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Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction

Sixth session

Bangkok, 28–30 August 2019

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II).

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of the officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Changing geography and intensification of disaster risks in the Asia-Pacific region.
3. Regional action: operationalizing the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network:
 - (a) Strengthening risk assessment and multi-hazard early warning systems;
 - (b) United Nations “Delivering as one” for disaster risk reduction and resilience;
 - (c) Enhancing geospatial information applications and services for disaster resilience;
 - (d) Disaster-related statistics;
 - (e) Data and information management platform for disaster resilience through the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management.
4. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme on disaster risk reduction.
5. Consideration of possible draft resolutions for submission to the Commission at its seventy-sixth session.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixth session.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the session

(a) Opening statements

The tentative programme for the opening of the session will be available online at www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-disaster-risk-reduction-sixth-session.

(b) Election of the officers

The list of participants will be available online at www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-disaster-risk-reduction-sixth-session.

The Committee will elect a chair and a vice-chair for the session.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/CDR/2019/L.1)

Annotation

The Committee will adopt the provisional agenda, subject to such changes as may be necessary.

2. Changing geography and intensification of disaster risks in the Asia-Pacific region

Documentation

Summary of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2019 (ESCAP/CDR/2019/1)

Annotation

The Committee will have before it document ESCAP/CDR/2019/1 in which the findings of the *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2019* are reviewed. Based on the multidisciplinary research conducted, a new analysis of the regional “riskscape” is presented in the document. Taking into account all types of disasters – intensive, extensive, slow-onset and rapid – evidence of the changing geography and intensification of disaster risks and risk hotspots is presented and critical resilience gaps are identified. Insights are provided on the ways in which disaster risks widen inequality and disempower at-risk communities that have already been marginalized. The ability to identify and reach out to those who are the furthest behind to build their resilience to disasters is critical to promote equality, empowerment and inclusivity towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other global development agendas. After a presentation by the secretariat, a panel of experts from Governments, academia and think tanks will discuss the implications of disasters and recommended policy responses to build disaster resilience in the region, as well as identify the role of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in that regard.

3. **Regional action: operationalizing the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network**

Documentation

Operationalizing the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network (ESCAP/CDR/2019/2)

Annotation

Most of the disaster hotspots in the region are transboundary in nature and require regional and subregional disaster risk reduction and resilience-building strategies. At its fifth session, the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction supported the ongoing effort to bring together different streams of its work related to multi-hazard early warning systems, regional space applications for disaster risk reduction and knowledge-sharing under an Asia-Pacific disaster resilience network. The proposed programme of work for operationalizing the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network is presented in document ESCAP/CDR/2019/2, and entails the following: (1) risk assessment and multi-hazard early warning systems; (2) geospatial information applications and services for disaster resilience; (3) disaster-related statistics; and (4) a data and information management platform for disaster resilience through the work of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management. Members and associate members are invited to provide further guidance on the proposed programme of work. After the presentations by the secretariat, a panel of experts consisting of government officials and representatives of academia and the private sector will discuss the findings presented in the document and make recommendations related to identifying priorities for operationalizing the Network.

(a) Strengthening risk assessment and multi-hazard early warning systems

Documentation

Operationalizing the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network (ESCAP/CDR/2019/2)

Annotation

In line with the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, opportunities for regional cooperation include promoting effective regional and subregional efforts to strengthen disaster risk modelling, assessment, mapping and monitoring, and multi-hazard early warning systems of common and transboundary disasters. The challenge lies in contextualizing second-generation early warning systems in different disaster risk hotspots. International cooperation and mechanisms, such as the International Network for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems, a wide-ranging partnership initiative, provide an important opportunity to strengthen or develop the capacity of member States for multi-hazard early warning systems by increasing investments and the sharing of information, expertise, resources and good practices. Operationalizing the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network also provides an opportunity to address resilience gaps in high-risk, low-capacity countries of the region by strengthening risk assessment and multi-hazard early warning systems.

(b) United Nations “Delivering as one” for disaster risk reduction and resilience

Documentation

Report of the thematic working group on disaster risk reduction and resilience of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism (ESCAP/CDR/2019/INF/1)

Annotation

The Committee will have before it information note ESCAP/CDR/2019/INF/1 in which the work of the United Nations on “Delivering as one” for disaster risk reduction and resilience in the specific context of the thematic working group on disaster risk reduction and resilience of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism is presented. The working group forms an integral part of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network.

(c) Enhancing geospatial information applications and services for disaster resilience

Documentation

Operationalizing the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network (ESCAP/CDR/2019/2)

Annotation

Pursuant to resolution 2016/27 of the Economic and Social Council, ESCAP provides secretariat support to the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific. This is an important step forward in strengthening the capacity of member States in geospatial information management. It also contributes to the operationalization of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network by supporting its work programme activities in geospatial services for disaster risk reduction and resilience in the specific context of risk hotspots.

(d) Disaster-related statistics

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Statistics on its sixth session (ESCAP/CST/2018/6)

The Disaster-related Statistics Framework: results of the work of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/74/24)

Annotation

At its seventy-fourth session, the Commission took note of the work of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific in support of monitoring of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the Commission also adopted resolution 74/6 on advancing disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific, in which the Commission requested the Committee on Statistics, at its sixth session, and the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction, at its sixth session, to review the work of the Expert Group and submit those reviews to the Commission at its seventy-sixth session. The main technical output of the Expert Group is the Disaster-

related Statistics Framework, which requires a review by disaster experts and statisticians.

Given the decisions by the Commission and the subsequent actions by the Committee on Statistics, the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction is invited to review the work of the Expert Group, including the Disaster-related Statistics Framework (ESCAP/74/24), and review and support the recommendations by the Committee on Statistics (ESCAP/CST/2018/6).

(e) Data and information management platform for disaster resilience through the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management

Documentation

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management on its third session (ESCAP/75/11)

Annotation

Document ESCAP/75/11 contains the report of the third session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management. The Governing Council endorsed the operationalization of the Asia-Pacific disaster risk atlas as a regional repository of cross-border multi-hazard information and developed an action plan for a subregional cooperation mechanism for slow-onset hazards with a focus on sand and dust storms in South-West and Central Asia. These two activities support the operationalization of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network.

4. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme on disaster risk reduction

The Committee may wish to provide guidance on the focus of the short- and longer-term work of the secretariat on disaster risk reduction and resilience, considering the programme direction and priorities outlined in the proposed programme plan for 2020.¹ The Committee may also wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on incorporating the outcome of the Committee's deliberations into the preparation of the proposed programme plan for 2021.

5. Consideration of possible draft resolutions for submission to the Commission at its seventy-sixth session

Under this agenda item, member States may wish to circulate, in advance, proposals and/or texts of draft resolutions on priority issues relating to disaster risk reduction for consideration by the Commission at its seventy-sixth session, in 2020.

6. Other matters

The Committee may wish to consider other matters brought to its attention.

¹ ESCAP/75/26.

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixth session

Documentation

Draft report (ESCAP/CDR/2019/L.2)

Annotation

The Committee will consider and adopt the report on its sixth session for submission to the Commission at its seventy-sixth session, to be held in 2020.
