Prime Minister's Ten-Point Agenda for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, enunciated a Ten-Point Agenda in his inaugural speech at the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2016, held in New Delhi during November 2016 (AMCDRR), which has also been incorporated in the NDMP. The ten key elements consist of the following:

1. All development sectors must imbibe the principles of disaster risk management
2. Risk coverage must include all, starting from poor households to SMEs to multi-national corporations to nation states
3. Women's leadership and greater involvement should be central to disaster risk management
4. Invest in risk mapping globally to improve global understanding of Nature and disaster risks
5. Leverage technology to enhance the efficiency of disaster risk management efforts
6. Develop a network of universities to work on disaster-related issues
7. Utilise the opportunities provided by social media and mobile technologies for disaster risk reduction
8. Build on local capacity and initiative to enhance disaster risk reduction
9. Make use of every opportunity to learn from disasters and, to achieve that, there must be studies on the lessons after every disaster
10. Bring about greater cohesion in international response to disasters

Given below is a description of the Ten Point of Agenda for DRR:

First, all development sectors must imbibe the principles of disaster risk management. This will ensure that all development projects - airports, roads, canals, hospitals, schools, bridges – are built to appropriate standards and contribute to the resilience of communities they seek to serve. Over the next couple of decades, most of the new infrastructure in the world will come up in Asia. This points to the need for ensuring that all the infrastructure development conforms to the best available standards of disaster safety. Such an approach is a smart strategy, which will pay off in the long term. It is necessary that all the public investments must incorporate disaster risk considerations. In India, the 'housing for all' programme and 'smart cities' initiatives represent such opportunities. India will work with other partner countries and stakeholders to build a coalition or mechanism for promoting disaster resilient infrastructure in the region. This will help generate new knowledge for hazard risk assessment, disaster resilient technologies and mechanisms for integrating risk reduction in infrastructure financing.

Second, it is necessary to work towards risk coverage for all – starting from poor households, it must cover small and medium enterprises as well aslarge multi-national corporations. Currently, in most countries of the region, penetration of insurance is limited only to a narrow section, mostly in the middle and upper-middle income groups. It is necessary to think big and innovatively to widen the risk insurance cover. States have an important role in not just regulating but also encouraging coverage for those who need it the most. Some bold steps have been taken to ensure financial inclusion and risk insurance for the poorest. The *Jan DhanYojana* has brought millions of people into the banking system. The SurakshaBimaYojana provides risk insurance to millions who need it the most. The newly launched *FasalBimaYojana* (crop insurance) will provide risk cover to millions of farmers. These are the basic building blocks of resilience at the household level.

Third, it is necessary to encourage greater involvement and leadership of women in disaster risk management. Women are disproportionately affected by disasters. They also have unique strengths and insights. India must train a large number of women volunteers to support special needs of women affected by disasters. There is also need for women engineers, masons and building artisans to participate in post-disaster reconstruction and promote women self-help groups which can assist in livelihood recovery.

Fourth, it is necessary to invest in mapping risks globally. For mapping risks related to hazards such as earthquakes, there are widely accepted standards and parameters. Based on these, India has mapped seismic zones, with five as highest seismic risk and two as low risk. For disaster risk related to other hazards such as chemical hazards, forest fires, cyclones, different types of floods, India needs to adopt globally accepted standards and categories. This will help India to ensure that there is a shared understanding of the nature and severity of disaster risks and compare with that in other parts of the world.

Fifth, efforts must be made to leverage technology to enhance the efficiency of our disaster risk management efforts. An e-platform that brings together organizations and individuals and helps them map and exchange expertise, technology and resources would go a long way in maximizing the collective impact.

Sixth, it will be helpful to develop a network of universities to work on disaster-relatedaspects since universities have social responsibilities too. Over the first five years of the Sendai Framework, an effort can be made to develop a global network of universities working together on problems of disaster risk management. As part of this network, different universities could specialize in multi-disciplinary research on disaster issues most relevant to them. Universities located in coastal areas could specialize in managing risks from coastal hazards, and the ones located in the hill cities could focus on mountain hazards.

Seventh, utilize the opportunities provided by social media and mobile technologies. Social media is transforming disaster response. It is helping response agencies in quickly organizing themselves and enabling citizens to connect more easily with authorities. In disaster after disaster, affected people are using social media to help each other. Those responsible for disaster management must recognize the potential of social media and develop applications relevant to various aspects of disaster risk management.

Eighth, disaster management must build on local capabilities and initiatives. The task of disaster risk management, particularly in rapidly growing economies, is so huge that formal institutions of the state can at best be instrumental in creating the enabling conditions. Specific actions have to be designed and implemented locally. Over the last two decades, most community-based efforts have been confined to disaster preparedness and contingency planning for the short term. It is necessary to expand the scope of community-based efforts and support communities to identify local risk reduction measures and implement them. Such efforts reduce risk and create opportunities for local development and sustainable livelihoods. Localization of disaster risk reduction will also ensure that good use is made of the traditional best practices and indigenous knowledge. Response agencies need to interact with their communities and make them familiar with the essential drill of disaster response. For example, if a local fire service visits one school in its area every week, it would sensitize thousands of children over a period of one year.

Ninth, ensure that the opportunity to learn from a disaster is not wasted. After every disaster there are studies and reports on lessons learnt that are rarely applied. Often the same mistakes are repeated. It is necessary to have a vibrant and visual system of learning. The United Nations could

start an international competition of documentary films that record disaster events, their scale, and relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and recovery afterwards. Post-disaster recovery is an opportunity to not just 'build back better' in terms of physical infrastructure, but also in terms of improved institutional systems for managing risk. For this, it is necessary to put in place systems that can quickly provide risk assessments. India must work with partner countries and multilateral development agencies to establish a facility for technical support to post-disaster reconstruction of houses.

The **tenth** and last, it is necessary to bring about greater cohesion in international response to disasters. In the aftermath of a disaster, disaster responders pour in from all over the world. This collective strength and solidarity could be enhanced further if the activities are organised under a common umbrella. The United Nations could think of a common logo and branding under which all those who are helping with relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction operate.