Brief Statement

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
as member of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management **(APDIM)**

Introduction:

Bangladesh is ranked as one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. People in Bangladesh are often affected by number of natural disasters, including floods, drought, salinity intrusion, cold wave, riverbank erosion and thunderstorm. Bangladesh is a global hotspot for tropical cyclones and the country faces it once or more in each year. The destructive impact will generally be greater when storm surges are accompanied by strong winds and large onshore waves. The Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) Delta at the north of the Bay of Bengal, characterized by a number of livelihood opportunities resulting from high population density, as well as a number of biophysical and socio-economic challenges (flooding, erosion, cyclones, salinization, water logging, etc.) which are increasing alongside the changing climate and anthropogenic activities/developments. Freshwater flooding is a common occurrence in the delta during the monsoon reflecting the strong seasonal regional climate and monsoon river flows of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna Rivers, its low-lying nature and its position at the north of the Bay of Bengal. Moreover Bangladesh is possibly one of the countries, most vulnerable to potential earthquake threat and damage and given its geographical location in the seismically active region. The adverse impacts of all the natural and man-made hazard/disasters affecting socioeconomic condition need to be reduced for sustainable development. The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has been maintaining a strong pace in its development efforts towards the middle income and also developed country by the year 2041. However, GoB's continual efforts and aspiration articulated in the Vision 2021 and Vision 2041 are challenged by the increased frequency of disasters and again by the recent Covid-19 global pandemic. However, globally Bangladesh is widely regarded as the 'Role Model' for disaster and climate risk management. Since the independence of the country and with able leadership of the government, the institutional structure and policy instruments are well-established to support the country's efforts in disaster management.

The Vision:

The disaster management vision of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is to reduce the risk of people, especially the poor and the disadvantaged, from the effects of natural, environment and human induced hazards to a manageable and acceptable humanitarian level and to have in place an efficient emergency response management system.

The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) has been given the mandate to drive national risk reduction reform programs. Its mission relative to this agenda is to achieve a paradigm shift in disaster management from conventional response and relief to a more comprehensive risk reduction culture, and to promote food security as an important factor in ensuring the resilience of communities to hazards. To strengthen the capabilities and capacities of responders and its organizations in the fields of disaster information management and disaster risk reduction and implementation, the Ministry of disaster management is working hard to reach its mandated target and goal.

Scope to work with APDIM:

APDIM has been delivering its service on Disaster Risk Information Management in Asia and the Pacific to the develop capacities and to enhance collaboration in this region. As Bangladesh is widely regarded as the 'Role Model' for disaster and climate risk management, there is ample scope to enhance collaboration with APDIM in this field, especially for technical support to facilitate the sharing of data of disaster risk governance and disaster risk information management. We have national data portal on disaster hazard and risk information. However Bangladesh beliefs that there should have been a regional risk data platform to host data and information at the regional level to support risk-informed decision making. Bangladesh also beliefs that effective collaboration between regional scientists, organizations and Government for application of risk data processes, analytics, and its usages is very important.

As the main objective of the APDIM is to reduce the risks, losses and damages resulting from natural hazards by developing the capacities and capabilities of the countries and organizations of the region and strengthening regional cooperation on information sharing and management of disaster risk reduction, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh will always be with the center.

Commitments:

We commit that the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh will encourage the United Nations and other international organizations and agencies like APDIM to provide its continuous support to the centre and cooperate in achieving its objectives and the implementation of its programs.

We also commit that, we will take all the necessary measures to ensure that the performance of the APDIM and the continuation of operations of the centre as a regional institution to be a great interest of Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

We will always be with the Centre for its program to apply a multi-hazard approach with a focus on earthquake, tsunamis, floods, cyclones/typhoons and drought as the main hazards of this region.

As globally Bangladesh is widely regarded as the 'Role Model' for disaster and climate risk management, we hope that we will be a prominent member to the Governing Council of APDIM