

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
AND
THE REGIONAL INTEGRATED MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING SYSTEM
FOR AFRICA AND ASIA

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES) reaffirm their desire to work together in areas of mutual interest in the service of developing countries of common membership through the present Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

2. ESCAP is the regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region. ESCAP is committed to a resilient Asia and the Pacific founded on shared prosperity, social equity, and sustainability. Its vision is to be the most comprehensive multilateral platform for promoting cooperation among member States to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific.

3. RIMES is an international and intergovernmental institution for the generation and application of early warning information, owned and managed by its Member States. RIMES evolved from the efforts of countries in Africa and Asia, in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, to establish a regional early warning system within a multi-hazard framework for the generation and communication of early warning information, and capacity building for preparedness and response to trans-boundary hazards.

II. PURPOSE OF ESCAP-RIMES COOPERATION

4. As both ESCAP and RIMES have been established with mandates to promote cooperation among countries to achieve inclusive and sustainable development and both give a priority to building early warning capacities towards prepared and resilient communities, ESCAP and RIMES plan to work together:



- (a) to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in the area of disaster mitigation and building resilience; and
- (b) to strengthen institutional capacities for disaster mitigation and building resilience of countries in Asia and the Pacific.

III. GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR ESCAP-RIMES COOPERATION


5. ESCAP and RIMES will be guided by the following general principles:
- (a) ESCAP and RIMES will focus on shared strategic and operational priorities within their mandates and resources; and
 - (b) ESCAP and RIMES will use the comparative advantages and strengths of each entity in the delivery of results.

IV. FOCUS OF ESCAP-RIMES JOINT ACTIVITIES

6. The priority areas for joint activities would include those as listed in the Appendix of this MoU, which may be amended from time to time with the mutual written consent of the Parties.

V. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

7. ESCAP and RIMES recognize that effective cooperation depends on open, comprehensive and regular exchange of information at the institutional level. They agree to make appropriate arrangements to:
- (a) provide copies of every publication and all public documents of each organization to the main library of the other organization to be maintained as reference documents; and
 - (b) give notice, through information posted on the websites of each organization, of:
 - conferences, seminars and workshops being organized or sponsored;
 - regional, country, sector and thematic policy/strategy documents.



VI. RECIPROCAL INVITATIONS

8. ESCAP and RIMES recognize that appropriate representation is important for the purpose of joint positioning and advocacy. They agree that:

- (a) reciprocal invitations will be extended to the other organization to attend the annual Council Meetings of RIMES and the ESCAP annual sessions; and
- (b) invitations to other meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops relevant to cooperation in the priority areas set out in the Appendix to this MoU will be sent, where appropriate.

VII. PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS

9. ESCAP and RIMES recognize that it is important to convene periodic consultations to review what is being planned, what is being implemented, and what is being achieved in terms of results as well as to discuss new challenges, opportunities and problems. They agree to hold such consultations periodically as required and not less than once every two years.

VIII. FOCAL POINTS FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE MOU

10. ESCAP and RIMES agree to designate as focal points for the activities under this MoU:

- (a) for ESCAP:
 1. Director, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division
 2. Director, Strategy and Programme Management Division
- (b) for RIMES: Chair, Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia



IX. MONITORING OF THE MOU AND JOINT ACTIVITIES

11. ESCAP and RIMES will prepare annually:

- (a) a list of all current operational cooperation activities and status of implementation;
- (b) a list with a brief description of all planned cooperation activities for the next year; and
- (c) an indicative list of planned cooperation activities for the two subsequent years.

12. ESCAP and RIMES agree that:

- (a) the respective focal points will prepare a joint report annually on the status of implementation of the cooperation activities, including an assessment of results achieved;
- (b) the Parties will conduct a joint review of the ESCAP-RIMES cooperation three years after signature of this MoU, in consultation with the evaluation offices of the respective organizations; and
- (c) these assessments will be reviewed by ESCAP and RIMES in considering further cooperation activities, including any necessary amendments to this MoU.

X. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND USE OF INSTITUTIONAL EMBLEMS

13. ESCAP and RIMES recognize that the involvement of both organizations in joint cooperation activities needs to be publicized. They agree that:

- (a) there will be public acknowledgment of the role and contribution of each organization to cooperation projects in all public information documentation related to such cooperation; and
- (b) the use of emblems of each organization in documentation related to cooperation will be in accord with the current policies of each organization concerning such usage.




XI. MISCELLANEOUS

14. The term of this MoU will be from the date of signature by both Parties until 31 December 2025.
15. Any specific activities under this MoU will be covered by a project document or written agreement.
16. This MoU may be amended by mutual written consent of the Parties.
17. This MoU may be terminated by either Party on six months' notice in writing.

Signed in two original copies in English in Bangkok, Thailand.

For the United Nations Economic and
Social Commission for Asia and the
Pacific



Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana

Under-Secretary-General of the United
Nations and Executive Secretary of
ESCAP

Date: 25 August 2021

For the Regional Integrated Multi-
Hazard Early Warning System for
Africa and Asia



Ms. Khadeeja Naseem



Minister of State for Environment
Climate Change and Technology of
the Maldives
On behalf of Secretariat to RIMES

Date: 23.08.21



APPENDIX

PRIORITY AREAS FOR ESCAP-RIMES COOPERATION

1. Supporting the operationalization of the ESCAP Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network, focusing on joint mobilization of expertise and resources to develop practical and scalable resilience solutions.
2. Developing multi-hazard early warning approaches, including impact-based forecasting, in collaboration with other pertinent regional institutions such as the Asian and Pacific Centre for Development of Disaster Information Management.
3. Capacity building and training activities addressing disaster risk reduction, preparedness and mitigation needs of member States, including disaster information and data needs, particularly of high-risk, low-capacity countries.
4. Strengthening research and capacity development through provision of internship opportunities and expert secondments.
5. Supporting ESCAP's South and South West Asia Office to assist the South Asian countries in implementing and monitoring climate and disaster resilience for attaining SDGs through the linkages between the South Asia Hydromet Forum and the South Asia SDG Forum.
6. Continuing collaboration on activities initiated through the ESCAP Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness towards sustaining achieved results and outcomes, under consideration of the Trust Fund's programmatic approach and the Strategy 2021-2024.

