

'Climate Change : A Challenge for Disaster Risk Reduction, Adaptation and Mitigation'

## **Khulna Declaration The Voices of the Vulnerable Communities**

February 2009

We the participants from 12 different countries in the Asia and the Pacific recognize that Climate Change is a big threat for these regions. They are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts and its consequences.

In this regard, we endeavour to ensure that effective means of disaster prevention and adaptation are being initiated, supported and implemented to protect the lives and livelihood of our people and our communities to the maximum extent.

Whilst there are good practices in adaptation and mitigation in our vulnerable communities, they are not adequately heard and seen at the international level. We will identify opportunities and create spaces for our voices to be heard.

We are aware of the key challenges of the on going climate change negotiation towards Copenhagen at 2009. Based on our intense exchange of experience, we together with our partners, commit to develop community centered policies on reducing risks and vulnerability to climate change impacts both in short, mid and long term.

We call for immediate and adequate financing for community based adaptation and mitigation measures. Support towards vulnerable communities in coping with the adverse effects of climate change is an international obligation and is non negotiable.

Communities in disaster-prone low-lying countries and small island states, like Bangladesh, the Maldives and the island countries in the Pacific Region will also face the eventuality of being resettled. We therefore urge the international community to pay special attention to their extraordinary circumstances in creating a special protocol in the proposed adaptation fund for this purpose.

As diverse communities from Asia and the Pacific, we stand together in our belief that urgent and coordinated action can reduce the negative impacts of climate change and safeguard the rights of the vulnerable communities to live a life with dignity.