

Disaster Law at the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross Red Crescent: Pledge options

Disaster Law at the 32nd International Conference / Pledge options/ **South East Asia** / February 2015

Background

At the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross Red Crescent in 2011, National Societies in South East Asia (SEA) made a [collective pledge](#) to work together with national authorities and humanitarian partners to strengthen their national legal frameworks for disaster management, risk reduction and response. Their joint SEA pledge stated that:

Legal preparedness for international disaster response	National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of South East Asia pledge to collaborate over the next four years to review existing national regulatory frameworks and to strengthen the role of the Red Cross Red Crescent in supporting their governments to develop legislation, policies and procedures to better facilitate and regulate international disaster assistance (In light of the Guidelines on the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance)
Enhancing disaster risk reduction through legislation	The National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of Southeast Asia pledge to collaborate over the next four years in efforts to review their regulatory frameworks and to advise their governments on the development of legislation, policies and procedures which empower communities to become safer and more resilient through increased participation in disaster risk reduction activities

Purpose of pledges and options for the 32nd International Conference

A lot of disaster law work has been done by SEA National Societies since the 2011 International Conference, and SEA continues to lead in the Asia Pacific in terms of disaster law developments (for examples, see the [disaster law SEA snapshot](#)). The 32nd International Conference in December 2015 presents an opportunity for National Societies to renew their commitment to strengthening disaster laws, and continue strengthening their partnerships with governments and other humanitarian organizations – thereby raising the profile of their National Society as a key player in the humanitarian sphere.

SEA National Societies can consider the pledge options below as a way to renew their commitment and emphasize the importance of developing strong, well-implemented disaster laws:

- 1) **Joint regional pledge:** Prepare a new, **joint regional pledge between National Societies in South East Asia** to renew their existing commitment to strengthening national legal frameworks for disaster management, risk reduction and emergency response. This could also be a joint pledge between National Societies and their government counterparts i.e. a **joint National Society – Government pledge**. Such a pledge would re-emphasize the importance and commitment of National Societies and states to work together to address disaster law issues.
- 2) **Country-level pledge:** Prepare a pledge on behalf of their individual National Society and /

or government: i.e. a **country-level National Society pledge** or a **National Society / Government pledge**. This country-specific pledge could be in regard to an upcoming or ongoing disaster law development that is taking place in your country e.g. pledge to support an ongoing review of a national disaster management law or pledge to support the development of a disaster law roadmap or strategy for your country which addresses IDRL and DRR law, for example. There may be other areas of disaster law you wish to consider as well.

Next steps

Between now and the 32nd International Conference in December, there are several key steps that can be taken to ensure that SEA National Societies' commitment to disaster law is reflected at the international conference, and that their progress, contributions and achievements are highlighted. These steps include:

<p>1. Continue to develop own basic understanding and knowledge of disaster law.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This can be done, for example, by attending disaster law trainings and events (National Society leaders and technical staff) e.g. the regional disaster law training in June 2015. • Engage in knowledge sharing with other National Societies on challenges, best practices and good examples from past experiences in engaging in disaster law e.g. through the establishment of a regional SEA disaster law advisory group / committee.
<p>2. Discuss the idea of signing a new disaster law pledge with your national society.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect on achievements, progress to date, opportunities to be involved in disaster law developments in your country (e.g. is there an upcoming / ongoing review or development of national disaster management law, rules or policy in your country?). • Discuss with your national society staff and fellow leaders whether you wish to demonstrate your commitment to disaster law either through a regional pledge or country pledge – or both! • Discuss whether you want to make a joint pledge with your government.
<p>3. Enhance government's understanding and knowledge on disaster law and discuss potential joint pledge/ commitment at the 32nd International Conference.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen your government's knowledge of disaster law by setting up meetings, delivering presentations, and engaging in open dialogue. Offer to provide input into any law or policy making processes. Ask for technical support from the IFRC regional disaster law delegate if necessary! • Propose the idea of developing a joint disaster law pledge for the international conference. This can also be discussed at the regional disaster law workshop, where you can bring along a representative of your NDMO. • Disseminate information and share knowledge on disaster law with government and key partners. Circulate publications and reports related to disaster law (e.g. IDRL Guidelines, the Model Act on International Assistance, the DRR Checklist for Lawmakers – all can be found on the Disaster Law Programme website) • Ensure regular communications to follow up, or provide clarification on any issues.

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