

Sri Lanka

Colombo Declaration of Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Disaster Risk Reduction: 2020

News and Press Release

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Promoting the accessibility and application of science, technology, and research for enhanced multi-hazard early warning and disaster risk reduction, and supporting implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction towards 2030

We, the Disaster Management Centre of the State Ministry of National Security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management, with other disaster risk reduction related Ministries and Technical

and Disaster Management, with other disaster risk reduction related ministries and technical Agencies of the Government of Sri Lanka, together with other national and international key stakeholders and participating delegates responsible for disaster risk reduction, having met in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 14th – 16th December 2020, at the International Symposium on Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Disaster Risk Reduction:

1. Express deep concern at the growing frequency and intensity of extreme weather and climate-related challenges, and their continuing impact of disasters, resulting in an unacceptable loss of human lives and livelihoods, displacement of people, and environmental and economic damages;
2. Recognise the need to strengthen and mainstream the inclusion of research, science, and technology applications in disaster risk reduction and build a community of practice consisting of multiple disciplines;
3. Stress the need to focus on developing a holistic understanding of societal challenges, risks and drivers, including poverty, climate change, loss of protective eco-systems and biodiversity, rapid urbanisation and unplanned development in hazard prone areas, socio-economic inequalities, and population growth, along with their interactions;
4. Underline the need to build resilience against all hazards, including emerging and unforeseen hazards such as biological, human-animal transfers of diseases, hormones and microplastics, while paying attention to adopt nature based solutions combined with engineering applications;
5. Recognise the importance of ensuring coherence among the global frameworks such as the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR), and the New Urban Agenda, among others and their effective implementation at the national, subnational and local levels through evidence-based multi-stakeholder partnership approaches;
6. Renew our commitment to ensure continuity of the work in the field of disaster risk reduction;
7. Recognise the need for a ‘whole society’ approach, welcoming the vital role played by all stakeholder groups as enablers, partnering with governments and communities, and work towards research-informed and evidence-based implementation of the SFDRR.

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