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

Eighth session

Bangkok and online, 25–27 July 2023

Annotated provisional agenda

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

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening addresses;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Targeting transformative adaptation.
3. Trends emerging from the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in Asia and the Pacific, including the implementation of its health aspects.
4. Supporting the implementation of the Executive Action Plan on Early Warnings for All, 2023–2027, through a regional strategy.
5. Overview of the work of the secretariat and the United Nations system at the regional level.
6. Future focus of the subprogramme.
7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its eighth session.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the session

(a) Opening addresses

Opening addresses will be delivered by the Executive Secretary, other senior officials and government representatives.

(b) Election of officers

The Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for the session.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/CDR(8)/1/Rev.2)

Annotation

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

The list of participants and the programme for the session will be available online at <https://unescap.org/events/2023/committee-disaster-risk-reduction-eighth-session>.

2. Targeting transformative adaptation

Documentation

Summary of the *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2023* (ESCAP/CDR(8)/2)

Annotation

The Committee will have before it document ESCAP/CDR(8)/2, in which the key findings of the forthcoming *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2023* are presented.

In preparing the document, the secretariat has been guided by Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) resolution 78/1 entitled “Bangkok Declaration Commemorating the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: a Common Agenda to Advance Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific”; the Executive Action Plan on Early Warnings for All, 2023–2027; and the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan. The document contains information on approaches to enhancing adaptive capacity that reduce disaster and climate vulnerabilities and strengthen resilience.

Emerging and expanding risk hotspots among the Asia-Pacific subregions are identified using the latest projections from the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project 6, and the cost of inaction is examined.

Drawing from the above-mentioned analysis, the key building blocks of transformative adaptation for resilience are set out, with a spotlight on the sectors that have been affected most, including the food and energy sectors, underlining the transformative impacts that those building blocks have on protecting the human, environmental and economic activities necessary to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The pathways for financing the key building blocks of transformative adaptation are also examined. The document also contains a review of the expanding range of disaster risk financing instruments and an examination of how layered financing mechanisms can be scaled up to enhance preventive and anticipatory actions. The methodological aspects of determining loss and

damage will be presented in the context of supporting member States in accessing the loss and damage fund created at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

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 ESCAP in that regard.

The Committee is invited to discuss the key building blocks of transformative adaptation for resilience and their financing implications and to provide further guidance on policy responses and the role of ESCAP in that regard.

3. Trends emerging from the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in Asia and the Pacific, including the implementation of its health aspects

Documentation

Building resilience to cascading risks, including disasters, climate change and health crises (ESCAP/CDR(8)/3)

Annotation

The document contains an examination of the cascading nature of the most recent disaster events and their impacts in the region. As recognized in the Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, such events are caused by the interaction of multiple hazards; exposure; and vulnerability drivers. Although such events have multiplier effects on risks to society, infrastructure and the environment, they are still overlooked in disaster risk science, which continues to focus predominantly on single-hazard risks. This disaster-health-climate nexus played out in an unprecedented way through the intersection of the coronavirus disease, other biological hazards and major climate-related disasters, such as the 2022 floods in Pakistan. The scale of the disaster in Pakistan was historic, and it triggered waterborne diseases and multiple public health crises.

In preparing the document, the secretariat has been guided by ESCAP resolution 78/1; the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030; and the Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. The document contains an analysis of the trends emerging from the midterm review of the Sendai Framework. Based on ongoing research, the document is aimed at fostering a broader exchange of knowledge across multiple disciplines.

The Committee is invited to discuss the trends emerging from the midterm review at the global and regional levels and to further develop toolkits and guidelines, including for operationalizing the Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

4. Supporting the implementation of the Executive Action Plan on Early Warnings for All, 2023–2027, through a regional strategy

Documentation

Regional strategy to achieve early warnings for all by 2027 in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/CDR(8)/4)

Annotation

In preparing the document, the secretariat has been guided by ESCAP resolutions 78/1 and 79/1; the Executive Action Plan on Early Warnings for All, 2023–2027; and the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan. The document sets out the components of a regional strategy to support the achievement of early warnings for all by 2027 in Asia and the Pacific. Drawing from the Executive Action Plan, the document sets out pathways to reduce disaster mortalities and associated loss and damage in the multi-hazard risk hotspots identified in the *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2023*.

The document was prepared in collaboration with global co-leads, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). In it, the interacting components of an effective early warning system related to risk knowledge, monitoring, dissemination and communication, and preparedness and response, are set out for the consideration of the Committee. A regional strategy is expected to enhance strategic foresight planning through the use of knowledge and evidence generated using the Risk and Resilience Portal, the secretariat’s biennial *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report* and its subregional reports. Such a strategy could also serve as a basis for strengthened regional cooperation through existing mechanisms such as the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network, the ESCAP multi-donor trust fund on tsunami, disaster and climate preparedness, the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee, the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones, and regional climate outlook forums. ESCAP will draw on its partnership network, comprising United Nations organizations including the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and WMO; subregional intergovernmental organizations; and knowledge partners involved in the development, implementation and monitoring of the Executive Action Plan at global level.

The Committee is invited to provide guidance to the secretariat on the further development of a regional strategy to support the implementation of the Executive Action Plan on Early Warnings for All, 2023–2027.

5. 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(8)/INF/1)

Annotation

The work of the secretariat in support of regional and subregional disaster risk reduction and resilience-building strategies and of regional cooperation on geospatial data applications to manage cascading risks (see ESCAP/CDR/2021/2) is being operationalized through the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management, the Asia-

Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030) and through technical cooperation and knowledge-sharing activities promoted by the issue-based coalition on building resilience under its workstream on disaster and climate risk analysis, which ESCAP co-leads.

The information document contains a review of the 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. It also highlights the key impacts of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030) and sets out the deliverables of the issue-based coalition on building resilience.

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

6. Future focus of the subprogramme

Documentation

Future focus of the subprogramme (ESCAP/CDR(8)/5)

Annotation

Particular attention will be paid to subprogramme 5, Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management.

The Committee may wish to provide guidance to the secretariat on future areas of work of the subprogramme.

7. Other matters

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

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its eighth session

Documentation

Draft report (ESCAP/CDR(8)/L.1)

Annotation

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