

The Charter of the
Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

Article 1

Establishment of the Coalition

1.1 We, the Founding Members who have endorsed the Charter, hereby establish the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (hereinafter referred to as the “CDRI”). The CDRI is a global partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, academic and knowledge institutions that aims to promote the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks, thereby ensuring sustainable development.

1.2 The Secretariat of the CDRI shall be located in New Delhi, India.

Article 2

Membership

2.1 Countries and other stakeholders who have endorsed this Charter shall be Founding Members of the CDRI.

2.2 Prospective members shall convey their endorsement of the Charter and place their request to be a Member of the CDRI with the Co-Chairs of the Governing Council of the CDRI. The Co-Chairs shall place the request of the prospective members before the Governing Council and facilitate a decision on new membership.

Article 3

Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles of the Coalition

3.1 The CDRI seeks to rapidly expand the development and retrofit of resilient infrastructure to respond to the Sustainable Development Goals imperatives of expanding universal access to basic services, enabling prosperity and decent work. This will need to be implemented simultaneously with accelerated and expanded climate action and disaster risk reduction, from the local and national to regional and global scale.

3.2 The CDRI supports the achievement of goals and targets enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Climate Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the UN Agenda 2030 principles of leaving no one, no place, and no ecosystem behind.

3.3 The Mission of the CDRI shall be to support countries to upgrade their systems to ensure disaster and climate resilience of existing and future infrastructure. This shall be fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Climate Agreement and the Sendai Framework. It shall pursue this mission by:

- (i) Raising awareness at all levels, of the benefits of resilient infrastructure systems, and building linkages with other relevant initiatives to achieve this;
- (ii) Serving as a platform where knowledge is generated and exchanged on multiple dimensions of disaster and climate resilient infrastructure;
- (iii) Enhancing nationally and regionally appropriate standards, codes, specifications and guidelines for the planning, design, operation and maintenance of infrastructure systems;
- (iv) Enhancing capacities and practices to reduce infrastructure damages and losses and consequent interruption of basic services and economic activity, from disasters and climate change;

- (v) Enabling technological and institutional innovation for resilient infrastructure systems;
- (vi) Making available technical expertise to assist countries to develop resilient infrastructure in accordance with their disaster and climate risks and resources;
- (vii) Advocating for financial arrangements, including risk transfer, that support development of resilient infrastructure; and
- (viii) Assisting countries to adopt appropriate risk governance arrangements and strategies for resilient infrastructure.

3.4 The functioning of the CDRI shall at all times be guided by the following Guiding Principles:

- (i) *Recognition of the primacy of national and local efforts:* As countries invest in infrastructure across multiple sectors, CDRI shall promote improved standards, codes, and regulations, which shall be sensitive to the national and local contexts and priorities.
- (ii) *Focus on the most vulnerable regions and populations:* In pursuance of its mission, the CDRI shall focus on addressing the needs of the most vulnerable regions and populations, including children, women, and persons with disabilities.
- (iii) *Mix of country-specific and global activities:* The CDRI shall work on specific issues referred by a country as well as broader issues including global and trans-boundary infrastructure resilience. It shall adopt a flexible approach and adjust the scale and scope of its work based on the demands placed upon it.
- (iv) *Function as a clearing house of knowledge and expertise:* The CDRI shall document and systematize knowledge, expertise, technological, institutional, and social innovations from research facilities, academia, and consulting groups across the world to improve infrastructure resilience. The CDRI shall be a global clearinghouse of knowledge and expertise in resilient infrastructure, with an emphasis on the needs of developing countries.

(v) *Work on comprehensive risk reduction:* The CDRI shall promote action on all dimensions of risk reduction and climate action in infrastructure systems, including those following disasters.

(vi) *Inclusive and deliberative process:* The CDRI shall pursue inclusive and deliberative processes to address issues raised by different countries and stakeholders.

Article 4

Governance Arrangements

4.1 The governance arrangements for the Secretariat shall comprise three principal bodies, namely the Governing Council, the Executive Committee, and the Secretariat.

Article 5

The Governing Council

5.1 The Governing Council shall be the highest policy-making body of the CDRI. It shall comprise all members of the Coalition.

5.2 The members of the Governing Council shall be nominated by the governments of member countries, multilateral organizations, and other stakeholders, in a manner such that at least two-thirds of the members of the Governing Council represent national governments.

5.3 The members of the Governing Council shall ordinarily be at the level of heads of ministries/departments in national governments, heads of multilateral organisations, and heads of other stakeholder institutions.

5.4 The Governing Council shall be co-chaired by representatives of two national governments.

5.5 India shall be permanent co-chair of the Governing Council.

5.6 The other co-chair shall be nominated by rotation by the members of the Governing Council, every two years.

5.7 The governance structure of the Governing Council may be amended as the membership of the CDRI expands.

5.8 The Governing Council shall ordinarily meet once a year.

5.9 The following shall be the key functions of the Governing Council:

- (i) To provide the overall strategic direction to the work of the CDRI;
- (ii) To serve as a policy-making body and provide oversight to the CDRI's functioning;
- (iii) To approve the inclusion of new members to CDRI as well as to amend this charter by consensus;
- (iv) To lead the resource mobilization efforts of the CDRI and ensure that the financial resources are consistent with its objectives and mandate;
- (v) To approve the CDRI's work plans, human resource plans, and budget;
- (vii) To appoint the members of the Executive Committee of the CDRI;
- (viii) To provide high-level advocacy to advance the agenda of the CDRI;
- (ix) To aid in building higher level linkages with other global initiatives that may be of relevance to the CDRI.

Article 6

The Executive Committee

6.1 The Executive Committee shall be the managerial body of the CDRI that oversees the implementation of the decisions of the Governing Council. The Executive Committee members shall provide multi-disciplinary operational guidance to the work of the CDRI.

6.2 The total number of members of the Executive Committee shall be ten, out of which nine members shall be delegated by the participating countries, multilateral organisations, and other stakeholder organisations. The Director-General heading the CDRI Secretariat shall be the tenth member.

6.3 The Executive committee shall be co-chaired by two members on a rotational basis for up to two years.

6.4 The following shall be the key functions of the Executive Committee:

- (i) To provide directions to the Secretariat on all operational issues;
- (ii) To ensure resource mobilisation and management, projects, hiring, procurement, and engagement with partners and stakeholders;
- (iii) To supervise the preparation of the CDRI work plan by the Secretariat;
- (iv) To approve all major projects and grants of the CDRI;
- (v) To commission external financial audits and outcome evaluations of CDRI periodically; and
- (vi) To decide upon relevant issues brought before it by the CDRI Secretariat.

6.5 The Executive Committee shall ordinarily meet two times during a year.

Article 7

The Secretariat

7.1 The Secretariat of the CDRI shall be headed by a Director-General appointed by the Governing Council.

7.2 The staff strength of the Secretariat shall be approved by the Governing Council on the recommendations of the Executive Committee.

7.3 The Secretariat shall have four divisions, each headed by a Director, working under the leadership of the Director-General, and under the guidance of the Executive Committee:

- (i) Technical Support and Capacity Development
- (ii) Research and Knowledge Management
- (iii) Advocacy and Partnerships
- (iv) Secretariat Operations and Management

7.4 The functions of the Secretariat shall be as follows:

- (i) To support the functioning of the Governing Council and Executive Committee;
- (ii) To develop and implement the work programme, budget, human resource plan, and resource mobilisation plan of the CDRI;
- (iii) To constitute time-bound technical working groups, committees or task forces of experts to address specific issues or projects;
- (iv) To develop and implement projects and grants;
- (v) To assist external financial audits and outcome evaluations;
- (vi) To maintain all official CDRI correspondence, prepare documents and reports, and support the Executive Committee as needed; and
- (vii) To undertake any other tasks, as required, to support the CDRI in fulfilling its mission as assigned by the Executive Committee.

Article 8

Funding Arrangements

8.1 Member States, through legal instruments, directly or through their development agencies/departments, shall make voluntary financial or in-kind contributions to the CDRI such as assignment of experts from national institutions to the CDRI Secretariat, hosting of thematic workshops and meetings, and travel support.

8.2 The CDRI Secretariat shall maintain two funds: the Secretariat Fund and the Trust Fund. Members can make financial contributions to either or both funds.

8.3 The Secretariat Fund shall cover the core operating costs of the Secretariat. The CDRI Secretariat shall develop a Financial Sustainability Plan for the Secretariat Fund.

8.4 The Trust Fund shall be an international and multi-donor trust fund used to fund the CDRI programmes. It shall be governed by the Secretariat on behalf of the Executive Committee and be managed by a Trust Fund manager to be selected through an open call from among appropriate UN and multi-lateral agencies.

8.5 The CDRI shall establish a Partnership Framework to enable multi-stakeholder engagement. This shall be financed by members and other stakeholders with external funds, which may be leveraged by the funds of the Secretariat as appropriate.

Article 9

The Programmes of CDRI

9.1 *Technical Support & Capacity Development:* This programme will anchor multi-country project development focusing on providing technical assistance and promoting institutional innovation. This will include developing capacities and improving the outcomes of risk governance and financing of resilient infrastructure. This will be enabled through the creation of standards and mechanisms of certification, and the deployment of experts to countries and institutions, as required.

9.2 *Research and Knowledge Management:* The primary focus of this programme will be towards promoting collaborative research and knowledge systems to enable better practices of building resilient infrastructure. This will include anchoring global publications and a common database of the status of resilience of key infrastructure sectors across different regions.

9.3 *Advocacy & Partnerships:* This programme will promote building networks between knowledge and implementation partners. It will ensure dissemination of the various products being generated by the CDRI members through print, broadcast, and digital media as well as hosting regular and strategic workshops. This programme will also promote the alignment of CDRI's functions with other global initiatives.

Article 10

Procedure for Endorsement of the Charter

10.1 The Founding Members including governments of member countries and other stakeholders may endorse this Charter by writing a letter to the Government of India.

10.2 Future members may convey their endorsement of the Charter by writing to the co-chairs of the Governing Council
