



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction**Seventh session**

Bangkok and online, 25–27 August 2021

Annotated provisional agenda

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

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Emergence of cascading risks and expanding disaster riskscape.
3. Scaling up subregional and regional cooperation frameworks to manage cascading risks.
4. Overview of the work of the secretariat and the United Nations system at the regional level.
5. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its seventh session.

II. Annotations**1. Opening of the session****(a) Opening statements**

The programme for the session will be available online at www.unescap.org/events/2021/committee-disaster-risk-reduction-seventh-session.

(b) Election of officers

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

The list of participants will be available online at www.unescap.org/events/2021/committee-disaster-risk-reduction-seventh-session.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/CDR/2021/L.1)

Annotation

The provisional agenda will be considered and adopted by the Committee, subject to such changes as may be necessary.

2. Emergence of cascading risks and expanding disaster riskscape

Documentation

Summary of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2021 (ESCAP/CDR/2021/1)

Annotation

The Committee will have before it document ESCAP/CDR/2021/1, in which the findings of the *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2021* are reviewed.

An extended analysis of the regional riskscape, based on the multidisciplinary research conducted, is presented in the document. Risk hotspots where disasters and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), as well as other biological hazards, climate and health emergencies collide are identified. The emergence of systemic and cascading risks as well as their impacts on peoples and economies are presented. Furthermore, on the basis of regional and subregional gaps in building resilience at the nexus of disaster, health and climate risks, the document contains subregionally customized insights into opportunities for policy action and operational solutions for building back better with resilience. The ability to identify and address unmet needs of those who are the furthest behind in the expanding riskscape will be considered, as will the fiscal cost of a resilience agenda for the region.

After a presentation by the secretariat, a panel of experts from government, academia, and policy think tanks will discuss the issues presented in the document, recommend policy responses and identify the role of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in that regard.

The Committee may wish to provide further guidance on policy responses and the identification of the role of ESCAP in that regard.

3. Scaling up subregional and regional cooperation frameworks to manage cascading risks

Documentation

Scaling up cooperation frameworks to manage cascading risks (ESCAP/CDR/2021/2)

Overview of the work of the secretariat and the United Nations system at the regional level (ESCAP/CDR/2021/INF/1)

Annotation

The region's expanding riskscape requires new regional and subregional resilience-building strategies. In its resolution 77/1 on building back better from crises through regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, the Commission requested the secretariat to promote regional discussions on the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, including by taking note of the Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework and other relevant regional and subregional frameworks and initiatives.

Document ESCAP/CDR/2021/2 contains a review of progress made in scaling up subregional cooperation to address cascading risks at the intersection of natural and biological hazards in coordination with the secretariats of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation and the Economic Cooperation Organization as well as other development partners. Consideration will be given to the elements of a new regional cooperation framework and action plan to shape a longer-term, holistic, coordinated and more strategic approach to building disaster and climate resilience aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework.

With regard to South-East Asia, as part of the follow-up to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Declaration on the Strengthening of Adaptation to Drought, progress on the joint efforts of the ESCAP and ASEAN secretariats to develop a subregional plan of action will be reviewed. With regard to North-East Asia, experiences in adapting to climate change, in particular slow-onset disasters, will be shared, and new research to support the work of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation on desertification and land degradation will be proposed. With regard to North and Central Asia, progress in the delivery of capacity-development initiatives to reduce and mitigate disaster risks in endorheic water basins, with a specific focus on the Aral Sea basin, will be reviewed. With regard to the Pacific, information will be provided on how ESCAP will be working on disaster-responsive social protection in Samoa, the Cook Islands and Niue, at the request of their Governments.

The ESCAP secretariat's subregional programme of work is being scaled up in response to an emerging acute need for coordination tailored to each subregion to manage systemic and cascading risks. Initiatives in that regard are being operationalized under the aegis of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network, as presented in information document ESCAP/CDR/2021/INF/1.

The Committee may wish to provide further guidance on the proposed programme of work and priorities for scaling up regional cooperation.

4. Overview of the work of the secretariat and the United Nations system at the regional level

Documentation

Overview of the work of the secretariat and the United Nations system at the regional level (ESCAP/CDR/2021/INF/1)

Scaling up cooperation frameworks to manage cascading risks (ESCAP/CDR/2021/2)

Annotation

The secretariat's work in support of regional and subregional disaster risk reduction and resilience-building strategies, as presented in document ESCAP/CDR/2021/2, is being operationalized through technical cooperation and knowledge-sharing activities promoted by the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network and through regional cooperation on geospatial data applications to manage cascading risks.

Information document ESCAP/CDR/2021/INF/1 serves to highlight how disaster risk modelling, mapping and monitoring have strengthened multi-hazard early warning systems in the face of common and transboundary disasters including the challenges emerging from COVID-19. The challenges in pursuing targeted policy interventions lie in tailoring multi-hazard early warning systems to individual subregions. International cooperation and mechanisms such as the International Network for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems as well as wide-ranging partnership initiatives have already provided important opportunities to develop the capacity of member States in the area of integrated natural and biological multi-hazard early warning systems. Member States have shared information, expertise, resources and good practices through the Network.

The information document contains a review of milestones in the delivery of services by the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management related to information and data management for disaster risk reduction. In particular, the outcomes and recommendations of the Centre's recent assessments on gaps and needs with regard to disaster risk information and data management platforms as well as on regional sand and dust storm risks will be presented. The document serves to highlight how improved data management has strengthened the monitoring and reporting of the impact of sand and dust storms through the Sendai Framework monitor.

The Committee will also hear a presentation on the deliverables of the Issue-Based Coalition on Building Resilience under its workstream on disaster and climate risk analysis, which ESCAP co-leads.

The Committee may wish to provide further guidance to the secretariat on the activities presented in the document.

5. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme

The secretariat will provide an overview of the subprogramme's work with a focus on its contribution to areas that should be mainstreamed in the work of all the committees in accordance with the Commission's conference structure.

The Committee may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on the preparations for the programme plan for 2023 based on its deliberations.

6. Other matters

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

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

Documentation

Draft report (ESCAP/CDR/2021/L.2)

Annotation

The Committee will consider and adopt the report on its seventh session for submission to the Commission at its seventy-eighth session.
