



**5th ASIA-PACIFIC BROADCASTING UNION MEDIA SUMMIT  
ON CLIMATE ACTION AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS,  
KATHMANDU, NEPAL  
25<sup>TH</sup>-26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2019**

**KATHMANDU MEDIA ACTION PLAN**

**PREAMBLE**

Given overwhelming scientific evidence that activities relating to the human presence on planet Earth are causing changes to the atmosphere and environment upon which the global population relies for its very existence and survival, it is vital that the current international conversation on the subject be strengthened and enhanced. The media, especially radio and television, has a vital role in reaching out to citizens and developing a two-way communication process in ensuring a greater understanding of climate change issues.

Similarly, broadcasting has a critical responsibility in informing a broader public of disaster preparedness issues and is the first media of choice when civil disaster relief agencies, humanitarian support organizations and community service bodies seek to inform the public during times of crisis and emergency.

Climate change affects people of all nations with no differentiation, just as disasters recognize no national borders, nor do they discriminate between rich and poor nations. Broadcasters have a responsibility to initiate dialogue and to highlight to viewers and listeners the challenges which can affect them and their families, not only in known areas of danger but also where environmental challenges may occur in the future.

**COMMITMENT**

We, the delegates to the **5th Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness: Media Solutions for a Sustainable Future – Saving**

**Lives, Building Resilient Communities**, thank the Summit hosts, the Government of Nepal and Ministry of Communication and Information Technology as well as the organizers Nepal Television, Radio Nepal and Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union, for initiating this important international event.

Recognising the outcomes of previous regional Summits in Jakarta, Indonesia (2014), Global News Forum in Sendai, Japan (2015), Krabi, Thailand (2016), Dhaka, Bangladesh (2017), and Nadi, Fiji (2018) as well as reinforcing global commitments such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 2015 Paris Agreement, and UNESCO's Declaration of Ethical Principles in Relation to Climate Change 2017, we reinforce our commitment to the task of conveying life-saving disaster risk preparedness information to the people of our nations, as well as sharing knowledge for action on climate change issues and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Following two days of rich, meaningful and collegial dialogue in Kathmandu, Nepal, we:

- invite broadcasters throughout the Asia-Pacific region to take note of the outcome of this Summit and others held to date;
- support international moves to further disseminate vital data on the subjects of climate change and disaster risk preparedness to the widest possible radio, television and online audiences throughout the world;
- commit ourselves to taking positive and proactive measures in our own organizations in producing creative, quality radio and television programs to address the ever-evolving issues, thereby seeking to encourage the mitigation of potentially catastrophic implications for societies and lifestyles;
- recognize the need for the most vulnerable citizens in our societies, especially women, children, people with disabilities, the elderly, farmers, fishers and others in rural areas, and those with low socioeconomic status, to serve them with timely, relevant and understandable news, information, and programming tailored to their distinct media consumption needs, to help them adapt to the effects of climate change as it relates to their food security and livelihoods and provide a platform for voicing their stories and concerns;
- reaffirm science as a basis for further actions on climate change, including media coverage that should be guided by the best available knowledge from the natural and social sciences;
- take cognizance of the human costs of inaction, especially as these relate to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, community involvement in disaster management and the need to address poverty alleviation;
- thank UNESCO for hosting a one day practical workshop on climate change reporting which preceded the Summit and acknowledge that the new UNESCO Handbook for journalists *Getting the Message Across – Reporting on Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific* provides a framework for journalists to report on this complex subject;
- adopt a whole of society approach that ensures that governments, civil society, research institutions, international agencies and other parties develop partnerships with broadcasting organizations to ensure that professional, accurate and cogent messages are available for public information, education and the broader global conversation;

- commit to support the development of enabling media policy, including a dedicated policy framework for disaster and climate change action communications;
- request the ABU and its international partners to help broadcasters to establish specialized, fully-staffed environmental units within their organizations and to produce regular radio/TV programs to inform and educate audiences about climate change adaptation, disaster risk management and sustainable development;
- invite consideration for the creation of a UNISDR Media Advisory Group (MAG) to provide UNISDR with professional advice on how to make global, regional and national disaster risk reduction and preparedness efforts more widely known to the general public;
- will seek to ensure that the physical infrastructure of our radio and television organizations is fully integrated in early warning disaster communication systems and plans at national and community levels;
- recommend the development of a global catalogue/repository of disaster risk reduction and climate change related audio and video material produced by UN agencies and NGOs, so the programs can be distributed copyright free to media organizations;
- will advocate for effective non-broadcast, electronic communication resources (such as mobile phone technology applications) to be developed within our national jurisdictions to enable all citizens to receive timely and accurate news and information relating to emergencies and natural disasters;
- undertake to consider establishing a Gender and Diversity Plan in our home broadcasting organizations, based on the principles enunciated at the 6<sup>th</sup> *Women With the Wave* High-Level Conference held as part of the ABU General Assembly in Chengdu, China in 2017;
- will review and implement support and training for media employees, especially women, to promote a positive work environment and enhance safety provisions and career development.

## CONCLUSION

We call upon the hosts of this Summit to place this Kathmandu Media Action Plan before UN global meetings and upcoming future dialogue for implementation of the Paris Agreement, thus ensuring that the voices of the people of the Asia-Pacific are heard in those critical international forums.

To conclude, we invite all broadcasters, stakeholders and fellow interested parties to gather in 2020 for the 6<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness.

Agreed by all parties to the 5th Summit.

Nepal, Kathmandu.

26<sup>th</sup> April, 2019