

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**BETWEEN**  
**THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION**  
**FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**  
**AND**  
**THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) reaffirm their desire to work together in areas of mutual interest through the present Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which supersedes the MoU signed the two organizations on 16 July 2003.

**II. PURPOSE OF ESCAP-WMO COOPERATION**

2. As both ESCAP and WMO have been established with mandates to promote regional cooperation in the broader area of sustainable development and both have as a goal building resilience to climate and disaster risks and promoting of early warning services and systems (EWS), ESCAP and WMO plan to work together on:

- (a) Strengthening ESCAP and WMO regional platforms on tropical cyclones;
- (b) Expansion of ESCAP/WMO cooperation and collaboration on mitigating the impacts of tropical cyclones and climate changes in the Pacific;
- (c) Expansion of WMO/ESCAP partnership on sand and dust storms (SDS) and slow-onset hazards including drought in Asia;
- (d) Strengthening the production, delivery and application of climate risk information and services, including but not limited to the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Initiative and Regional Climate Outlook Fora (RCOFs) in the Asia-Pacific region; and
- (e) Joint resource mobilization.

### **III. GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR ESCAP-WMO COOPERATION**

3. Cooperation between ESCAP and WMO will be guided by the following general principles:

- (a) The United Nations (UN) delivering as one approach is particularly relevant for delivering on crosscutting issues, such as resilience building and disaster risk reduction (DRR);
- (b) The Regional Roadmap for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific<sup>1</sup> of 2017 notes the opportunities for a 'one UN' approach towards strengthening regional cooperation for managing transboundary hazards, such as tropical cyclones, floods, El Niño/South Oscillation (ENSO), droughts, and SDS;
- (c) The UN Plan of Action on DRR for Resilience<sup>2</sup> of 2016 prioritizes the need to ensure coherence with respect to disaster and climate risks in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

### **IV. FOCUS OF ESCAP-WMO COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES**

4. The priority areas for cooperative activities would include those listed in the Appendix to this MoU, which may be amended from time to time with the mutual written consent of the Parties.

### **V. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

5. ESCAP and WMO recognize that effective cooperation depends on open, comprehensive and regular exchange of information at the institutional level. They agree to make appropriate arrangements to:

- (a) Share relevant publications and all public documents of the two organizations as reference documents; and
- (b) Give notice, through information posted on the websites of each organization, if relevant and applicable, of:
  - Conferences, seminars and workshops being organized or sponsored;
  - Regional, country, sector and thematic policy/strategy documents;

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unescap.org/publications/regional-road-map-implementing-2030-agenda-sustainable-development-asia-and-pacific>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/49076>

- Programme and project approval documents; and
- Regional programme, country programme, sectoral, project and other evaluations.

## **VI. RECIPROCAL INVITATIONS**

6. ESCAP and WMO recognize that appropriate representation is important for the purpose of joint positioning and advocacy. They agree that:

- (a) Reciprocal invitations will be extended to the other organization to attend the relevant constituent body sessions of WMO and the ESCAP annual Commission sessions; and
- (b) Invitations to other meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops relevant to cooperation in the priority areas set out in the Appendix to this MoU will be sent, where appropriate.

## **VII. PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS**

7. ESCAP and WMO recognize that it is important to convene periodic consultations to review what is being planned, what is being implemented, and what is being achieved in terms of results as well as to discuss new challenges, opportunities and problems. They agree to hold such consultations periodically as required and not less than once every two years.

## **VIII. FOCAL POINTS FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE MOU**

8. ESCAP and WMO agree to designate as focal points for the activities under this MoU:

- (a) for ESCAP: Director, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division
- (b) for WMO: Director, Region for Asia and South-West Pacific

## **IX. MONITORING OF THE MOU AND COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES**

9. ESCAP and WMO will prepare annually:

- (a) A list of all current operational cooperation activities and status of implementation;
- (b) A list with a brief description of all planned cooperation activities for the next year; and
- (c) An indicative list of planned cooperation activities for the two subsequent years.

10. ESCAP and WMO agree that:

- (a) The respective focal points will prepare a joint report annually on the status of implementation of the cooperation activities, including an assessment of results achieved;
- (b) The Parties will conduct a joint review or evaluation of the ESCAP and WMO cooperation three years after signature of this MoU, in consultation with the evaluation offices of the respective organizations; and
- (c) These assessments will be reviewed by ESCAP and WMO in considering further cooperation activities, including any necessary amendments to this MoU.

11. The Parties acknowledge that an evaluation was conducted on the ESCAP-WMO partnership for strengthening regional platforms on tropical cyclones and will review the outcomes of such an evaluation for further strengthening of the partnership. The timeline for this review will be agreed by the Parties separately.

## **X. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND USE OF ORGANIZATIONAL EMBLEMS**

12. ESCAP and WMO recognize that the involvement of both organizations in cooperative activities needs to be publicized. They agree that:

- (a) There will be public acknowledgment of the role and contribution of each organization to cooperation projects in all public information documentation related to such cooperation; and
- (b) The use of emblems of each organization in documentation related to cooperation will be in accord with the current policies of each organization concerning such usage.

## XI. MISCELLANEOUS

13. This MoU will enter into force from the date of signature by both Parties and remain in effect for a period of five years.
14. Any specific activities under this MoU will be covered by a project document or written agreement.
15. All activities under this MoU will be subject to availability of funding of the Parties and is not intended to be legally binding. The activities are to be conducted on a no-exchange of funds basis, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties in writing.
16. The Parties will settle between them any question of interpretation or difference concerning this MoU.
17. Nothing contained in this MoU will constitute or be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities enjoyed by WMO or by ESCAP.
18. This MoU may be amended by mutual written consent of the Parties.
19. This MoU may be terminated by either Party on six months' notice in writing.

Signed in two original copies in English on 21 September 2019 at UN Headquarters, New York, USA.

**For the United Nations Economic and  
Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

---

**Ms. Armida Salsiah-Alisjahbana**

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations  
and Executive Secretary of ESCAP

**For the the World Meteorological  
Organization**

---

**Mr. Petteri Taalas**  
Secretary-General of WMO

## APPENDIX

### PRIORITY AREAS FOR ESCAP-WMO COOPERATION

1. ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee
2. WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclone
3. Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Initiative
4. Regional Climate Outlook Fora (RCOFs)
5. Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System (SDS-WAS)
6. Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW) Programme
7. Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network (APDRN)<sup>i</sup>
8. Hydrological-related disaster risk management activities, including the Global Hydrological Status and Outlook System (HydroSOS).

---

<sup>i</sup> The Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network (APDRN) was established by ESCAP Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction at its fifth session in 2017. The APDRN is supported by three inter-related pillars such as (i) The regional platform for multi-hazard early warning systems, (ii) Thematic area of Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018-2030) – Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience, and (iii) A regional hub of knowledge and innovation.