

Meeting Notes

Pre-consultative meeting with UN Agencies, Donors and Development Partners

Date: 16 November 2016 Time: 11:00 am

Venue: NEOC, MOHA

Participants: from UN agencies, development partners, donors (the detailed participants list is presented in Annex)

Discussed and agreed points:

- Mr. Krishna B. Raut, Joint Secretary, MOHA welcomed the participants from the donor, development partner and UN agencies and updated on the Government of Nepal initiative to formulate DRR policy and strategic action plan in line with Sendai Framework. He highlighted the following points:
 - Nepal was devastated by earthquake in 2015; coincidentally 2015 was also the year of Sendai Framework on DRR.
 - Nepal was one of the countries to formulate NSDRM in early years after HFA. Since then Government of Nepal implemented several projects to address DRR.
 - DRR policy formulation process will take into account of NSDRM 2009, Sendai Framework and ongoing DRR works.
 - It is a cross-sectoral subject.
 - It should be made as consultative and participatory as possible.
 - High level management committee has been already constituted.
 - Thematic working groups will be created.
 - Several consultation workshops will be held in national/sub-national level.
- Dr Narayan B. Thapa, Under Secretary, MOHA presented the Key Features of TOR on National DRR Policy and National Strategic Plan of Action.
 - Dr. Thapa addressed that the National DRR policy will also be linked with Asian DRR plan, which was also mentioned in AMCDRR.
 - It should also be linked with SAARC Action Plan.
 - He further stressed that the consultation process will be in the following level: National level (2), sub-national level (3) and district level (5 districts).
- Mr. Anil Pokhrel from PAC presented the updates on the development of the National DRR policy and strategic action plan.
- Ms. Nicola from DFID suggested on consultative methodology and content part. Since this is the ambitious project within the limited time, the methods should include consultative process with the timeline. The consultation process should also include donors. In the content part, she suggested to have humanitarian picture as well, with risk governance, in line with the Sendai Framework.
- Mr. Piyush Kayastha from EC - Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection suggested including donors in high level committee; including private sector representation. In the methodology part, he suggested to consult with the sectoral level stakeholders also. Small scale, recurring disasters should also be considered. He further provided his suggestions to emphasize on DRR governance - how to monitor progress,

institutional set up etc. There should be a clear linkage between Policy and institutional set up. Financial arrangement should also be included.

- Mr. Ram Bhandari from JICA suggested developing the DRR policy by integrating the grass-root/ground level issues which will make the document pragmatic. He also suggested including the learnings from international DRR events. Further, he suggested reviewing sectoral policies as well while developing the DRR policy.
- Ms. Sunita from UNICEF suggested to refer the actions that are being undertaken in Asian region, which has also been mentioned in AMCDRR. In order to make the policy implementable, she recommended consulting with service receiver/beneficiaries/impacted people as well.
- Ms. Kusuma from Indian Embassy expressed her interest to support the process by providing relevant information regarding the policy that was also recently formed in India. The Indian Embassy is happy to share the required documents and provide inputs related to the DRR Policy.
- Mr. Hari from UNFPA recommended mainstreaming the sectors in which the plans have already been developed. He provided suggestions to review the study conducted by Tribhuvan University on scenario of different hazards, which was supported by NSET. For review process, a document prepared on disaster by Nepal Army is also worth considering.
- Mr. Ganesh from UNWOMEN suggested to consult with different women groups and marginalized groups that have been formed in communities so as to bring in their concerns as well.
- Mr. Binaya from SDC mentioned that since the local bodies are also responsible for this policy implementation, they should also be considered during the consultation. Proposed federal structure should be considered and the responsibilities of all layers of state authority should be clearly identified. The climatic and geographical zones should be considered especially Karnali region.
- Mr. Sanjib Hada from IFRC suggested to consult NRCS's district chapter, sub chapter for capturing some lessons and experiences from the ground. Humanitarian agencies should be added in consultation.
- Mr. Ratindra from WFP suggested to set some targets to focus on resilience. The DRR policy should bring forward the issues of NRA and also make clear picture on what the government structure would look like to implement the policy.
- Mr. Vijay Singh from UNDP highlighted the following:
 - There are queries and suggestions related to the process and mechanism of developing DRR policy; thematic groups and content of the document.
 - The process of policy development should engage development partners, also in management committee.
 - The thematic groups should be considered during the development of the policy. The thematic group could be led by thematic ministry composed of development partners, I/NGOs etc.
 - Due to the timeframe and scope of the assignment, there is a concern that how all the feedbacks in the content (considering all the thematic groups) could be incorporated.
 - Lessons learned by NRA should be considered. NRA should also be engaged.

- There is a concern on how to balance between DRR and humanitarian activity.
- There should be clear understanding on the institutional mechanism and implementing structure in the DRR policy.
- This policy should focus on Risk-informed development.
- Mr. Rameshwor Dangal, Joint Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister suggested the following:
 - DRR policy should be concise and contextualized.
 - It would be good to develop research questions as guiding questions before developing the policy.
 - The policy document should not be vague; it may be ambitious but based on our reality.
 - We should consider our own types of hazards; recurrent hazards (floods, landslides) and intense hazard (earthquake).
 - Policy should be a guiding document which should be pragmatic and implementable.
 - The four priority areas of Sendai Framework should be prioritized during the policy development.
 - He highlighted that it may be difficult to consider all the sectors in this policy document.
 - He further added that this policy development process is the right time to review NSDRM 2009.
 - Regarding the financial arrangement to be considered in this policy document, he said that whether the funding agencies are ready to fund for implementation of this policy.
- Mr. Krishna B. Raut, Joint Secretary, MOHA concluded the discussion by assuring the participants that the consultation process will be participatory, which will include all the relevant stakeholders to the possible extent. He also mentioned that a planning is going on to form thematic committees as well, which will also include development partners, Government and other relevant institutions. He informed that it will be notified to all when the website will be launched for collecting feedbacks from wider stakeholders.

Annex: List of Participants

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