



Economic and Social Council

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

Third session

Bangkok, 27-29 November 2013

Agenda item 11

Adoption of the report

Draft recommendations

I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention

1. The Committee recommends that the Commission adopt the draft resolution on disaster risk reduction that Japan has indicated it will sponsor at the seventieth session of the Commission. The resolution will further enhance regional cooperation and articulate a strong voice for the Asia-Pacific region at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Sendai, Japan, in 2015.

2. The Committee expresses appreciation to the secretariat for its efforts to assist member States in addressing disaster risks in Asia and the Pacific through policy analysis, regional advisory services and capacity-building initiatives. In this regard, the Committee requests that the secretariat continue to support member States in their efforts, including the implementation of Commission resolution 69/12 on enhancing regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific.

3. The Committee notes with appreciation the work of the secretariat in promoting the use of space technology and geographic information systems (GIS) as part of its support for member States in the area of disaster risk reduction, and requests the secretariat to continue assisting member States in their efforts to further implement resolution 69/11 on the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017.

4. The Committee expresses its appreciation for the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries and recommends that the secretariat continue the valuable activities of the Trust Fund. In this regard, it calls on member States to contribute additional financial support for the Trust Fund.

5. Noting the existing gaps in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development processes and governance structures, the Committee requests

that the secretariat prepare a regional strategy for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction. In this regard, the Committee calls on the secretariat to assist member States in the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into planning, finance and the work of relevant sectoral ministries through, among other things, capacity development.

6. To strengthen evidence-based policymaking, the Committee requests that the secretariat work towards a common set of indicators and parameters for monitoring resilience, including a core set of disaster-related statistics, in close coordination with the Committee on Statistics. The Committee calls on the secretariat to align this work, to the greatest extent possible, with the disaster risk reduction framework beyond 2015.

7. The Committee recommends that the secretariat further strengthen its efforts in Central Asia, especially by: (a) broadening the coverage of the Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning; (b) supporting the expansion of products and services provided by the Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia; and (c) linking the existing disaster risk reduction centres in Bishkek and Almaty with similar centres in Asia and the Pacific.

8. The Committee recommends closer collaboration between the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones and the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee to build synergy and share knowledge and experience, and calls on the two platforms to support the implementation of the World Meteorological Organization's Global Framework for Climate Services.

9. Noting that there are several parallel tracks of dialogues and consultations on the development agenda beyond 2015, the Committee notes with concern that, thus far, disaster risk reduction has not been satisfactorily integrated into the global development agenda, and therefore calls upon the secretariat to provide a platform for regional efforts that could enable disaster risk reduction to be adequately reflected in the development agenda beyond 2015 and sustainable development goals. The Committee holds the view that the disaster risk reduction agenda beyond 2015 should address the specific needs and priorities of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and requests that the secretariat support efforts to further this goal.

10. The Committee expresses its appreciation to the secretariat for timely provision of near real-time satellite data and imagery to the member States affected by severe disasters and requests that these services be continued. The Committee requests that the secretariat strengthen regional support to assist member States in using space-based information for supporting disaster risk reduction, impact assessment and reconstruction, through the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP).

11. Recognizing that there are still considerable gaps and unmet needs in space technology and GIS applications for addressing disaster risk reduction in member States, particularly in high-risk and low-capacity developing countries, the Committee requests that the secretariat support the member States in enhancing their capacity, taking into account national specificities and needs.

12. Noting that droughts have long-term adverse socioeconomic impacts on the countries affected, the Committee commends the secretariat for operationalizing the Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning under the RESAP framework. The Committee

notes with appreciation that the service nodes of the mechanism have been put in place in China and India for the provision of space-based data and products to drought-prone countries, starting with the pilot in Mongolia and to be extended to Cambodia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka as requested by those countries. The mechanism will offer customized geo-referenced satellite data, drought products and services emanating from the constellations of earth observation satellites to enhance the capacity of drought-prone countries for more efficient monitoring, early warning and drought mitigation.

13. The Committee notes with appreciation the continued support from member States in provision of space-based information, products and services, capacity development, technology and experience on space technology and GIS applications for disaster risk reduction.

14. The Committee recommends that the secretariat continue: (a) to facilitate policy development; (b) to document lessons learned and good practices; (c) to encourage knowledge sharing; (d) to develop guidelines and toolkits; and (e) to promote regional cooperation in the areas of mainstreaming, integrating disaster risk reduction into climate change adaptation, and applications of space technology and GIS. In this respect, the Committee requests that the secretariat further strengthen the Asia-Pacific Gateway for Disaster Risk Management and Development through partnerships with other disaster risk reduction portals and regional organizations.

15. The Committee takes note of the suggestion by the delegation of Bangladesh for ESCAP to establish, in Bangladesh, a research and training institute as a centre of excellence in disaster management. The Committee also takes note of the request by the delegation of Nepal for the secretariat to organize, in Kathmandu, a regional multi-stakeholder dialogue to jointly develop strategies for addressing ways in which to finance the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into development.

16. The Committee takes note of the request that the secretariat explore the feasibility of organizing a special session on disaster risk reduction in Central Asia at the seventieth session of the Commission. The Committee also takes note of the recommendation that the secretariat create a fund for humanitarian emergencies response in view of the recurring and multiple disasters in the region.

17. The Committee requests that the secretariat enhance collaboration with its strategic partners in the United Nations system and related global/regional organizations and initiatives in order to promote the synergic impact of activities and programmes and to pool expertise and resources. In this regard, the Committee appreciates the secretariat applying a “One UN” approach in organizing the current session of the Committee and recommends that the secretariat continue promoting this approach to improve regional-level inter-agency coordination.
