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

Second session

Bangkok, 29 June-1 July 2011

Annotated provisional agenda

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

I. Provisional agenda

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2. Election of officers.
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4. Recent trends in disasters and their socio-economic and environmental aspects.
5. Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.
6. Enhancing regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction in Asia and the Pacific.
7. Mainstreaming innovative information and communications technology in disaster risk reduction.
8. Activities conducted as part of the ESCAP cooperative mechanisms on disaster risk reduction.
9. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme.
10. Consideration of draft resolutions for submission to the Commission at its sixty-eighth session.
11. Dates, venue and provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee.
12. Other matters.
13. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the session

Documentation

Tentative programme (E/ESCAP/CDR(2)/INF/3)

Annotation

The programme for the opening of the session will be announced in due course.

2. Election of officers

Documentation

Provisional list of participants (E/ESCAP/CDR(2)/INF/2)

Annotation

A chair, vice-chair(s) and rapporteur will be elected for the session.

3. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CDR(2)/L.1)

Annotation

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

4. Recent trends in disasters and their socio-economic and environmental aspects

Documentation

Importance of disaster risk reduction in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (E/ESCAP/CDR(2)/INF/4)

Addressing disaster risk reduction and development through improved data on disasters (E/ESCAP/CDR(2)/INF/5)

Green growth approach: experiences in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (E/ESCAP/CDR(2)/INF/6)

Climate change and disaster risk reduction: the role of trade and investment (E/ESCAP/CDR(2)/INF/7)

Annotation

Committee members may wish to participate in a high-level panel discussion of government representatives that will share insights and perspectives on emerging trends in disasters. Socio-economic and

development gaps and the importance of addressing disaster risk reduction from a wide range of sectoral aspects will also be considered.

Four information notes will be circulated. The increasing number of disasters in the region and their effects on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals are the focus of E/ESCAP/CDR(2)/INF/4, which was contributed by the regional unit for Asia and the Pacific of the Interagency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. It also furnishes an analysis of risk patterns and investment priorities for disaster risk reduction. The note draws on the *2011 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction* and outlines linkages to the forthcoming *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2012*.

Information note E/ESCAP/CDR(2)/INF/5, with a contribution from the Asia-Pacific Regional Centre of the United Nations Development Programme, affords a concise review of recent disaster trends on the basis of internationally comparable data and highlights national efforts to establish disaster-related databases. The need to develop a regional mechanism to collect detailed disaster data for improved disaster preparedness and responses is also discussed.

Information note E/ESCAP/CDR(2)/INF/6, contributed by the Environment and Development Division of the ESCAP secretariat, provides a summary of good practices and recent experiences in the application of the green growth approach to various national and regional efforts on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Policy recommendations are also outlined in the note.

Information note E/ESCAP/CDR(2)/INF/7, contributed by the Trade and Investment Division of the ESCAP secretariat, briefly discusses the impacts of natural disasters, including those associated with climate change, that are affecting the livelihoods of millions of people who depend on trade and investment, and consequently a country's ability to reduce poverty. The note also identifies opportunities to promote trade and investment in "climate-smart" goods, services and technologies in the Asia-Pacific region and the policies and strategies which need to be adopted at the national and regional levels to capture those opportunities.

5. Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action

Documentation

Integrating disaster risk reduction into socio-economic development policies in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/CDR(2)/1)

Achievements and challenges in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/CDR(2)/INF/8)

Annotation

In its resolution 64/2 on regional cooperation in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters in Asia and the Pacific, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary, among other things, to take effective measures to facilitate, in cooperation with relevant United Nations entities, the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in the

region, including supporting the organization of the biennial Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Under this agenda item, E/ESCAP/CDR(2)/1 highlights the outcomes of the Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which was held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 25 to 28 October 2010. Ways in which disaster risk reduction could be prioritized and mainstreamed in social and economic development planning processes are also considered in the document. A case is made for prioritizing the issue of social vulnerability to disasters and for investing consistently in social sectors as part of the recovery and reconstruction efforts for long-term inclusive development.

In addition, an information note (E/ESCAP/CDR(2)/INF/8) contributed by the regional unit for Asia and the Pacific of the Interagency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction focuses on the extent to which implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action has progressed in the Asia-Pacific region, including achievements and challenges in its implementation.

The Committee may wish to deliberate on the relevant issues and policies, with a view to providing the secretariat with guidance on the future direction of its programme on disaster risk reduction.

6. Enhancing regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction in Asia and the Pacific

Documentation

Enhancing regional cooperation, regional knowledge and capacity for disaster risk reduction in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/CDR(2)/2)

ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness (E/ESCAP/CDR(2)/3)

Annotation

Under this agenda item, two documents will be submitted to the Committee for its consideration and guidance.

Document E/ESCAP/CDR(2)/2 presents various initiatives of the secretariat that are aimed at enhancing regional cooperation and building up a regional knowledge community on disaster risk reduction. In this regard, the document outlines the contents of the forthcoming *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2012*, which will contain a review and analysis of emerging disaster risks and their socio-economic implications for the Asia-Pacific region. That report will be aimed at helping policymakers identify gaps and priorities in future disaster risk reduction strategies. The document also highlights the progress made in building the Asia-Pacific Gateway for Disaster Risk Reduction and Development since it was launched in November 2010 and in organizing disaster management information in a way that promotes the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into development planning. In addition, the document discusses the Regional Cooperative Mechanism on Disaster Monitoring and Early Warning, Particularly Drought, which was launched in Nanjing, China, in September 2010. In this regard, it discusses the national capacity required to utilize

effectively the provisions available under the mechanism, as well as the training initiatives of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development and the launching of new modules on information and communications technology for disaster risk reduction and climate change.

Document E/ESCAP/CDR(2)/3 contains a brief description of the background, policies, supported projects and results of the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness for Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries (Trust Fund). Unmet needs in the region are discussed with regard to where support could be afforded under the Trust Fund, taking into account the comparative advantages of ESCAP and its mandates for regional cooperation.

The Committee may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on the focus of its future work and the activities it should undertake in fostering regional cooperation and in developing a knowledge community for disaster risk reduction. It may also wish to provide the secretariat with advice on its work related to the Trust Fund.

7. Mainstreaming innovative information and communications technology in disaster risk reduction

Documentation

Expanding connectivity to disaster-affected communities through the innovative use of information and communications technologies and disaster-related information (E/ESCAP/CDR(2)/4)

Annotation

Information is key to reducing the levels of risk and impacts of disasters in terms of loss of life, economic costs and social dysfunction. In the unfolding of a disaster, there are two points at which information becomes critical. One is the issuance of a credible early warning at the pre-disaster stage, and the other is the post-disaster immediate and accurate reporting of the location, nature and severity of the disaster. Advances in the availability and use of information, communications and space technologies have led to significant improvements in this regard.

Under this agenda item, a high-level panel discussion is planned for government representatives to consider how rapid advances in satellite communications, remote sensing, geographic information systems and navigation have made disaster risk management more information and knowledge-intensive, and thus efficient and comprehensive. The improvements in the timeliness of data, the scale, geographic coverage and resolution of maps has enabled better understanding of risk patterns and facilitated the integration of disaster risk reduction into overall socio-economic development planning. Furthermore, the astoundingly rapid spread of mobile telephony and broadband Internet has opened up opportunities in emergency communications, including early warning systems, that for the first time link seamlessly into a coherent and resilient system, high-end space technologies with community-based disaster communications and indigenous knowledge and practices. Notwithstanding these opportunities, complex challenges remain to be addressed, among which are the affordability of and unequal access to such technologies,

particularly for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Pacific island countries. Areas are proposed in which regional cooperation in space applications and other information and communications technologies for disaster emergency communications through, among other things, the collaborative efforts of the Regional Interagency Working Group on Information and Communications Technology, could result in such technologies becoming more affordable, reliable and accessible for inclusive development.

8. Activities conducted as part of the ESCAP cooperative mechanisms on disaster risk reduction

Documentation

Work of the Typhoon Committee and Panel on Tropical Cyclones (E/ESCAP/CDR(2)/5)

Annotation

In document E/ESCAP/CDR(2)/5 aspects of the strategic plan for 2011-2013 of the Typhoon Committee, an intergovernmental body set up under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and ESCAP, are highlighted and an overview is provided of the main activities of the Typhoon Committee, in particular the socio-economic effects of typhoons and disaster risk reduction activities. The document also highlights key outcomes of the thirty-eighth session of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones and provides direction for enhancing the management of risks and socio-economic impacts associated with disasters related to tropical cyclones.

The Committee may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on its work related to the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones.

9. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme

Under this agenda item, the Committee may wish to provide guidance on the focus of the short- and longer-term work of the secretariat in the area of disaster risk reduction, taking into account the programme direction and priorities outlined in the strategic framework for 2012-2013, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/244, and how the outcome of the Committee's deliberations may be integrated into the planning of the strategic framework and programme of work for 2014-2015.

10. Consideration of draft resolutions for submission to the Commission at its sixty-eighth session

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 sixty-eighth session.

11. Dates, venue and provisional agenda of the third session of the Committee

The Committee may wish to deliberate on the tentative dates, venue and provisional agenda of its third session, to be held in 2013.

12. Other matters

The Committee may raise any matter not covered under the items mentioned above.

13. Adoption of the report

Documentation

Draft recommendations (E/ESCAP/CDR(2)/L.2)

Draft report (E/ESCAP/CDR(2)/L.3)

Annotation

The Committee will consider and adopt the report on its second session for submission to the Commission at its sixty-eighth session, in 2012.
