

**STATEMENT OF COOPERATION  
BETWEEN  
THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION  
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC  
AND  
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), hereinafter together referred to as "Parties" reaffirm their desire to work together in areas of mutual interest through the present Statement of Cooperation (SoC), which supersedes the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two organizations on 30 March 2007.

2. ESCAP and UNDRR are co-chairs of the Thematic Working Group under the Regional Coordination Mechanism on disaster risk reduction and resilience (hereinafter referred to as the 'TWG'). The TWG is also co-chaired by UNDP and aims to support the regional implementation of those disaster-related elements of the 2030 Agenda through (i) advancing coherence in the implementation of disaster risk reduction and resilience across the 2030 Agenda and other internationally-agreed frameworks, an important guiding principle of the Sendai Framework; (ii) aligning the work of the United Nations with sub-regional organizations; and (iii) coherent regional response and analysis of disasters in the region.

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

3. As both ESCAP and UNDRR have been established with mandates to promote cooperation in the broader area of sustainable development and support government policies on disaster risk reduction, ESCAP, as the regional development arm of the UN in Asia-Pacific, and UNDRR, as the focal point for disaster risk reduction in the United Nations, plan to work together on further promoting awareness of the importance of disaster risk reduction as an integral component of sustainable development, with the goal of reducing human, social, economic and environmental losses resulting from disasters. This cooperation will also aim to further strengthen and support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (hereinafter referred to as "the

Sendai Framework") and associated regional plans, the Regional Roadmap for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "the Regional Roadmap") and the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience (hereinafter referred to as "the UN Plan").

4. ESCAP and UNDRR plan to work together to:

- (a) translate the ambitious, integrated and transformative resilience-related aspirations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into results on the ground;
- (b) strengthen coordination among United Nations agencies across all fronts of disaster risk reduction – analysis, policy, programming, implementation, follow-up and review.

### III. GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR ESCAP-UNDRR COOPERATION

5. ESCAP and UNDRR will be guided by the following general principles:

- (a) The United Nations delivering-as-one approach is particularly relevant for delivering on crosscutting issues, such as resilience building and disaster risk reduction;
- (b) The Regional Roadmap notes the opportunities for a 'one UN' approach towards strengthening regional cooperation for transboundary disasters and facilitating regional dialogue and cooperation in integrating disaster risk reduction into development activities;
- (c) The UN Plan of Action prioritizes the need to ensure system-wide coherence with respect to disaster and climate change risks in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework, and other frameworks.

### IV. FOCUS OF ESCAP-UNDRR JOINT ACTIVITIES

6. The priority activities for collaboration would include those listed in the Appendix to this SoC, which may be amended from time to time with the mutual written consent of the Parties. The Parties will focus, in general, on:

- (a) Providing coherent and coordinated support to the implementation of the Sendai Framework, the Regional Roadmap and the UN Plan of Action, through the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience (hereinafter referred to as "TWG");
- (b) Enhancing regional knowledge on disaster risk and resilience, through development and dissemination of such knowledge, identification of challenges and opportunities for data-sharing, and strengthening of the analytical and evidence base for regional cooperation for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- (c) Strengthening the integration of disaster risk reduction into development planning and implementation at regional, sub-regional and national levels, including in common UN programming.

## V. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

7. ESCAP and UNDRR 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) provide copies of every relevant publication and all public documents of each organization to the main library of the other organization to be maintained as reference documents; and
  - (b) give notice, through information posted on the websites of each organization, of:
    - conferences, seminars and workshops being organized or sponsored;
    - regional, country, sector and thematic policy/strategy documents;
    - other relevant programmatic documents.

## VI. RECIPROCAL INVITATIONS

8. The Parties 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 key meetings, conferences and mechanisms relevant to disaster risk reduction hosted by them; and
  - (b) information about other meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops relevant to cooperation in the priority areas set out in the Appendix to this SoC will be shared, where appropriate.

## VII. PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS

9. The Parties 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, through *inter alia*, the convening of the RCM TWG which will meet not less than two times a year.

## VIII. FOCAL POINTS FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE SOC

10. ESCAP and UNDRR agree to designate as focal points for the activities under this SoC:
  - (a) for ESCAP: Director, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division
  - (b) for UNDRR: Chief, UNDRR Asia and the Pacific Region

## IX. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE SOC AND JOINT ACTIVITIES

11. The Parties 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.

12. The Parties 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 of ESCAP-UNDRR cooperation three years after signature of this SoC, in consultation with other relevant offices of the respective organizations; and
- (c) these assessments will be reviewed by ESCAP and UNDRR in considering further cooperation activities, including any necessary amendments to this SoC.

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

13. The Parties recognize that the involvement of both organizations in joint cooperation activities needs to be publicized. They agree that:

- (a) there will be public acknowledgment of the role and contribution of each organization to joint 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 accordance with the current policies of each organization concerning such usage.

## XI. MISCELLANEOUS

14. The term of this SoC will be from the date of signature by both Parties until 28 May 2024.
15. Any specific activities under this SoC shall be covered by a project document or written agreement.
16. This SoC may be amended by mutual written consent of the Parties.
17. This SoC may be terminated by either Party on six months' notice in writing.

Signed on 27 May 2019 at UN ESCAP Headquarter, Bangkok, Thailand.

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

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**Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana**

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

**For the United Nations Office for  
Disaster Risk Reduction**

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**Ms. Mami Mizutori**

Special Representative of the UN  
Secretary-General and Head of the  
United Nations Office for Disaster  
Risk Reduction

## APPENDIX

## PRIORITY ACTIVITIES FOR ESCAP-UNDRR COOPERATION

1. An indicative list of cooperation mechanisms on disaster risk reduction include:
  - a ESCAP-led:
    - i Relevant events and sessions at ESCAP Commission Sessions
    - ii Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development
    - iii Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction
  - b UNDRR-led:
    - i Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
    - ii ISDR-Asia Partnership
    - iii Pacific Resilience Meeting

The respective lead Party will engage with the other in ensuring cooperation in organizing joint activities at such events.

2. The Parties will leverage the TWG as a core mechanism to support both the RCM and the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) and facilitate its transition into a regional implementation group to provide regional and national technical support on disaster risk reduction.
3. Through the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM), a regional institution of ESCAP, jointly organize capacity development training to support Sendai monitoring and related information management activities to complement ongoing capacity development support being provided by UNDRR, including through the UNDRR Global Education and Training Institute, in the region.
4. To strengthen policy coherence and integrated approaches for risk informed sustainable development in the Asia and Pacific region through advocacy, technical support and partnership building, the Parties will seek to collaborate on joint activities of mutual priority, including joint knowledge products.