long-term recovery plans and extend far beyond emergency phase. We have just published a **Report on Assessment of ASEAN's Current Recovery Capacities**, which assess our past experience from the Indian Ocean Tsunami (2004), Typhoon Nargis (2008), Typhoon Haiyan (2013), and Palu Earthquake and Tsunami (2018) as well as reconstruction of the ASEAN Village.

Global Leadership (GL)

- Finally, to strengthen our ASEAN Vision to be a global leader in Disaster Management, ASEAN will conduct the 1st ASEAN Disaster Resilience Forum (ADRF) which will provide an avenue for ASEAN and non-ASEAN stakeholders to discuss topics related to disaster resilience in the region.

Q2 What initiatives can be taken forward across the subregions or areas of collaboration that can help enhance preparedness to catastrophic risks and that ESCAP can possibly support?

1. We have acknowledged that Anticipatory Action is a growing area of disaster management. Therefore, initiatives that can be taken forward across the subregions could be related to the strengthening of Early Warning Systems (EWS) as outlined in Priority Programme 1 of AWP 2021-2015. We are also taking into account the four (4) elements of end-to-end, people-centered early warning systems which are coined by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) which are: **i) disaster risk knowledge; ii) warning dissemination and communication; iii) detection, monitoring, analysis, and forecasting of the hazards and possible consequences; and iv) preparedness and response capabilities**. Initiatives in EWS would be very beneficial for not only for ASEAN countries, but also other countries across the globe. Because if we are able to forecast disasters, it would generate crucial information that enables at-risk individuals and communities to prepare and act appropriately, minimizing the impacts of disasters. The ASEAN region is very prone to typhoons, droughts frequency and severity have also been increased in the region. Therefore, other initiative could be in the form of enhanced risk assessment on typhoons and droughts. In order to achieve success in this area, we realize that there is a need for partnership and collaboration between stakeholders.

Esteemed participants, ladies and gentlemen,

2. This is where SDG 17 that stresses global partnership becomes very important. The importance of partnership is also stipulated in the **ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management**. We value partnership as it would leverage our capability in addressing issues related to disasters in our region. **ASEAN Joint Statement on Strengthening Resilience to Disasters for the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction** also stresses the importance of forging stronger partnerships and collaboration with dialogue partners, sectoral dialogue partners, development partners, AADMER Partnership Group, multilateral financial institutions, think tanks

and academia, as well as UN Agencies. Strong partnerships with partners and friends are essential in enhancing disaster resilience in the region.

3. In this occasion, we would like to particularly appreciate continued support and contribution provided by UNESCAP in strengthening disaster management in the region. Together, ASEAN and UNESCAP have published the joint study **Ready for the Dry Years: Building Resilience to Drought in South-East Asia**. The development of the **ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for Adaptation to Drought (ARPA-AD)** was also developed with the support of UNESCAP. There are Implementation Plan and Nine (9) Actions that need to be implemented related to **i) risk, impact and vulnerability assessment; ii) early warning system, preparedness and planning; iii) adaptation actions; iv) response and recovery; v) strengthening coordination between ASEAN Sectoral Bodies; vi) partnership and collaboration with non-ASEAN partners; vii) capacity-building/enhancement; viii) data sharing and dissemination; ix) monitoring and evaluation.**
4. Finally, we would like to inform the participants that we will organize the ASEAN Disaster Management Week (ADMW), on 21-24 August 2023 in Singapore. ADMW will consist of several events including ASEAN-Interregional Dialogues in Disaster Resilience (AIDRR) and ADRF which provides an avenue for ASEAN and non-ASEAN stakeholders to discuss topics related to disaster resilience in the region. We would very much appreciate if UNESCAP is willing to participate and become part of this event. We look forward to more collaboration with UNESCAP. This is also an invitation to the distinguished participants in this session.
5. Thank you very much.