



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction

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**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
ON ITS FIRST SESSION**

CONTENTS

| | <i>Page</i> |
|---|-------------|
| I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE COMMISSION OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION | 2 |
| II. PROCEEDINGS | 4 |
| A. Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in Asia and the Pacific | 4 |
| B. Enhancing regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction in Asia and the Pacific | 7 |
| C. Activities of ESCAP cooperative mechanisms on disaster risk reduction.. | 11 |
| D. Strategic framework and proposed outputs for the proposed programme of work for 2010-2011..... | 13 |
| E. Other matters..... | 14 |
| F. Adoption of the report..... | 14 |
| III. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING | 14 |
| A. Opening, duration and organization of the session | 14 |
| B. Attendance | 15 |
| C. Election of officers..... | 16 |
| D. Agenda..... | 16 |
| <i>Annexes</i> | |
| I. High-level Round Table on Regional Cooperation for Disaster Risk Reduction | 17 |
| II. List of documents..... | 21 |

I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE COMMISSION OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

1. The Committee emphasized the importance of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters¹ and recommended timely implementation of different national, regional and global programmes for disaster risk reduction and management, in line with the Framework.
2. The Committee welcomed Commission resolution 64/1 of 30 April 2008 on the restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission, in which the Commission decided to establish the Committee, and recommended that more resources should be allocated to address issues under the purview of the Committee.
3. The Committee requested that the ESCAP secretariat continue promoting regional cooperative mechanisms and knowledge-sharing arrangements for disaster risk reduction, including on information, communications and space technologies, to improve different aspects of disaster risk management, such as multi-hazard assessment, preparedness, early warning and response to disaster risks.
4. The Committee requested that the secretariat further enhance partnerships and collaboration with the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and other United Nations entities as well as with regional and subregional organizations, and stressed that such partnerships should be aimed at strengthening cooperation among member countries and helping the United Nations agencies in the region to make regional cooperation more effective, including by avoiding duplication and reducing costs.
5. The Committee commended the important role played by the Regional Coordination Mechanism and encouraged the secretariat to continue to play a leading role in the Regional Coordination Mechanism in the area of disaster risk management in order to help to support major regional events, such as the Asian ministerial conferences on disaster risk reduction, and to build regional consensus as inputs to major global events. The Committee noted the importance of the forthcoming second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in June 2009 and the Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2010.
6. The Committee, while recognizing the many efforts under way in the region aimed at fighting disasters, including earthquakes, floods, droughts, tsunamis, typhoons and tropical cyclones, snowstorms and sandstorms, forest fires and volcanic eruptions, also recognized that a comprehensive regional publication on disaster management was lacking and recommended that a publication focusing on best practices and lessons learned in various aspects of disaster risk reduction and management in the Asia-Pacific region should be issued.
7. The Committee recognized the importance of economic and social analyses of the impact of disasters in providing a better basis for policymaking and suggested that research be conducted in that area, and member States advised of the results.
8. The Committee noted that effective management of disasters had a positive impact on poverty reduction and requested that the secretariat explore the initiation of a regional study of the relationship between the fields.
9. Expressing full support for a recommendation that the secretariat promote an Asia-Pacific gateway on disaster risk reduction and development for information

¹ A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

sharing and analysis for disaster risk reduction, in collaboration with regional and other partners working in the field, the Committee requested that proactive action be taken to establish the Asia-Pacific gateway and to make it functional as soon as possible, and it called on the international donor community to provide support for the initiative.

10. Welcoming the recommendation of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology at its first session that the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT) develop a new module on information and communications technology (ICT) for disaster risk reduction for one of its programmes,² the Committee requested that such a module be introduced for capacity-building as soon as possible.

11. Recognizing that information, communications and space technology can play a vital role in disaster risk management, the Committee requested that assistance be provided to members in knowledge-sharing using information, communications and space technology tools—especially in data collection and dissemination, early warning, disaster monitoring and evaluation, and disaster emergency communications—and that regional cooperative mechanisms being developed in these areas using advanced information, communications and space technology tools, such as Sentinel Asia, be promoted.

12. Expressing strong support for multi-stakeholder public-private partnerships, the Committee requested that partnerships to assist member countries in the areas of capacity-building, and knowledge and data sharing be promoted and, in that connection, it welcomed the advancement of capabilities offered by experimental and scientific satellites, such as the Wideband InterNetworking engineering test and Demonstration Satellite (WINDS) programme of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

13. Recognizing the importance of the “last mile” issue in many of the early warning systems and welcoming the proposals contained in document E/ESCAP/CDR/4, the Committee requested that the feasibility of organizing workshops on the sharing of best practices and capacity-building at the regional and subregional levels be explored, and it further requested that special attention be given to the needs of communities in remote and border areas, islands and mountainous regions.

14. Noting that climate change and extreme weather events increased the intensity of natural disasters, impeding national development efforts, the Committee called for enhanced regional cooperation to prepare for the natural hazards resulting from climate change and requested that the secretariat facilitate such efforts in the region.

15. Noting its great appreciation for the contribution of the ESCAP/World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Typhoon Committee and the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones to improving the management of the typhoon- and cyclone-related disasters in the region, the Committee recommended that the two regional bodies involve more countries from the region, especially those which had less capacity in typhoon- and cyclone-related disaster risk reduction and management, in their capacity-building and other activities, and that more assistance be provided to them.

² See E/ESCAP/CICT/6, para. 17.

16. Commending the ESCAP secretariat for its efficient and transparent administration of the Multi-Donor Voluntary Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia,³ the Committee recommended that further work be carried out on resource mobilization.

17. The Committee expressed support for the proposed programme of work of ESCAP for the biennium 2010-2011 pertaining to disaster risk reduction,⁴ with the following amendment:

Replace “Regional workshop on network of networks for disaster information sharing” with “Regional workshop on the Asia-Pacific Gateway for disaster risk reduction and development” under expected accomplishment (c).

II. PROCEEDINGS

A. Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in Asia and the Pacific

18. The Committee had before it document E/ESCAP/CDR/1, entitled “Follow-up to the outcome of the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction: From the Regional to the Global Platform”, and document E/ESCAP/CDR/2, entitled “Case study: The national disaster management system of China and its response to the Wenchuan earthquake”.

19. In addition, the Committee also had before it the background information document entitled “Interim regional synthesis report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in Asia and the Pacific (July 2007 to September 2008)” (E/ESCAP/CDR/INF/4).

20. Several delegations commended the secretariat for the excellent quality of the parliamentary documents and their timely provision to the Committee.

21. Several delegations noted that the Asia-Pacific region was the most disaster-prone region of the world, with the largest annual loss of human life and property, and the most populous, with a large poor population and poor infrastructures that were vulnerable to disasters. In that connection, several delegations recognized the special importance of disaster management, including risk reduction, in the region.

22. Several delegations expressed satisfaction with the adoption of Commission resolution 64/1 of 30 April 2008 on the restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission, in which the Commission had decided to establish the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction. Several delegations recommended that more resources should be allocated to address issues under the purview of the Committee.

23. Several delegations recognized that disaster risk reduction (DRR) was fundamental for sustainable socio-economic development and described their strategies, plans, programmes and recent achievements in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development policies, creating and strengthening national integrated disaster risk reduction mechanisms, and implementing key activities as described in the Hyogo Framework for Action.

24. Several delegations recognized the absence of a comprehensive regional publication on disaster management and recommended that a publication focusing on best practices and lessons learned in various aspects of disaster risk reduction and management in the Asia-Pacific region should be issued.

³ See Commission resolution 62/7 of 12 April 2006.

⁴ E/ESCAP/CDR/8/Rev.1.

25. Some delegations noted that disaster management had a very positive impact on poverty reduction and requested that the secretariat explore the initiation of a regional study of the relationship between the two.

26. Some delegations requested that the secretariat continue promoting regional cooperative mechanisms and regional resource-sharing arrangements for disaster risk reduction in the region, including on information, communications and space technologies, to improve different aspects of disaster management, such as disaster preparedness and response.

27. Several delegations noted that climate change and extreme weather events increased the intensity of natural disasters, impeding national development efforts. In that connection, they called for enhanced regional cooperation in tackling the natural hazards resulting from climate change and requested that the secretariat facilitate more regional cooperation in that regard.

28. Several delegations requested that the secretariat further enhance partnerships and collaboration with other United Nations entities, such as the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme, and with regional and subregional organizations, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center, in the area of disaster risk management and risk reduction. They noted that areas of collaboration could include capacity-building and technical assistance, among others. They also stressed that such partnerships should be aimed at providing better assistance to the member countries and helping United Nations agencies in the region to make regional cooperation more effective, including avoiding duplication and reducing costs.

29. One delegation encouraged the secretariat to work on strengthening regional South-South cooperation mechanisms for implementing regional activities in disaster risk management and risk reduction.

30. Several delegations encouraged the secretariat to lead the Regional Coordination Mechanism in the area of disaster risk management to help service major regional events, such as the Asian ministerial conferences on disaster risk reduction, among others, and to build regional consensus as inputs to major global events. They also called for special attention to be paid to the second session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, which was scheduled to be held in Geneva in June 2009, and the Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference, which was scheduled to be held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, in 2010.

31. Several delegations requested the expansion of the Committee's activities to cover various aspects of disaster management more broadly. In that regard, those delegations suggested amending the current title of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction to the Committee on Disaster Management. They noted that the change would enable member countries to discuss more comprehensively the economic and social aspects of the disaster impacts at different phases and in different areas, so as to find better options for disaster management and socio-economic development.

32. Some delegations recognized the importance of economic and social analyses of the impacts of disasters to provide a better platform for policymaking and suggested that research be carried out in that area, with member States subsequently advised of the results.

33. One delegation requested that the secretariat conduct research and regularly publish documents on best practices in disaster management, including on the aspects of information, communications and space technologies in disaster management.

34. Some delegations requested that the secretariat assist ESCAP members, especially countries with special needs, by creating awareness and helping to build their national capacities in the development of, and access to, technical support systems for the development of comprehensive national disaster emergency response plans, and to integrate disaster risk reduction into national development planning through the organization of activities for capacity-building and for the sharing of knowledge and experience.

35. The delegation of the Russian Federation informed the Committee that it had provided and would continue to provide assistance to those States in the region affected by natural disasters, on mutually agreeable terms, for the improvement of national and regional emergency response systems and technologies. It informed the Committee that it would be possible to arrange studies of the airborne firefighting technologies and natural disaster forecasting and assessment methods of the Russian Federation. It also noted the need for members to engage in joint emergency prevention and response activities, particularly when they were transboundary in nature. The delegation informed the Committee that the second international Integrated Safety and Security exhibition would be held in Moscow from 19 to 22 May 2009, which could be considered an opportunity for other members to become acquainted with the latest achievements and technologies in the sphere of international emergency preparedness and response. It also informed the Committee of the creation of a national centre for disaster management, which dealt with disaster prevention, forecasting and notification of disasters.

36. One delegation suggested that the secretariat should work towards building early warning systems and developing disaster preparedness programmes in order to integrate early warning and mitigation into national policies, as recommended by the Hyogo Framework for Action. The delegation suggested that the secretariat should have a more effective interaction with the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery and should use existing mechanisms for disaster risk reduction, in particular in coordination with the private sector and national disaster management bodies.

37. One delegation noted that, as ESCAP had convening power and a comparative advantage in coordinating policies and developing norms in the regional context, it could serve as the formal regional forum for discussions and the building of consensus and policymaking on disaster risk reduction.

38. The delegation of Japan informed the Committee that it had provided China with emergency grant aid and relief supply goods and services, including the Japan Disaster Relief Rescue Team and Disaster Relief Medical Team, in the aftermath of the earthquake in Sichuan Province, China. The delegation also informed the Committee that, at the Japan-China summit meeting in July 2008, the two countries had agreed to promote cooperation in disaster rehabilitation. The delegation noted the Trilateral Joint Announcement on Disaster Management Cooperation⁵ between China, Japan and the Republic of Korea as an example of the efforts that had been made by East Asian countries to minimize damage caused by disasters by, among other things, strengthening disaster management capability. The delegation also informed the Committee that China, Japan and the Republic of Korea had agreed to jointly address

⁵ The Trilateral Joint Announcement on Disaster Management Cooperation was an outcome of the Japan-China-Republic of Korea Trilateral Summit, held in Fukuoka, Japan, on 13 December 2008. It is available at www.mofa.go.jp/region/asia-paci/jck/summit0812/disaster.html.

integrated river basin management, including water-related disasters, on the occasion of the Fifth World Water Forum that had been held in Istanbul in March 2009.

39. Some delegations noted the threat of man-made disasters and indicated that regional cooperation to tackle such disasters, particularly steps to prevent them, would be useful.

40. The delegation of India informed the Committee of various national initiatives on disaster risk reduction that had been undertaken in recent years, including the Indian Disaster Management Act of 2005, the National Tsunami Early Warning System that had been in operation since 2007, the modernization of the India Meteorological Department, the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into the educational system to develop a culture of preparedness and safety, the establishment of the Decision Support Centre by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) as a single-window service provider for space-enabled products for disaster management, and the National Institute for Disaster Management, which had been set up to undertake capacity-building and promote regional cooperation in the field of disaster management among South Asian countries. The delegation also informed the Committee that India was ready to play an active role in sharing resources, best practices and lessons learned in the field of disaster management to further promote the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in the region.

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

41. A high-level round table on regional cooperation for disaster risk reduction was held following the opening of the Committee session. A summary of the discussions and recommendations of the round table are presented in annex I.

42. The Committee had before it three documents: (a) "Network of networks of knowledge sharing and analysis for disaster management" (E/ESCAP/CDR/3); (b) "Early warning and preparedness at the community level" (E/ESCAP/CDR/4); and (c) "Information, communications and space technologies for disaster risk reduction" (E/ESCAP/CDR/5). The Committee also had before it an information document entitled "Preliminary list of major networks on knowledge sharing and analysis for disaster management in the Asia-Pacific region" (E/ESCAP/CDR/INF/5).

43. Several delegations expressed appreciation to the secretariat for the excellent quality and timely provision of the documents under agenda item 5.

44. One delegation took the view that the documents should also have addressed the role of forecasting technologies and the measures for the improvement of forecasts/warnings. In that regard, the delegation noted that the experience of WMO with forecasting technologies and the infrastructure that that organization provided should be recognized accordingly.

45. Several delegations expressed full support for the recommendation of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology at its first session, held in November 2008, that the secretariat promote a network of disaster information sharing networks, which could be billed as an Asia-Pacific gateway for DRR and development, in collaboration with regional and other partners working in the field (see E/ESCAP/CICT/6, para. 15). In that connection, several delegations requested that proactive action be taken to establish the Asia-Pacific gateway and make it functional as soon as possible, and called on the international donor communities to provide assistance for the initiative.

46. One delegation noted that the prospect of establishing an Asia-Pacific gateway on disaster risk reduction and development, based on previous experience, would entail significant expense. Additionally, as many networks had already been developed by other organizations, the duplication of their work should be avoided. In that regard, the delegation suggested that the Asia-Pacific gateway be established as an online resource tool for voluntary information sharing between national and international institutions, with due consideration of intellectual property rights, the resources made available through the gateway and the special needs of least developed countries.

47. One delegation requested that the secretariat provide disaster-prone countries with advisory services to formulate, implement and adapt their early warning policies, strategies and programmes as necessary.

48. Several delegations recognized the “last mile” issue in many of the early warning systems and welcomed the proposals contained in document E/ESCAP/CDR/4. In that connection, several delegations requested that the secretariat explore the feasibility of organizing workshops on the sharing of best practices and capacity-building at the regional and subregional levels. Several delegations emphasized that special attention should be given to the needs of communities in remote areas, islands and mountainous regions.

49. Some delegations encouraged the strengthening of existing national disaster management offices and/or the establishment of new ones where they did not yet exist. National disaster management offices should have their capacity enhanced with statistical and geo-spatial information and knowledge, with a focus on early warning at the community level.

50. Several delegations recognized that information and communications technology, including space technology, could play a vital role in disaster management. In that connection, several delegations requested that the secretariat assist members in the effective use of ICT tools for disaster management, especially in data collection and dissemination, early warning, disaster monitoring and evaluation, and disaster-related emergency communications, and promote regional cooperative mechanisms using advanced ICT tools, such as Sentinel Asia.

51. Several delegations reported on national initiatives regarding the use of ICT for disaster risk reduction.

52. The delegation of India informed the Committee of the work and operations of the Decision Support Centre in providing space-enabled inputs for the use of disaster management agencies. The delegation also mentioned several applications using space and ICT for disaster management, under the Disaster Management Support Programme of ISRO, and the establishment of a satellite-based virtual private network connecting the State Emergency Control Center and important nodal Ministries for the exchange of information for disaster management.

53. The delegation of the Russian Federation informed the Committee of the types of forecasts issued by its country’s Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring (Roshydromet) and described the joint work of the Russian Federation and its partners within regional initiatives. Moreover, it stressed the importance of the development of national forecasting mechanisms and requested that the secretariat give more attention to that aspect in the future work of the Commission.

54. The delegation of the Philippines informed the Committee that its country had implemented multi-agency programmes on multi-hazard assessment and mapping, community-based early warning systems, training of local government units and community volunteers, public information campaigns, and the mainstreaming of disaster risk management in development planning.

55. The delegation of Thailand shared its country's experiences with capacity-building for community-based disaster management and early warning, which included the training of local people as "Mr. Warning" to deliver flood/landslide warning messages and a training course entitled "One Tambon and One Search and Rescue Team". The delegation informed the Committee that Thailand was also willing to share more data and significant information with other countries in the region.

56. Recognizing space technology as the most effective tool for disaster monitoring, the delegation of China informed the Committee that its country had recently utilized space technology in disaster reduction, including the launching of satellites for the purpose of environmental and disaster reduction monitoring and forecasting.

57. Several delegations welcomed the recommendation of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology at its first session that APCICT develop a new module on ICT for disaster risk reduction for one of its programmes (see E/ESCAP/CICT/6, para. 17) and requested that such a module be introduced for capacity-building as soon as possible.

58. Several delegations recommended that APCICT continue to develop comprehensive regional and subregional capacity-building programmes, including training of trainers and in-service training, on ICT for DRR in collaboration with training institutions specialized in disaster risk reduction and management, to address the needs of disaster-prone countries and countries with special needs towards building a disaster-resilient society in Asia and the Pacific.

59. The delegation of Japan informed the Committee of its country's efforts in knowledge sharing for disaster management, including the project entitled "Disaster Reduction Hyperbase-Asian Application" (DRH-Asia) and the establishment of the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM). It also informed the Committee of the cooperation between the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and ESCAP through such activities as Sentinel Asia and the Wideband InterNetworking engineering test and Demonstration Satellite (WINDS). It reported on the development of the Global Flood Alert System, to make the best use of satellite and other information to estimate, forecast, issue warnings and reduce the risks of flood. The delegation of India informed the Committee that its country had supported the Sentinel Asia project and had established a Sentinel Asia-ISRO node, which already had data covering portions of about 16 countries. The delegation informed the Committee that, during 2008 and early 2009, the Sentinel Asia-ISRO node had handled eight emergency requests, including in response to Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and the Wenchuan earthquake in China.

60. Several delegations expressed strong support for multi-stakeholder public-private partnerships and requested that the secretariat promote partnerships in delivering services to member countries in the areas of capacity-building and training, knowledge and data sharing. In that connection, several delegations welcomed the resources offered by the experimental or scientific satellites, such as the WINDS programme of JAXA and similar programmes in China, India and the Republic of

Korea, as well as the United States of America, the Russian Federation and European countries.

61. Several delegations expressed appreciation for the establishment of both the Committee on Information and Communications Technology and the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as the establishment of the Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division of the secretariat.

62. Several delegations noted that regional cooperative mechanisms on the use of ICT for disaster risk reduction must take into account the overall capacity, the technological and institutional infrastructure, the enabling policy environment, and the economic and social disparities among countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

63. Several delegations requested that the secretariat review current ICT policies and programmes to identify and disseminate good practices on mainstreaming DRR, including early warning systems, taking into consideration initiatives to ensure universal communication services.

64. One delegation expressed appreciation for the secretariat's capacity to deal with both ICT- and disaster-related issues, and the assistance given to countries of the region in the effective use of ICT tools for disaster management, including in such important fields as sharing space information for disaster management and disaster-related emergency communications.

65. One delegation noted that many countries relied on indigenous knowledge of disaster risk reduction and requested that the secretariat carry out a study on the use of high-tech and community-based indigenous knowledge and disseminate the results for the benefit of member countries.

66. The delegation of Bangladesh informed the Committee that its country had a rich and diverse set of indigenous and adaptive practices on disaster risk reduction to protect people and livestock, knowledge that could be shared through South-South cooperation for the benefit of the region. The delegation also informed the Committee that Bangladesh had assisted Myanmar in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis by sharing emergency response experience. In that respect, it acknowledged the positive outcome of South-South cooperation and suggested further strengthening such cooperation mechanisms.

67. The delegation of the Philippines informed the Committee that its country had developed a methodology on community-based flood early warning systems and documentation for hazard mapping for hydrometeorological and geological hazards that could be made available to other member countries. It also informed the Committee that good practices regarding early warning systems in the Philippines had been published by the Typhoon Committee in January 2009 to serve as a reference for other countries that might wish to replicate the Philippine system.

68. One delegation requested the holding of consultations among related organizations and initiatives in order to enhance collaboration and avoid duplication of work in DRR.

69. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran held the view that the establishment and effective functioning of the Committee was of great importance but it informed the Committee that, in view of the substantive nature of the issues raised, it would refrain from stating the position of its Government on all new substantive issues until the forthcoming session of the Commission.

70. The delegation of China informed the Committee of the way in which space technology was utilized to monitor and evaluate damage and losses during the Wenchuan earthquake and to provide Australia with monitoring and analysis products during its recent forest fire. The delegation also informed the Committee of its support for the opening of the Beijing Office of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER). The delegation expressed its willingness to enhance exchange and cooperation with countries in the Asia-Pacific region in using space technology in DRR, including: (a) the provision of space data and disaster monitoring and evaluation products; (b) exploration and promotion for the establishment of an Asia-Pacific cooperation mechanism in the areas of natural disaster surveillance, warning and evaluation through the utilization of space technology; (c) the utilization of satellite data in disaster reduction; and (d) capacity-building in the promotion of information- and experience-sharing with regard to space technology.

71. One delegation requested that the secretariat take into consideration the different characteristics of countries and hazards in its analytical and capacity-building work. It also noted that disaster preparedness at the single household level was important in countries with sparse populations.

72. The delegation of Thailand informed the Committee of its country's initiatives in international cooperation, including its involvement in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Committee on Disaster Management, the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones, and its membership in the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC). It also expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan for technical support received.

73. One delegation requested that the secretariat facilitate cooperation between neighbouring countries aimed at reducing the risk of disasters of a transboundary nature.

74. ADPC, ADRC, the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia, the Disaster Prevention Research Institute of the Kyoto University (DPRI), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs provided the Committee with information on their activities. Many of them proposed working closely with the ESCAP secretariat. The delegation of Japan encouraged member States to make good use of the experiences and knowledge which had been accumulated through the activities of ADRC.

C. Activities of ESCAP cooperative mechanisms on disaster risk reduction

75. The Committee had before it the documents entitled "Typhoon Committee" (E/ESCAP/CDR/6) and "Panel on Tropical Cyclones" (E/ESCAP/CDR/7). Some delegations praised the presentations made.

76. The Committee also had before it two background information documents entitled "Status of the ESCAP Multi-Donor Voluntary Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia" (E/ESCAP/CDR/INF/6) and "Activities of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology" (E/ESCAP/CDR/INF/7).

77. Several delegations commended the work carried out by the two ESCAP/WMO-affiliated regional institutions, the Typhoon Committee secretariat and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones, and expressed their gratitude to their hosts, Macao,

China; and Pakistan, for providing continued support to those institutions. They called for more support from the region for the two institutions.

78. Several delegations noted with appreciation the contribution of the Typhoon Committee to better management of typhoon-related disasters, especially in East and South-East Asia, and fully supported its strategic plan for 2007-2011, including the seven key result areas identified therein (see E/ESCAP/CDR/6, para.12).

79. Some delegations also took note of the activities carried out by the Typhoon Committee, especially in institutional and human capacity-building through the organization of training and research activities, and requested that the Typhoon Committee secretariat explore the possibility of organizing more institutional capacity-building activities, including in the area of typhoon disaster information systems targeting the typhoon-prone less developed ESCAP member countries.

80. The delegation of Japan informed the Committee of the leading role it played in some of the activities of the Typhoon Committee.

81. Some delegations expressed their appreciation for the contributions made by the Panel on Tropical Cyclones in managing cyclone-related disasters in the regions of the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea by promoting measures to improve tropical cyclone warning systems and conducting training and research activities for disaster prevention and preparedness.

82. Several delegations suggested that strengthening the partnership between the ESCAP secretariat, WMO and the two ESCAP/WMO-affiliated regional bodies and other United Nations entities, as well as international organizations, was important in providing better services to address the needs of the member countries, including developing countries, in particular with regard to water-related disasters, including joint research and space-related projects, capacity-building and training for disaster risk reduction.

83. Some delegations found the programmes of the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones to be highly beneficial to the member countries, and recommended that the two regional bodies should involve more countries from the region in their capacity-building and other activities, in particular those countries with less capacity in typhoon- and cyclone-related disaster risk reduction and management, and that more assistance should be provided to them.

84. One delegation emphasized that the Panel on Tropical Cyclones and the Typhoon Committee should work together on enhancing partnerships and cooperative mechanisms among the member countries of ESCAP for better management of cyclone- and typhoon-related disasters.

85. Several delegations commended the ESCAP secretariat for administering the Tsunami Regional Trust Fund efficiently and transparently, urged the secretariat to work further on resource mobilization, and stressed that the Fund's current scope should be expanded to incorporate climate change-related risk management.

86. One delegation noted that the secretariat, pursuant to the recommendation made in the evaluative review of the Fund in 2008 to expand the scope of the Fund for an overall focus on disaster risk reduction, had submitted a proposal to key donors of the Fund whereby it would be renamed the "ESCAP Multi-Donor Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness", and urged that the necessary follow-up be undertaken.

87. Some delegations expressed their appreciation for the dedicated service of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology in the area of technology transfer, including in relation to disaster mitigation and preparedness in countries of the Asia-Pacific region, and stressed that the Centre should work further to strengthen technology capacity-building in the region for the effective management of disasters towards building a disaster-resilient society.

D. Strategic framework and proposed outputs for the proposed programme of work for 2010-2011

88. The Committee had before it document E/ESCAP/CDR/8/Rev.1.

89. In presenting the document, the secretariat provided an overview of the results to be achieved through the subprogramme on disaster risk reduction for 2010-2011 and drew attention to the importance given by the Commission to the work of ESCAP on disaster risk reduction. The secretariat additionally outlined the various priorities for the implementation of the programme of work, particularly in the context of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015.

90. Committee members expressed support for the proposed programme of work of ESCAP for the biennium 2010-2011 pertaining to disaster risk reduction subject to the following amendment:

Replace “Regional workshop on network of networks for disaster information sharing” with “Regional workshop on the Asia-Pacific Gateway for disaster risk reduction and development” under expected accomplishment (c).

91. Several delegations emphasized the importance of implementing the programme of work in a result-based and action-oriented manner with particular consideration to countries with special needs and those that were disaster-prone in the region.

92. Some delegations specified the need for activities to strengthen national institutional capacity in, among other things, the application of space-based technology to disaster risk reduction and management and the mainstreaming of disaster management into national development strategies and programmes.

93. One delegation pointed to the importance of promoting the identification of risk and vulnerability at the community level, of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into climate change adaptation strategies, of integrating those strategies into sectoral and local development plans, especially for mega-cities, and of supporting member States in community-based disaster risk management and the promotion and improvement of national platforms on disaster management.

94. One delegation emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach to disaster preparedness through the use of ICT as a tool for pre-disaster and post-disaster preparedness.

95. One delegation pointed to the need to allocate appropriate resources to ensure the delivery of the secretariat’s programme of work in the area of disaster risk reduction.

96. In responding to a comment by one delegation, the secretariat clarified that the cycle for the preparation of the strategic framework for the period 2012-2013 would commence in late 2009, with final adoption by the General Assembly in 2010. As the subsequent session of the Committee would be held only in 2011, it would not be possible for the Committee to have the opportunity to review the draft strategic framework for 2012-2013. However, member States would have the opportunity to

review the document in other intergovernmental mechanisms, including the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ACPR).

E. Other matters

97. A message from the Minister for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters of the Russian Federation was read out by a representative of the Russian Federation. The Committee expressed appreciation for the message.

F. Adoption of the report

98. The Committee adopted the report on its first session on 27 March 2009.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

A. Opening, duration and organization of the session

99. The Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction held its first session in Bangkok from 25 to 27 March 2009.

100. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP, in her opening address, noted that the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction had been established in response to a request by ESCAP member States to integrate disaster risk reduction with development. That would be done by creating a regional platform that assessed existing challenges, formulated regional perspectives, and facilitated discussions on collective efforts and actions required. The purpose of the first meeting was to clearly define a comprehensive regional strategy that integrated disaster risk reduction with inclusive development. The discussions would build upon ongoing work, providing further direction for regional cooperation to better leverage available resources and partnerships through the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism, including the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, with which ESCAP would be developing joint teams and programmes.

101. The Executive Secretary mentioned that ESCAP had more than five decades of experience integrating risk management with socio-economic development at the regional level. In particular, it had helped establish regional cooperative mechanisms such as the Mekong River Commission, the Typhoon Committee, the Panel on Tropical Cyclones and the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, and was tasked with setting up a regional trust fund to support the establishment of tsunami early warning systems in the region. ESCAP would build on lessons learned to establish a hub of regional cooperation that allowed it to leverage resources, form partnerships and share knowledge, involving not only disaster risk reduction authorities, but also policymakers. The strategic DRR framework of ESCAP reflected the need to strengthen regional cooperation in disaster risk reduction and management, by: (a) establishing a regional development platform that would integrate and mainstream disaster risk management into development practice and climate change actions; (b) producing the Asia-Pacific Disaster Report with key partners; (c) continuing to strengthen existing regional cooperation mechanisms and help forge new partnerships; (d) establishing a team of eminent persons tasked with championing DRR and reconstruction strategies and approaches; and (e) engaging in South-South cooperation on disaster risk reduction issues.

102. The Minister of Interior of Thailand, in his special address, noted the importance of promoting a regional strategy in disaster risk reduction in Asia and the Pacific. Thailand had adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action to enhance regional

cooperation and collaboration in risk reduction, and had implemented the five priorities of the Framework through various projects, such as the development of the Strategic National Action Plan. Following the tsunami in December 2004, the Tsunami Regional Trust Fund had been established under the administration of ESCAP to help promote the implementation of reliable tsunami early warning systems in the region. Thailand was the founding donor of the trust fund, with a contribution of \$10 million.

103. The Minister expressed his appreciation to ESCAP for serving as a regional forum for addressing issues related to the sustainable development of the region, and noted that the Commission had played an important role in contributing to and promoting the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in Asia and the Pacific. He reiterated his Government's strong support for ESCAP initiatives towards capacity-building of its members on early warning at the community level, as well as his Government's readiness to share its experiences on the community-based disaster risk management approach, in order to raise public awareness and mobilize participation among vulnerable people nationwide. His Government was also looking forward to continuing its relationship with ESCAP and achieving goals in the area of disaster risk reduction.

B. Attendance

104. Representatives of following members of ESCAP attended the meeting: Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, United States of America and Viet Nam. In addition, representatives of Mexico attended.

105. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: United Nations Centre for Regional Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, Office for Outer Space Affairs and World Food Programme.

106. Representatives of the following specialized agencies and related organizations attended: International Labour Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization and World Health Organization.

107. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, Asian Reinsurance Corporation, Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia, ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee, Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones.

108. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: Asian Disaster Reduction Center, Myanmar Red Cross Organization and Thai Red Cross Society.

109. Other entities represented included: Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangladesh Development Partnership Centre, Canadian International Development Agency/Embassy of Canada, Disaster Prevention Research Institute of Kyoto University, Hope Worldwide, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Japan Aerospace

Exploration Agency, Kwansai Gakuin University, Mingalar Myanmar, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Pacific Disaster Center and World Society for the Protection of Animals.

110. Representatives from the private sector included Inmarsat, Microsoft, Nokia Siemens Networks and Thaicom Public Company Limited.

C. Election of officers

111. Mr. Muhammad Hatta Ab. Aziz (Malaysia) was elected Chairperson. The Committee decided to elect the following ministerial-level participants Vice-Chairpersons: H.E. Mr. Luo Pingfei (China), H.E. Mr. Shahid Abdulla (Maldives), H.E. Mr. Dennis Momotaro (Marshall Islands), H.E. U Kyaw Thu (Myanmar), H.E. Mr. Altaf Muhammad Saleem (Pakistan) and H.E. Mr. Ahn Sang-Soo (Republic of Korea). Mr. Purushottam Ghimire (Nepal) was elected Rapporteur.

D. Agenda

112. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in Asia and the Pacific:
 - (a) Follow-up to the outcome of the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction: From the Regional to the Global Platform;
 - (b) Case study: The national disaster management system of China and its response to the Wenchuan earthquake.
5. Enhancing regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction in Asia and the Pacific:
 - (a) Network of networks of knowledge sharing and analysis for disaster management;
 - (b) Early warning and preparedness at the community level;
 - (c) Information, communications and space technologies for disaster risk reduction.
6. Activities of ESCAP cooperative mechanisms on disaster risk reduction:
 - (a) Typhoon Committee;
 - (b) Panel on Tropical Cyclones.
7. Strategic framework and proposed outputs for the proposed programme of work for 2010-2011.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its first session.

Annex I

High-level Round Table on Regional Cooperation for Disaster Risk Reduction

1. The High-level Round Table on Regional Cooperation for Disaster Risk Reduction was organized in conjunction with the first session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction. It provided a forum for discussion of the status of existing disaster reduction efforts in the Asia-Pacific region, resulting in recommendations on how to improve disaster management through increased regional cooperation. The Round Table addressed the outcomes and lessons learned from previous disaster risk reduction conferences and the expected outcomes of the Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as current experiences in disaster management.

2. The Round Table was chaired by the Chairperson of the Committee and moderated by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP. The participants were: Mr. Naofumi Taguchi, Representative for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office, Japan; Mr. Luo Pingfei, Vice-Minister for Civil Affairs, China; Mr. Muhammad Hatta Ab. Aziz, Secretary, National Security Council, Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia; Mr. Park Yeon-Soo, Vice-Administrator, National Emergency Management Agency, Republic of Korea; Mr. Ahn Sang-Soo, Mayor, Incheon Metropolitan City, Republic of Korea; Mr. U Kyaw Thu, Chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board and Chairman of the Tripartite Core Group, Myanmar; Mr. Altaf Muhammad Saleem, Chairman of the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority, Office of the Prime Minister, Pakistan; Mr. Heru Prasetyo, representative of the ministerial-level Executing Agency for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Aceh and Nias, Indonesia; and Mr. Dennis Momotaro, Minister for Transportation and Communications, Marshall Islands. Mr. Sálvano Briceño, Director of the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, also took part in the discussion.

3. The Representative for Disaster Management in the Cabinet Office of Japan highlighted the tireless and dedicated efforts of the Government of Japan to make the country disaster-resilient and to reduce disaster-related casualties. He informed the Round Table that Japan's approach had covered legislation, technology and social mobilization, such as self-help efforts, as key components of disaster risk reduction. He noted that Japan had reinforced measures to provide necessary assistance to groups such as older persons and persons with physical disabilities in time of disaster, in view of the ageing society and the increasing number of older persons killed or injured by disasters. He also stated that Japan had been an active facilitator of international cooperation on disaster reduction, promoting regional cooperation through the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) and multilateral cooperation with the United Nations.

4. In his speech, the Vice-Minister for Civil Affairs of China affirmed that the Government of China attached great importance to disaster reduction and disaster management. A number of policies, strategies and international cooperation programmes had been undertaken in that regard. He praised ESCAP for the important role it had played in the promotion of regional cooperation in the last six decades. He expected the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction to play a greater role in strengthening regional cooperation mechanisms for disaster reduction, sharing experiences, results and information on disaster reduction in the region, guiding regional cooperation on disaster reduction and enhancing the disaster reduction capabilities of the region.

5. The Secretary of the National Security Council in the Prime Minister's Department of Malaysia shared his country's experiences in the area of regional cooperation, especially in the context of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which included the formation of the Tripartite Core Group and the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), which had been initiated in 2005. He noted Malaysia's strong commitment to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.
6. The Vice-Administrator of the National Emergency Management Agency of the Republic of Korea highlighted the importance of linking the issues of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and proposed the establishment of disaster-resilient societies capable of adapting to climate change. He described the extensive use of modern technologies that the Republic of Korea had made in supporting disaster risk reduction.
7. The Mayor of Incheon Metropolitan City in the Republic of Korea described how a city can integrate disaster risk reduction into its planning to build the "Tomorrow City". By considering disaster risk reduction a top priority, Incheon had implemented comprehensive disaster prevention mechanisms.
8. The Chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board of Myanmar and Chairman of the Tripartite Core Group thanked all participants for their continued support to Myanmar in the efforts at recovery from the devastating effects of Cyclone Nargis, which hit that country in May 2008. He shared some of the lessons learned from that disaster. He stated that, in response to the disaster caused by Cyclone Nargis, the Government of Myanmar had worked closely with the international community through the Tripartite Core Group, consisting of the Government of Myanmar, ASEAN and the United Nations, and underscored the important work done in the preparation of the Post-Nargis Joint Assessment and the Post-Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan. He expressed his appreciation to the ESCAP secretariat for administering the Tsunami Regional Trust Fund in an efficient and transparent manner, and urged the secretariat to work further to mobilize resources.
9. The Chairman of the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority in the Office of the Prime Minister of Pakistan shared his country's experiences and lessons learned in managing disasters in Pakistan, which, he noted, was a disaster-prone country. He pointed out that Pakistan had introduced a comprehensive system of disaster management supported by legal and institutional arrangements at the federal, provincial and district levels, with emphasis moving from emergency response to disaster prevention and risk reduction.
10. The representative of the ministerial-level Executing Agency for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Aceh and Nias in Indonesia informed the Round Table of the progress made by Indonesia in enhancing its resilience to disasters. He also noted that time was critical in delivering donor assistance in the context of a disaster and stressed that it was essential for delivery procedures to expedite that process. He expressed his appreciation for the work of ESCAP on disaster risk reduction, in particular through the Regional Coordination Mechanism.
11. The Minister for Transportation and Communications of the Marshall Islands noted that the Pacific islands were working together, with the support of the international community, to better prepare for disasters brought about by climate change and other factors. He stated that the Marshall Islands attached great importance to disaster management and looked forward to focusing on disaster prevention and mitigation, in addition to emergency response.

12. The Director of the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction stressed that disaster risk reduction concerned all and that coordinated team efforts were fundamentally important as well as challenging. He reminded the Round Table that the Hyogo Framework for Action remained the primary policy framework and that more work needed to be done on disaster risk reduction. He stressed that, while ESCAP played a very important role in disaster risk reduction, the role of other partners was equally important.

13. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP reiterated the need for a regional strategy and a regional platform, or Asia-Pacific gateway, not only for disaster risk reduction but also for development. She stressed the need for enhancing regional cooperation, facilitating linkages between high technology and community-based approaches, and establishing a team of eminent persons on disaster risk reduction in the region. Stressing capacity-building and training, she specifically mentioned a new module on disaster management being developed by the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development as part of its Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders courses.

14. The High-level Round Table made a number of observations and recommendations for consideration by the Committee and the secretariat.

15. The Round Table highly commended the important role played by the Regional Coordination Mechanism among the United Nations and other agencies in Asia and the Pacific as a means of building regional consensus.

16. The Round Table recommended that the secretariat be given a strong mandate and sufficient resources for the promotion of regional cooperation, including South-South cooperation.

17. The Round Table also recommended the issuance of a publication, such as an Asia-Pacific disaster report, to focus, inter alia, on best practices and lessons learned from specific national efforts, regional cooperation, champions for disaster risk reduction, trends and major events, economic and social analyses of the impact of disasters, and disaster recovery programmes.

18. The Round Table expressed full support for the recommendation made by the Committee on Information and Communications Technology in November 2008, at its first session, that the secretariat promote a regional platform on information sharing and analysis for disaster risk reduction in collaboration with other partners working in the field (see E/ESCAP/CICT/6, para.15). The Round Table urged the secretariat to take proactive steps to promote the establishment of the regional platform and to make it functional as soon as possible, and called upon the international donor community to provide assistance for the initiative.

19. The Round Table noted that climate change had contributed to the increase in the occurrence of many natural hazards. In that connection, the secretariat was urged to explore more regional/subregional cooperation to tackle the natural hazards resulting from climate change.

20. The Round Table requested that the secretariat explore more effective use of information, communication and space technologies tools for disaster management, especially in data collection and dissemination, early warning, disaster monitoring and evaluation and disaster emergency communications, and that it promote regional cooperative mechanisms using advanced information, communication and space technologies tools.

21. The Round Table recognized that the “last mile” was an important issue for many early warning systems and requested that the secretariat explore the possibility of organizing workshops on sharing best practices and capacity-building at the regional and subregional levels, paying special attention to the needs of communities in remote areas, mountainous regions and islands.
22. The Round Table expressed its strong support for public-private partnerships involving government, civil society and the private sector, and urged the secretariat to strengthen its partnerships in the delivery of services to member States in the areas of capacity-building and training, and knowledge- and data-sharing.
23. To better address broad-ranging disaster-related issues in the Asia-Pacific region, some participants suggested that ESCAP member States consider the possibility of changing the name of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction to the Committee on Disaster Management.
24. The Round Table recommended a thorough review of the Damage and Loss Assessment methodology originally developed by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the 1970s. Its application in the tsunami case had been very useful as a start, but some avoidable deficiencies had arisen in the follow-through to the implementation stage.
25. The Round Table also recommended that the secretariat provide necessary advisory services to disaster-prone developing countries in the region, to enable them to formulate, implement and adapt their multi-hazard early warning and forecasting policies, systems, strategies and programmes, as necessary.

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

| <i>Document symbol</i> | <i>Document title</i> | <i>Agenda item</i> |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------|
| <i>General series</i> | | |
| E/ESCAP/CDR/1 | Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in Asia and the Pacific: Follow-up to the outcome of the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction: From the Regional to the Global Platform | 4(a) |
| E/ESCAP/CDR/2 | Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in Asia and the Pacific: Case study: The national disaster management system of China and its response to the Wenchuan earthquake | 4(b) |
| E/ESCAP/CDR/3 | Enhancing regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction in Asia and the Pacific: Network of networks of knowledge sharing and analysis for disaster management | 5(a) |
| E/ESCAP/CDR/4 | Enhancing regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction in Asia and the Pacific: Early warning and preparedness at the community level | 5 (b) |
| E/ESCAP/CDR/5 | Enhancing regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction in Asia and the Pacific: Information, communications and space technologies for disaster risk reduction | 5(c) |
| E/ESCAP/CDR/6 | Activities of ESCAP cooperative mechanisms on disaster risk reduction: Typhoon Committee | 6 (a) |
| E/ESCAP/CDR/7 | Activities of ESCAP cooperative mechanisms on disaster risk reduction: Panel on Tropical Cyclones | 6 (b) |
| E/ESCAP/CDR/8/Rev.1 | Strategic framework and proposed outputs for the proposed programme of work for 2010-2011 | 7 |
| <i>Limited series</i> | | |
| E/ESCAP/CDR/L.1 | Provisional agenda | 3 |
| E/ESCAP/CDR/L.2/Rev.1 | Annotated provisional agenda | 3 |
| E/ESCAP/CDR/L.3 | Draft report | |
| E/ESCAP/CDR/L.3/Add.1 | Draft recommendations of the Committee | |
| <i>Information series</i> | | |
| E/ESCAP/CDR/INF/1/Rev.1 | Tentative programme | |
| E/ESCAP/CDR/INF/2/Rev.2 | List of participants | |
| E/ESCAP/CDR/INF/3 | Information note for participants | |
| E/ESCAP/CDR/INF/4 | Interim regional synthesis report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in Asia and the Pacific (July 2007 to September 2008) | 4(a) |
| E/ESCAP/CDR/INF/5 | Preliminary list of major networks on knowledge sharing and analysis for disaster management in the Asia-Pacific region | 5 |

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| E/ESCAP/CDR/INF/6 | Status of the ESCAP Multi-Donor Voluntary Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia | 6 |
| E/ESCAP/CDR/INF/7 | Activities of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology | 6 |

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