

DRAFT Discussion Paper

The Role of the ISDR Asia Partnership within the Asia Regional Platform on DRR

- For the Discussion of IAP Members on 1 December 2008 and 23 March 2009 -

1. Introduction:

This paper was prepared to inform a discussion amongst the members of the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) on its current and future roles. This discussion will take place on 1st December 2008 in Kuala Lumpur in the form of a pre-conference event to the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

The paper explores in particular the role of the IAP in support of the Asia Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (Asia RP/DRR) and the Asia Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Reduction (AMC-DRR). Further to this, it investigates how the IAP could evolve into a more action-oriented and predictable provider of coordinated disaster risk reduction support in the Asia region. It also summarizes the main activities pursued under the auspices of the IAP in the past year.

The preparatory process for the 3rd AMC-DRR, and the associated need to review progress achieved since the 2nd AMC-DRR, generated over the past months repeated discussions amongst IAP members on how the partnership could be strengthened to support the Asia RP more effectively, and predictably. From these discussions, it became apparent that limiting its support to only two of the five functions of the Asia RP/DRR - as the IAP had initially set out to do - would not allow the necessary regional follow-up to the recommendations of the AMC-DRR and national level HFA implementation. It was therefore suggested at the last meeting of the IAP in Kuala Lumpur, in September 2007 that UNISDR prepares a discussion paper describing in greater detail the potential role of the IAP vis-à-vis the Asia RP/DRR. The paper is also expected to help clarify the organizational form of the RP, which currently heavily leans on the AMC-DRR that does not have a formal implementation mechanism attached to it ensuring implementation of its recommendations.

2. Overview:

By taking into consideration recent external and internal developments that are of relevance to the IAP and the Asia RP/DRR, it is proposed that the IAP takes responsibility for a number of additional roles. These new IAP roles are directly related to the core functions of the Asia RP and considered to be the minimum requirements for ensuring the Asia RP/DRR mechanism successfully achieves its overall objectives and the functions which it had been assigned with by the 2nd AMC-DRR, namely: to set harmonized sub-regional and regional DRM strategies including analysis of priorities in support of national DRM efforts; to identify gaps in the delivery of DRR services within the broader context of a regional disaster risk profile and

channel financial resources to these gap areas; and last but not least to advocate for DRR and build regional ownership for the HFA and the global ISDR system.

The proposed roles of the IAP in support of the Asia RP/DRR – in brief:

(a) Supporting the political leadership of the Asia RP/DRR through the identification of policy priorities for the region and ensuring the visibility of regional issues at the global level. The concrete IAP engagement will include:

- The preparatory process for the AMC-DRR;
- The preparatory process for the Global Platform on DRR; and
- The setting of regional DRR strategy.

(b) Supporting the biennial HFA progress reporting process of the ISDR system. The concrete IAP engagement will include:

- Regional progress monitoring and assisting with the reviews of the action taken by the national governments and other stakeholders for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;
- Monitoring the Implementation of AMC-DRR Recommendations.

(c) Improving coordination & coherence, and strengthening synergies through information sharing and mapping of initiatives. The concrete IAP engagement will include:

- Regional mapping and stocktaking of DRR initiatives in Asia and Pacific

(d) Enhancing regional cooperation for disaster risk reduction by aligning regional initiatives to meet gaps at country level. The concrete IAP engagement will include:

- Joint Regional Action Planning for DRR
- Alignment of Regional DRR Meetings

A more detailed description of these roles can be found in the subsequent sections of this paper. At this stage they are mere suggestions and may be revised, based on further inputs and feed-back from IAP members. Taking on these additional roles may require changes to the organizational status of the IAP, another issue which needs to be considered by IAP members.

3. Brief History: Towards the Asia Regional Platform on DRR

For readers who are not familiar with the background of the Asia Regional Platform on DRR, the AMC-DRR, and the IAP, this section provides a brief summary of the key milestones.

Strengthening of the ISDR system: Following the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005, several initiatives were undertaken to strengthen the ISDR system to be able to better respond to current disaster trends and the increased expectations and demands by nations and communities for supporting implementation the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA)¹. This has resulted in increased political commitment and financing of disaster

¹ Please refer to SG reports 2005 and 2006.

reduction, including development sectors. At the global level more coherence and better coordination amongst ISDR system partners has been achieved through joint work planning and prioritized deliverables. A common approach to work programming in the ISDR system was developed during the 2006-2007 biennium in the context of the former Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction and presented to the first session of the Global Platforms. Those consultations gave rise to an ISDR system joint planning framework for country, regional and global levels based on the priorities for action of the Hyogo Framework. The first biennial ISDR system Global Level Joint Work Programme covers the period 2008 – 2009.

Regional Consultative Process:

In Asia a series of regional consultative meetings have been organized since 2001 to promote regional partnership for DRR. This section provides a brief of the meetings:

- **First Regional Consultative Meeting** was organized from 4-6 July, 2001, Kathmandu, Nepal by UNOCHA and ADRC. Recommendations of the meeting included: National agencies & the donor community should adopt a Total Risk Management (TRM) approach to disasters in order to minimize human & economic losses. ADPC, ADRC & UN-OCHA/ADRU, with support from other actors, will promote & facilitate the adoption of TRM on a pilot basis in selected high risk countries
- In each pilot country the full range of activities required to effectively mitigate & manage specific disasters must be identified. ADPC, ADRC & UN-OCHA/ADRU, in collaboration with national authorities, will produce a summary of the status of each activity & will establish & maintain a database on current & future interventions
- The opportunities for collaboration & human resource development must be more widely disseminated. ADRC, with support from other participants, will establish & maintain a web-based calendar of events (symposia, training courses, workshops etc.) to assure the broadest possible awareness of relevant HRD & sharing opportunities
- Efforts to coordinate holistic disaster management interventions among donor agencies must be continued & enhanced. A second consultative meeting, co-hosted by ADRC & ADPC, will be held in Bangkok in May 2002. Additional participation will be invited from IBRD, ADB, JICA, DFID, ECHO, IFRC and other UN agencies

Second Regional Consultative Meeting was organized from 12-14 June, 2002, Bangkok by ADPC, ADRC and UNOCHA. In Kobe, December 2003, the objectives of series of RCM's as Agreed by ADRC, UNOCHA, ADPC, WHO & UNDP were:

- To serve as a forum for sharing information among regional institutions and regional offices of international organizations
- To identify opportunities for enhanced collaboration in ongoing work

Third Regional Consultative Meeting was organized from 24-25 February, 2004, Manila by ADPC and WHO, Western Pacific Regional Office, supported by ADRC & UNOCHA –ADRU. The recommendation of the meeting included:

- Need to establish common disaster profiles (Action: ADRC, WHO, ASEAN Secretariat)
- Build data & evidence base for a persuasive case for costs/benefits of disaster reduction (Action: ADRC & ADPC)
- Advocacy on mainstreaming in donor & UN agencies -selling investments in disaster reduction (Action: Donors & UN agencies)
- Need to develop common DRM framework for use by government -policy, legislation, institutional arrangements; DRM plans at all levels (Action: ADPC, ADRC & UNDP)
- Expand program coverage to deal with technological hazards; conflicts & disease outbreaks (Action: WHO & OCHA)
- Mainstream DR into UNCCA & UNDAF in Asian countries (Action: UNDP)
- Stock taking in WHO is doing what -database of DRR initiatives at country & regional level (Action: ADPC, ADRC & UNDP)

The USG for Humanitarian Affairs launched in 2005 a consultative process to consider practical ways of further strengthening the ISDR system, building on existing mandates, institutions, partnerships and mechanisms. Subsequently, the ISDR Secretariat organized a number of consultations with international and regional organizations. For the Asia and Pacific region, the following consultative events were held: (1) A preliminary regional discussion (19-20 June 2006 in Bangkok) which sought inputs from partners on the process for strengthening the ISDR system and agreement on a regional preparatory process for the first Session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (GP/DRR). (2) The HFA Consultations for Asia and Pacific² (5 June 2007 in Geneva) which provided opportunities for reviewing regional progress and challenges in implementing the HFA at the national level; as well as for exchanging views on the development of a regional platform for disaster risk reduction and the means to monitor DRR progress. (3) The Meetings of the ISDR Asia Partnership (especially the September and November 2007 meetings in Bangkok) which were instrumental for carving out the principle functions of the Asia RP/DRR and led to the agreement that the IAP will support the Asia RP/DRR subject to its official endorsement at the 2nd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMC-DRR)^{3,4}.

2007 Delhi Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia: The proposed Asia RP/DRR was eventually endorsed in 2007 by the Ministers and other high level representatives of the countries of Asia and the Pacific attending the 2nd AMC-DRR. The concrete recommendations included the expansion of the biennial AMC-DRR to the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction which shall convene every two years; a commitment by the Ministers in charge of

² See HFA Consultations for Asia and Pacific: Summary of Discussions, June 2007.

³ See IAP Statement to the 2nd AMC-DRR, November 2007.

⁴ The consultations were also concerned with the question how the Pacific region would relate to the Asia RP/DRR. The subsequent recommendation was to establish a separate Regional Platform for the Pacific. This proposal was presented and discussed at the Pacific Regional Disaster Risk Management Meetings in July 2008, and endorsed by the SOPAC Governing Council in November 2008.

disaster reduction to provide the political leadership for the Asia RP/DRR; and a set of core functions for the RP, i.e.:

- i. Review the action taken by the national governments and other stakeholders for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;
- ii. To take stock of initiatives taken in various sub-regions of Asia for promoting and enhancing cooperation among the nations within and outside the governments for disaster risk reduction;
- iii. To share and exchange best practices and lessons learned from disaster risk reduction in various fields including application of science and technology, community based disaster preparedness, public-private partnership etc; and
- iv. To further enhance regional cooperation for disaster risk reduction.

The ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP): The IAP was set up in 2003 and composed of four UN bodies (UNDP Regional Centre Bangkok, UNESCAP, UNOCHA Regional Office for Asia and Pacific, ISDR secretariat for Asia and Pacific) and two regional organizations (ADRC and ADPC) as an open partnership for disaster reduction in Asia. The IAP was launched with release of joint Communiqué at Asian Conference of Disaster Reduction organized by ADRC & Royal Government of Cambodia in February 2004. The communiqué detailed out the following:

- Disaster reduction has become a strategic priority for Asia, the region with the highest percentage of natural disasters in the world causing unacceptable loss of human lives and erasing hard-won development assets every year.
- Aware of the importance of risk and vulnerability reduction and sharing common views on the importance of timely action, the UN Inter-Agency Secretariat for ISDR, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) and the Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC) took the initiative of launching an open-ended regional partnership for disaster reduction in Asia in consultation with UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Why the partnership:

- To proceed to building capacities across Asia while preparing for the 2005 Conference and work at developing a sound basis for future regional undertakings, the best option is to start from an open ended partnership.
- A number of strategic programmes exist already in a variety of fields relevant to risk and vulnerability. A partnership has the potential, through its active players' action, to create innovative synergy and concrete results.
- A partnership can build on existing capacities and ongoing initiatives that can be enhanced through coordinated collaboration and can aim at sparking inter-regional exchange of experiences, bringing to fruition the ISDR global framework

The partnership should work for:

- Promote disaster reduction in the region by conducting strategic initiatives in countries or sub-regions in partnership with other entities as required by each specific case.
- Support the process towards the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, including with a survey at regional level to provide input for both the review of the Yokohama Strategy and elaboration of an action programme for 2005-2015.
- Nurture a *Forum* for discussion, experience sharing and information exchange to allow all sectors of civil society to have a say and to become active players.
- Ensure that recommendations adopted at the 2005 Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction are followed up in the region.
- Pave the way for further developments in the region, including fund raising for major projects in areas such as education, information management, regional networking.

Role of ISDR Asian Partnership:

The Asia and Pacific Regions are too diverse and too vast for one all-encompassing strategic regional programme. Many disaster risk reduction initiatives and mechanisms already exist at the national and regional levels and should be used for an optimised action and effectiveness in the field of disaster risk reduction. The role of the IAP is precisely to build on the existing regional expertise and mechanisms in DRR to promote joint actions, programming and implementation of DRR at the regional level, to better assist the countries in mainstreaming DRR as part of national development planning, identifying their national priorities and develop their national DRR strategy.

Priority actions for the IAP are to:

- Promote disaster risk reduction throughout the region by organizing or provide support where feasible, strategic initiatives in target countries and sub-regions in partnership with other stakeholders as required for each specific case.
- 2. Create a forum for discussion, to share experiences and exchange information so that the resulting dialogue can strengthen the individual characteristics of the partners and their work as a group.
- 3. Ensure that the recommendations in the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction are adapted to meet the priority requirements of each country in the region.
- 4. Work with key governments sectors and other stakeholders in-country to identify priority disaster reduction activities for national and community level implementation

In 2007, the IAP was expanded to include other UN agencies and regional bodies, as well as donors, inter-governmental organizations and civil society. Presently, the partnership encompasses over 30 partners. It is chaired by UNISDR Asia and Pacific and characterizes itself as an informal multi-stakeholder forum with the role to facilitate the coordinated and coherent implementation of disaster risk reduction and the HFA in the Asia region. The IAP also

declared to support the Asia RP/DRR (see also above)⁵. However, until such time that the IAP had developed its full potential as a regional partnership mechanism, it set out to concentrate its support on two of the above listed Regional Platform functions. First, the regional HFA reporting which shall be undertaken in parallel with national HFA progress review processes. Second, the mapping of regional initiatives to improve the sharing of information and coordination amongst regional partners.

4. Proposed IAP Roles in Support of Asia RP/DRR

This section provides a detailed description of the proposed roles of the IAP in support of the Asian RP/DRR and the AMC-DRR. It also offers a report on the key activities the IAP has been engaged in over the past year.

(a) Supporting the political leadership of the Asia RP/DRR through the identification of policy priorities for the region and ensuring the visibility of regional issues at the global level. The concrete IAP engagement will include:

Preparatory Process for the AMC-DRR: In February 2007, the IAP formed a working group led by UNISDR in support of the preparatory process of the 3rd AMC-DRR. The group facilitated useful discussions on the conference themes, format, and agenda which provided valuable guidance and inputs to the Government of Malaysia and UNISDR during the conceptualization and planning phase of the conference. Subsequently, this working group evolved into the formal group of 'Conference Partners' (plus other interested partners which had not participated in the IAP previously). The Conference Partners not only pooled financial resources in support of the conference, but also helped prepare the technical content of numerous sessions and events. Proposal for the Consideration of IAP Members: The IAP will offer to provide its support to Asian Governments which host the AMC-DRR during the conference preparatory process on a regular basis.

Preparatory Process for the Global Platform on DRR: One of the core functions of the Asia RP/DRR refers to the exchange of best practices and lessons learned from disaster risk reduction. This function of the RP is not limited to intra regional exchanges, but also includes the exchange with other regions and most importantly the Global ISDR system. As such, the AMC-DRR is expected to feed Asia's policy priorities, gaps and challenges into the biennial Sessions of the Global Platform for DRR (GP/DRR) and, vice-versa, help convey and disseminate relevant global level developments, tools and decisions among regional and in-country DRR stakeholders in Asia. The 2009 Session of the GP/DRR will be the first opportunity for the AMC-DRR, since it has been designated as the Asia RP/DRR, to leave its mark at the global level and advocate for the importance of disaster risk reduction in Asia which remains the most disaster prone region world wide. Proposal for the Consideration of IAP Members: Since the AMC-DRR does not have at its disposal a formal follow-up mechanism that operates between each conference, the IAP will have the role to ensure that the wealth of DRR policy recommendations

⁵ See IAP Terms of Reference, February 2008.

and lessons learned from the Asia region are effectively channeled to the global level and vice-versa.

Regional DRR Strategy: Following on from the RP/DRR's role of setting regional DRR policy, there is also a need to support regional and sub-regional DRR strategy development. Emerging issues and new policy considerations that are of importance in Asia and Pacific, such as for example the integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, or addressing the impacts of the food price crisis, will have to find their way into existing and newly developed DRR and development strategies. The existing thematic working groups and task forces which already operate under the IAP⁶, are expected to provide valuable analytical inputs to regional DRR priority and strategy setting. Proposal for the Consideration of IAP Members: Together with relevant and existing regional agencies, in particular IAP partners who work directly with Governments, the IAP will strive to be a regional think tank contributing to cross regional DRR strategy development and assist sub-regional intergovernmental organizations with the preparation and review of their DRR strategies, as required. For this purposes, regional working groups and task forces will provide regular reports and updates to the IAP.

(b) Supporting the biennial HFA progress reporting process of the ISDR system. The concrete IAP engagement will include:

HFA Progress Reviews: HFA progress reporting was the second function of the Asia RP/DRR which the IAP initially vowed to assist back in November 2007. In line with the global HFA progress review requirements, the UNISDR coordinated under the auspices of the IAP the roll-out of the HFA progress review in the Asia and Pacific region. A Regional HFA Progress Review Framework was developed, which provided national and regional DRR stakeholders with a common guidance on the overall objectives, process, tools and the outputs expected. Briefing sessions on HFA reporting were organized during several IAP meetings and a dedicated IAP working group on HFA Reporting was established. A number of workshops and events were organized jointly with IAP partners, such as UNDP, ADPC, ADRC, and SOPAC with the aim to further brief regional and national level partners. Consequently, some National HFA Focal Points had requested technical assistance for preparing their countries' progress reports and UNISDR successfully engaged UNDP and ADPC in selected countries. Despite these concerted efforts, it was not possible to significantly increase the total number of countries that submitted National HFA Progress Reports on time to feed into the 3rd AMC-DRR compared with the number of reports submitted to the last GP/DRR. It is, however, expected that more reports will become available in the run up to the 2009 Session of the GP/DRR. A positive development and improvement to the previous reporting cycle is certainly the reporting commitment at the sub-regional level, spearheaded by ASEAN, SAARC and SOPAC, to prepare

⁶ The Asia Regional Education Task Force (ETF), the Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction (RTF-URR), the Disaster Environment Working Group for Asia (DESGA), the Working Group on HFA Reporting, the Working Group on the Preparations for the 3rd AMC-DRR, the Project Steering Committee on Regional Mapping of DRR Initiatives.

HFA progress reports in line with the HFA. Also thematic progress reports on a range of key regional issues were prepared by IAP partners, e.g. on urban disaster risk, space technology applications for DRR, and other. Proposal for the Consideration of IAP Members: Although UNISDR was able to solicit the support from some IAP members to help sub-regional and national partners meet their reporting requirements, a more systematic support base will be needed to sustainably strengthen sparse reporting capacities in the region and to meet key deadlines for the AMC-DRR and the GP/DRR. The IAP will therefore elaborate in greater detail on its roles and responsibilities in support of HFA reporting and increase the number of IAP members who will actively assist the process.

Monitoring the Implementation of AMC-DRR Recommendations: At this stage, no formal mechanism is in place for the monitoring of progress achieved in implementing the recommendations of AMC-DRR declarations. Further to this, the structure of previous Ministerial Conference Declarations has not been conducive to allow easy monitoring and follow-up. Proposal for the Consideration of IAP Members: The IAP will ensure that the recommendations of AMC-DRR are in future grouped according to the HFA goals and priorities of actions. This will facilitate the monitoring of progress towards Ministerial recommendations simultaneously with the HFA monitoring at the national, sub-regional and regional, and thus avoid the unnecessary duplication of reporting efforts.

(c) Improving coordination & coherence, and strengthening synergies through information sharing and mapping of initiatives. The concrete IAP engagement will include:

Regional Mapping of DRR Initiatives: The decision of the IAP to help improve information sharing and mapping of ongoing and planned DRR initiatives in Asia, had already been taken in November 2007, when the IAP met prior to the 2nd AMC-DRR to discuss what contribution it could make to the Asia RP/DRR. In order to explore how to proceed with the regional mapping initiative, the IAP created a dedicated working group⁷ for this purpose. In February 2008, the working group was transformed into a project steering committee to prepare a project proposal outlining the key features of a regional stocktaking and mapping initiative. The proposal is currently under consideration by the ADB⁸. The project executing agency has been identified, i.e. ADPC. The DRR stocktaking and mapping project will present an overview of ongoing and planned DRR interventions⁹ within the broader context of a regional disaster risk profile. The information will contribute to improved regional planning and programming, and will highlight areas for cooperation among regional and sub-regional organizations. It will also add to periodic progress reviews and reporting processes at regional and sub-regional levels (such as Biennial HFA Progress Reviews and the preparation of the 2009 UN Global Assessment Report). In addition, it will assist donor agencies and decision-makers to channel

⁷ The participating IAP members were ADPC, ADRC, the Asian Disaster Reduction Response Network (ADRRN), IFRC, UN/OCHA, the South Pacific Geosciences Commission (SOPAC), UNDP, and the World Bank.

⁸ The TA first appeared in ADB Business Opportunities on 16 January 2008.

⁹ For the purpose of this project, regional DRR interventions or initiatives shall be defined as regional activities undertaken by regional offices of International, UN, Non-Governmental Organizations as well as regional organizations, including sub-regional inter-governmental bodies.

resources and efforts that can meet their own policy and programmatic imperatives while implementing DRR. Proposal for the Consideration of IAP Members: IAP members will actively contribute to the mapping and stocktaking once it is launched, and provide regular updates on ongoing and planned DRR initiatives to ensure the long-term sustainability of this initiative. The IAP will thus have the role of a regional information custodian on who is doing what and where on DRR in Asia and Pacific.

(d) Enhancing regional cooperation for disaster risk reduction by aligning regional initiatives to meet gaps at country level. The concrete IAP engagement will include:

Joint Regional Action Plan: At the September 2007 Meeting of Conference Partners, held in preparation of the 3rd AMC-DRR, several partners requested that the Kuala Lumpur Ministerial Declaration be accompanied by a regional action plan with the aim to strengthen the accountability for its follow-up and to support Governments with implementing the HFA. This proposal is in line with and would directly contribute to the ISDR system planning framework, which builds on and is owned by existing institutional mechanisms within the ISDR system at the national, regional and global levels. The core principles of the ISDR system planning framework include: (a) develop the planning framework progressively, following a flexible approach with regular monitoring and reporting to improve it as it unfolds; (b) contribute to systematic reporting on progress in HFA implementation; (c) facilitate additional resource mobilization to support HFA implementation; (d) develop the planning framework according to the priorities for action defined in the HFA, and (e) focus on prioritized and achievable jointly agreed-upon results in a given period of time, with identified partners, roles and resources¹⁰. These principles could easily be applied also to the Joint Regional Action Plan on implementing the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference Declaration. Proposal for the Consideration of IAP Members: The IAP will offer to take the lead in preparing a regional action plan that will focus on implementing the recommendations of the AMC-DRR in line with and in support of existing regional DRR strategies. The regional action plan will ideally be finalized within a three month period following each AMC-DRR and cover the two-year time span between one Ministerial Conference and the next. The meetings of the IAP can provide a regular monitoring and follow-up mechanism for the regional action plan.

Alignment of Regional DRR Meetings: The 2007 Delhi Declaration on DRR in Asia recommended that various geographical sub-regions of Asia and the Pacific may hold periodic conferences of the national governments and other stakeholders. The declaration also mentions that these should be well coordinated and complement each other in taking stock of the progress made in the implementation of the HFA in the respective sub-regions. There is currently a wide spectrum of a regional meetings organized in Asia and Pacific with a focus on DRR, such as the Regional Consultative Committee on Mainstreaming DRR into Development; the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction; the meetings organized under the umbrellas of ASEAN and SAARC; the meetings of the IAP; the newly established Regional Disaster Management

¹⁰ For further details please see: 2008-2009 ISDR System Joint Work Programme, February 2008 [Draft], United Nations, Geneva.

Committee under UNESCAP, and many more. Although some steps were taken in 2008 to coordinate these meetings and ensure that they feed and inform each other, there is still room for improvement. Proposal for the Consideration of IAP Members: In support of the call made by the Kuala Lumpur Declaration, the IAP through discussions in its meetings among partners, encourage partners to consider contributing through their existing forums to the follow-up of the AMC ministerial declarations and preparation of future AMCs. Thus, the regional meetings held in-between AMC-DRRs will directly support the Regional Platform process.

5. Proposed Changes to the Organizational Status of the IAP

The new roles suggested for the IAP, are considered to be the minimum requirements for ensuring the Asia RP/DRR mechanism successfully achieves the functions it has been assigned with by the 2nd AMC-DRR. At the same time, for the IAP to be able to give justice to these additional roles, it will be necessary to considerably increase the time, inputs and follow-up from its members as well as the UNISDR, which convenes the partnership. It is therefore questionable, whether the IAP can maintain its informal character and at the same time provide reliability, accountability, and sufficient resourcing for a quite demanding work programme, which includes the development and implementation of a joint regional action plan. Proposal for the Consideration of IAP Members: The IAP will discuss whether changes to its organizational status are required and what these should entail to allow it to become an action-oriented and predictable provider of coordinated disaster risk reduction support in the Asia region.