

# UNESCAP - Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue

## From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015

UN-ESCAP / Bangkok / 26-28 August 2013

### IFRC Statement

**Mr. Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,**

It is an honour to be with you here today, to partake in the ongoing discussions around the UN development Agenda beyond 2015.

I would like to express my gratitude for the valuable input provided by the many delegates these last days.

It is furthermore, my pleasure, as IFRC Representative, to take this opportunity to share with you the perspective of the Asia Pacific NS, as members of the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies, regarding the post-2015 agenda.

Since the meetings at Rio+20, Red Cross Red Crescent Societies have been contributing to the design process of the next generation of Millennium Development Goals.

Across the globe, our members, our Red Cross Red Crescent Societies in your countries are working at a national level as auxiliary to their Governments to influence this process.

Collectively, we wish to see that the development process is owned by, and carried out by people themselves. It is our vision that the post-2015 development agenda takes into account the needs and rights of the most vulnerable – considering social protection and inclusion of the marginalized and/or disadvantaged groups including



migrants, disabled, women and children - as we set targets and indicators.

We also hope that the outcomes of the Hyogo Framework review are also taken into consideration.

The IFRC is particularly concerned about reducing risks through strengthening community resilience, food security, healthier lives, and water and sanitation.

Given our mandate, today I will take the opportunity to highlight the importance of focusing on reducing risk.

The negative impact of disasters on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and development gains has been broadly recognized. We believe that disaster management must be included in the post-2015 agenda; we can no longer treat disasters as an “externality” to development.

The IFRC advocates that the existing inequalities in the impact of disasters must also be addressed; in this region alone there is a wide range of capacities in the ability of states and civil society to cope with disasters.

The most vulnerable in our respective communities are thus disproportionately affected, since they often have the least amount of access to social protection and insurance. We are doing our best to complement the efforts of our local authorities in this regard, but more support is needed.

As part of this, we hope that we can empower vulnerable communities through awareness and education on risk reduction, and also support adaptation to climate change in order to provide coping strategies for affected people at a local level.

In closing, Mr. Chair, I would like first congratulate the Government of Thailand as member of the Open Working Group and ESCAP Office for organizing both the Asia Pacific Civil Society Consultation meeting, and for this important AP Ministerial Dialogue.

We were pleased in this CSO consultation meeting to have our Myanmar RC President voicing the opinion of our Asia-Pacific Members.

We wish to encourage Governments to involve our member Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in the national dialogue about this process.

I hope that the reflections and concerns I addressed here today, on behalf of the IFRC, can be taken into consideration as we move forward.

**Thank you.**

**For further information, please contact:**

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