

**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction

Fifth session

Bangkok, 10-12 October 2017

Report of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction on its fifth session**I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention****Matters brought to the attention of the Commission**

1. The following decisions adopted by the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP):

Decision 1

The Committee supports 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 to promote greater coherence across the implementation of global development frameworks, as well as coordination among members of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism and its Thematic Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience.

Decision 2

The Committee decides to hold the second session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management in Tehran in January 2018, aiming at simultaneous establishment and running of the Centre in the host country, and requests the Governing Council to report to the Commission at its seventy-fourth session on the Centre's delivered programme of work.

2. The Committee recognizes the relevance of the outcomes of the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and emphasizes that they should be brought to the attention of the Commission to continue to strengthen coherence between efforts to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. The Committee underlines the request to the Executive Secretary contained in paragraph 6 (c) of Commission resolution 73/7 to reach out to new potential donors, where appropriate, and explore innovative resource mobilization opportunities to strengthen the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries.

4. The Committee recognizes the potential contribution of space applications to the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and recommends that the proposed Asia-Pacific plan of action for space applications for 2018-2030 provide for the strengthened contribution of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development.

II. Proceedings

A. Disaster risk reduction and resilience in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

(Agenda item 4)

5. The Committee had before it the note by the secretariat on disaster risk reduction and resilience in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (E/ESCAP/CDR(5)/1).

6. The Committee benefited from a panel that comprised Ms. Shamima Haque, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Bangladesh; Mr. Suprayoga Hadi, Primary Planner, National Development Planning Agency, and former Director General for Specific Region, Ministry of Village, Indonesia; and Ms. Sofeenaz Hassan, Director General, National Disaster Management Centre, Maldives.

7. Representatives of the following members and associate members of the Commission made statements: Australia; China; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; and Russian Federation.

8. The representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies made a statement.

9. The Committee was informed of the national initiatives of member States aimed at implementing the Sendai Framework in a manner that was coherent and complementary to the attainment of the targets relating to disaster risk reduction and resilience in the 2030 Agenda and all global development frameworks. Efforts included integrating risk and resilience considerations into development plans and long-term strategies, and establishing institutional coordination mechanisms.

10. The Committee welcomed the support that member States had provided to other countries in the region to protect their most vulnerable communities through various technical cooperation efforts; sharing of expertise in meteorology, space and technology applications for disaster risk reduction; personnel exchange and training; South-South cooperation; and financial contributions to the Multi-Donor Trust Fund.

11. The Committee highlighted the importance of developing a regional voice in considering the complex and dynamic disaster and developmental linkages in the region, noting the need to build bridges between the national, regional and global levels of action.

12. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the measures being taken to operationalize the programme of work of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management as approved by its Governing Council at its first session, in New Delhi in 2016, including the transfer of \$3.3 million to the Centre to support capacity development activities and expert group meetings.

13. The representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies informed the Committee of its extensive network of national societies and volunteers throughout the region and offered to utilize that network to support the proposed Asia-Pacific disaster resilience network.

B. “Delivering as one” for disaster risk reduction and resilience

(Agenda item 5)

14. The Committee had before it the information note entitled “Thematic Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism: implemented activities and future direction” (E/ESCAP/CDR(5)/INF/2).

15. A representative of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction made a statement.

16. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and funds made statements: United Nations Development Programme Bangkok Regional Hub; and United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

17. The Committee noted the efforts being made globally and regionally to implement the Sendai Framework, including those of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to establish the architecture of the new monitoring system.

18. The Committee welcomed efforts by United Nations entities working under the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience and the United Nations Development Group to coordinate their interventions and programmes.

C. Regional mechanisms for multi-hazard early warning systems

(Agenda item 6)

19. The Committee had before it the note by the secretariat on strengthening regional mechanisms for multi-hazard early warning systems (E/ESCAP/CDR(5)/2).

20. The Committee benefited from a panel that comprised Mr. Muhammad Idrees Mahsud, Member, National Disaster Management Authority, Pakistan; Mr. Andi Eka Sakya, President, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Regional Association V for the South Pacific, and Chair, Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System; and Mr. Ali Shareef, Deputy Director-General, Maldives Meteorological Service, Maldives. The panel was moderated by Mr. Vicente B. Malano, Administrator, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, Department of Science and Technology, Philippines.

21. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: Afghanistan; China; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; and Thailand.

22. The Committee noted the need to establish and deepen multi-hazard early warning systems, and expressed support for the Asia-Pacific disaster resilience network. The network would include the ongoing work of ESCAP and its partners with a view to achieving greater coherence across global frameworks and contributions to the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

23. The Committee highlighted the important role of regional cooperation in enhancing multi-hazard early warning systems in the Asia-Pacific region, and expressed support for the work of ESCAP.

24. The Committee recognized the useful contributions of ESCAP and WMO through the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee and the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones. It noted the need to extend the partnership by incorporating the International Network for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems.

25. The Committee acknowledged the initiatives supported by the Multi-Donor Trust Fund to strengthening regional cooperation and enhancing early warning capacities for tsunami and climate-related disasters in Indian Ocean and South-East Asian countries, including the establishment of the Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia. It thanked existing donors and invited Governments and non-governmental entities to consider financial or in-kind contributions to the Multi-Donor Trust Fund.

26. The Committee noted with appreciation the additional contribution made by the Government of Thailand to replenish the Multi-Donor Trust Fund.

27. The Committee noted the need for the Asia-Pacific disaster resilience network and the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management to give priority to support for capacity-building in high-risk, low-capacity countries.

D. Disaster risk transfer mechanisms

(Agenda item 7)

28. The Committee had before it the note by the secretariat entitled “Disaster risk transfer mechanisms: issues and considerations for the Asia-Pacific region” (E/ESCAP/CDR(5)/3).

29. The Committee benefited from a panel on disaster risk transfer mechanisms. The panel comprised Mr. Vicente B. Malano, Administrator, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, Department of Science and Technology, Philippines; Ms. Apiradee Yimlamai, Director, Research Centre of the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives, Thailand; and Mr. Giriraj Amarnath, Research Group Lead, Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems, International Water Management Institute, Sri Lanka.

30. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: India; Japan; and Russian Federation.

31. The Committee noted that the Multi-Donor Trust Fund had achieved substantial progress in enhancing regional cooperation in multi-hazard early warning systems and encouraged ESCAP to continue to leverage such achievements. One representative highlighted the coordinating role of ESCAP in enhancing disaster risk transfer mechanisms, including through the Multi-Donor Trust Fund in line with priority area 3 of the Sendai Framework, namely investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience.

32. The Committee was informed of an ESCAP study that was currently under way to assess global good practices, lessons learned and prospects for regional cooperation in transferring disaster risks and financing.

33. One representative expressed the view that ESCAP as an intergovernmental body was not suited to pursue such endeavours and that such work was best carried out by multilateral financial institutions, which had the requisite expertise. The representative was also of the view that Commission resolution 73/7 did not cover disaster risk financing, including risk transfer mechanisms.

E. Space applications for disaster risk reduction

(Agenda item 8)

34. The Committee had before it the information note on promoting regional cooperation on the applications of space technology and geographic information systems for effective disaster risk reduction (E/ESCAP/CDR(5)/INF/3).

35. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: Bangladesh; China; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; and Thailand.

36. The representative of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat made a statement.

37. The representative of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development made a statement on the report of the Chair of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development on its twenty-first session. The Committee noted the statement on the report.

38. The Committee also noted that the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee had reviewed the programme of work of the Regional Space Applications Programme, including the activities to support disaster-affected countries in the region, and that disaster risk management would remain an important thematic priority of the Programme.

39. The Committee noted that the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017, under which the Regional Space Applications Programme was being implemented, would be completed by the end of 2017 and that the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee had discussed and refined the outline of a new Asia-Pacific plan of action for space applications (2018-2030). It noted further that the new plan of action would be based on the vision that by 2030 all countries in the Asia-Pacific region would be able to access and use space science, technology and their applications to the fullest extent to meet their individual and regional needs for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

40. The Committee noted that under the proposed Asia-Pacific plan of action for space applications (2018-2030), the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development would work towards the vision set out in the plan of action by acting as the region's main platform for the coordination and strengthening of regional space cooperation in support of the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

41. The Committee benefited from a presentation by the representative of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, who spoke about the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services

for Disasters 2016-2030, and from a presentation by the representative of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific, who spoke about best practices for disaster risk reduction in Asian countries.

42. The Committee noted that regional cooperation in space applications had been important in addressing the gaps in knowledge and capacity to access and effectively utilize space technology and space-based data, information, tools and services to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement and recognized that the cooperation needed to be continued, in particular to support low-capacity countries with special needs.

43. The Committee expressed its appreciation to member States that had used the network of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development to support other countries by providing satellite data and capacity-building training, tools, products and services. The Committee stressed that cooperation through the network of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development should be continued and that new innovative and practical means of cooperation should be explored.

44. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the work of the Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning and its service nodes in China, India and Thailand. The Mechanism's support to high-risk, low-capacity countries as well as to the network that delivered that support should be further expanded. The Committee also stated the necessity of addressing challenges arising from sand and dust storms throughout the region.

45. The Committee welcomed the work undertaken to review the role of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development and stressed that the Programme should be strengthened in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

46. The Committee emphasized that the proposed Asia-Pacific plan of action for space applications (2018-2030) should be linked to relevant regional and global frameworks, including the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific and the process for the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

47. The Committee noted that the proposed Asia-Pacific plan of action for space applications (2018-2030) would be presented for adoption at the proposed third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, to be held in late 2018.

F. Implementation of the programme of work of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management
(Agenda item 9)

48. The Committee had before it the report on the progress of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management on its programme of work (E/ESCAP/CDR(5)/4).

49. The Committee benefited from a panel discussion. The panel comprised Mr. Felino O. Castro, Director, Disaster Response Assistance and Management Bureau, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Philippines; Mr. K.H.M.S. Premalal, Director-General, Department of Meteorology,

Sri Lanka; and Mr. Yang Youlin, Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific, secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.

50. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement.

51. The Committee noted with appreciation the progress of the implementation of the programme of work of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management as set out by its Governing Council at its first session. The Committee recognized that the Centre acted as an important regional mechanism for the realization of the targets and priorities of the Sendai Framework.

52. The Committee was informed of the substantial progress made to finalize the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management in the Islamic Republic of Iran in accordance Commission resolution 71/11, and stressed the urgent need to operationalize and run the Centre, in the host country in 2017 without any further delay. The secretariat was expected to facilitate and provide all the necessary support in that regard, as appropriate. In that context, the Committee requested the secretariat to finalize the establishment of the Centre in close cooperation with the host country.

53. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its generous support as well as all measures taken to fulfil its commitments in accordance with Commission resolution 71/11 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management.

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

(Agenda item 10)

54. No draft resolutions were proposed.

H. Other matters

(Agenda item 11)

55. No other matters were discussed.

I. Adoption of the report

(Agenda item 12)

56. The Committee adopted the present report on 12 October 2017.

III. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the session

57. The Committee held its fifth session in Bangkok from 10 to 12 October 2017. The session was opened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP. Police Lieutenant General Nadhapit Snidvongs, Vice Minister for Interior, Thailand, delivered the opening remarks. Mr. Muhammad Idrees Mahsud, Member, National Disaster Management Authority, Pakistan, delivered the keynote speech on behalf of Lieutenant General Omar Mahmood Hayat, Chair, National Disaster Management Authority, Pakistan.

58. The findings of *Leave No One Behind: Disaster Resilience for Sustainable Development – Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2017* were presented by the Director of the Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division of ESCAP. Members of the press were invited to report on the findings of the study.

B. Attendance

59. The Committee session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members: Afghanistan; Armenia; Australia; Bangladesh; Cambodia; China; Cook Islands; Fiji; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kiribati; Kyrgyzstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Maldives; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nepal; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Tonga; Turkey; and Viet Nam.

60. Representatives of the following Permanent Observers to ESCAP attended: Belgium; Mexico; and Switzerland.

61. Representatives of the following offices of the United Nations Secretariat attended: Office for Outer Space Affairs; United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction; and Statistics Division as secretariat of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

62. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and funds attended: Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management; Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development; International Telecommunication Union; Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific; secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Development Programme Bangkok Regional Hub; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; UN-Habitat; United Nations Institute for Training and Research; United Nations Office for Project Services; and WMO.

63. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended: Asian Development Bank; Mekong River Commission; and Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia.

64. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations and other entities attended: APEC Climate Centre; Asian Disaster Preparedness Center; Asian Institute of Technology; CIMA Research Foundation; and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

C. Election of officers

65. The Committee elected the following officers:

Chair:	Lieutenant General Omar Mahmood Hayat (Pakistan)
Vice-Chairs:	Lieutenant Colonel Luvsansharav Ulziibayar (Mongolia) Ms. Shamima Haque (Bangladesh) Mr. Yin Benjie (China)
Rapporteur:	Ms. Sofeenaz Hassan (Maldives)

D. Agenda

66. The Committee adopted the following agenda:
1. Opening of the session.
 2. Election of officers.
 3. Adoption of the agenda.
 4. Disaster risk reduction and resilience in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
 5. “Delivering as one” for disaster risk reduction and resilience.
 6. Regional mechanisms for multi-hazard early warning systems.
 7. Disaster risk transfer mechanisms.
 8. Space applications for disaster risk reduction.
 9. Implementation of the programme of work of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management.
 10. Consideration of possible draft resolutions for submission to the Commission at its seventy-fourth session.
 11. Other matters.
 12. Adoption of the report.

E. Other events

67. The first ESCAP Disaster Resilience Week was held in conjunction with the Committee session. The following expert group meetings, side events and special sessions were held during the Week:

- (a) 10 October 2017: Launch of the *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2017*;
- (b) 10 October 2017: Expert group meeting on statistical geospatial indicators on disaster-related Sustainable Development Goals implementation;
- (c) 9 and 10 October 2017: Regional consultation on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-ESCAP study on drought;
- (d) 9 to 11 October 2017: Expert consultation on disaster information and knowledge management;
- (e) 9 to 11 October 2017: Expert group meeting on regional cooperation on early warning for transboundary river basin floods, flash floods and landslides in Asia and the Pacific;
- (f) 9 to 12 October 2017: Regional learning platform on disaster risk reduction and resilience-building: ensuring coherence across the global development agendas;
- (g) 9 to 12 October 2017: Twenty-first session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development;

(h) 12 October 2017: Special event in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of ASEAN: Celebrating achievements in regional cooperation, innovation and lessons learned in disaster risk reduction.

68. An exhibition on the theme “Leave no one behind” was displayed in the United Nations Conference Centre from 9 to 12 October 2017. Participants in the exhibit included the following: Embassy of Japan in Thailand; Embassy of the Philippines in Thailand; Asian Disaster Preparedness Center; German Agency for International Cooperation; Geo Informatics and Space Technology Agency of Thailand; International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan; Stockholm Environment Institute; United Nations Development Programme Bangkok Regional Hub; United Nations Population Fund in Asia Pacific Regional Office; UN-Habitat; United Nations Volunteers; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific; and ESCAP.

Annex

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>General series</i>		
E/ESCAP/CDR(5)/1	Disaster risk reduction and resilience in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	4
E/ESCAP/CDR(5)/2	Strengthening regional mechanisms for multi-hazard early warning systems	6
E/ESCAP/CDR(5)/3	Disaster risk transfer mechanisms: issues and considerations for the Asia-Pacific region	7
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<i>Limited series</i>		
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<i>Information series</i>		
E/ESCAP/CDR(5)/INF/1	Preparation of the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2020-2021 ^a	4
E/ESCAP/CDR(5)/INF/2	Thematic Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism: implemented activities and future direction	5
E/ESCAP/CDR(5)/INF/3	Promoting regional cooperation on the applications of space technology and geographic information systems for effective disaster risk reduction	8
<i>Information available online</i>		
www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Information%20Note%20for%20Participants%20CDRR5.pdf	Information for participants	
www.unescap.org/events/committee-disaster-risk-reduction-fifth-session	List of participants	
www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/CDR5%20Tentative%20Programme_web.pdf	Tentative programme	

^a For technical reasons, document E/ESCAP/CDR(5)/INF/1 was withdrawn.