



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction

First session
25-27 March 2009
Bangkok

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session

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

2. Election of officers

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

3. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CDR/L.1) will be considered and adopted by the Committee, subject to such changes as deemed necessary.

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

In its resolution 64/2, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary, among other things, to work closely with the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in particular the regional office for Asia and the Pacific, in supporting the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in the region, including the organization of the biennial Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Under this agenda item, two documents will be submitted to the Committee for its consideration and guidance. In addition, the secretariat will circulate an information document (E/ESCAP/CDR/INF/4) contributed by the Asia-Pacific regional office of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. This document reports on the interim progress in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in some countries of the Asia-Pacific region. It also reports on the key challenges and gaps in reaching the strategic goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action in the countries of the region.

(a) Follow-up to the outcome of the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction: From the Regional to the Global Platform

E/ESCAP/CDR/1

In the wake of the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which was held in Kuala Lumpur from 2 to 4 December 2008, the secretariat highlights the outcomes of the Conference, including the review of the major issues related to disaster risk reduction in the Asia-Pacific region. It presents the status of disaster risk reduction initiatives in the region, reviews regional efforts towards the achievement of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and examines recent disasters, such as Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar, and what lessons were learned from it and past natural disasters in Asia. Proposals are made for the future work of ESCAP towards enhanced awareness and strengthened regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Committee may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on its future strategic direction in the area of disaster risk reduction.

The Committee may also wish to provide guidance on the regional report to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, and on the organization of the next Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

(b) Case study: The national disaster management system of China and its response to the Wenchuan earthquake

E/ESCAP/CDR/2

In this document, the secretariat briefly describes the policy, administrative framework and institutional arrangements of China as regards national disaster risk reduction, and its response to the catastrophic Wenchuan earthquake, which occurred in May 2008. The case study is meant to stimulate policy debate, in particular on the development of national disaster preparedness, response and recovery mechanisms, related issues to be addressed at the regional level, and regional cooperation aimed at assisting the development and improvement of disaster management capacities in the region.

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

Under this agenda item, a high-level round table on regional cooperation for disaster risk reduction will be held, immediately after the adoption of the agenda, in the morning of 25 March 2009.

Three documents will be submitted to the Committee for its consideration and guidance. In addition, the secretariat will circulate an information document (E/ESCAP/CDR/INF/5), which presents a preliminary list of major national, regional and international initiatives and networks for disaster management that provide ESCAP member States with assistance in the area of knowledge sharing and analysis relating to disaster management.

(a) Network of networks of knowledge sharing and analysis for disaster management

E/ESCAP/CDR/3

In this document, the secretariat presents an overview of the existing cooperation mechanisms covering the Asia-Pacific region in areas related to knowledge and information sharing and analytical services for disaster risk reduction. By analysing their activities and territorial coverage, it discusses the areas where cooperation and coordination could be enhanced, and areas where regional cooperation mechanisms should be developed. It explores the benefits of filling the existing gaps with an inclusive regional network of networks for knowledge and information sharing and analysis in support of more effective disaster information management by the countries of the region in their efforts to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action.

The Committee may wish to deliberate the relevant issues and policies, including those raised in the above-mentioned document, with a view to providing guidance on the future strategic direction of the secretariat in the area of disaster knowledge and information sharing and analysis.

(b) Early warning and preparedness at the community level

E/ESCAP/CDR/4

In this document, the secretariat reviews various efforts at the national, regional and international levels to enhance early warning as part of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. The need for attention to the Pacific island countries as a result of their geographical characteristics and vulnerability to natural disasters is noted. Efforts already under way in this regard are summarized, and possible approaches to strengthening support for such efforts are suggested. Particular emphasis is placed on a community-based approach and inclusiveness in designing, planning, implementing and monitoring early warning systems, taking into account various societal groups. In this context, there is an examination of policy frameworks, information and communications technology infrastructure, institutional arrangements and past experience with early warning in the Pacific. Issues are raised for consideration by the Committee.

The Committee may wish to provide guidance on the future strategic direction of the secretariat in the areas of disaster early warning and disaster preparedness with a focus on the community level.

(c) Information, communications and space technologies for disaster risk reduction

E/ESCAP/CDR/5

In this document, the secretariat describes the essential role of information, communications and space technology tools for effective information gathering, processing and analysis, early warning, emergency communications and, in general terms, disaster management. It identifies evolving trends and experiences where information, communications and space technologies have a major role in supporting informed decision- and policymaking in disaster risk management. There is a discussion of areas where regional cooperation could enhance the use of information, communications and space technologies in supporting national and regional efforts towards the objectives of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

The Committee may wish to deliberate the relevant issues and policies, including those raised in the above-mentioned document, with a view to providing guidance on the future strategic direction of the secretariat in this area.

6. Activities of ESCAP cooperative mechanisms on disaster risk reduction

Under this agenda item, two documents will be submitted to the Committee for its consideration and guidance. In addition, the secretariat will circulate two information documents. Document E/ESCAP/CDR/INF/6 presents a brief overview of the ESCAP Multi-Donor Voluntary Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia, as well as the Fund's status as of end 2008. Document E/ESCAP/CDR/INF/7 briefly describes the strategies of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) in promoting the transfer of technology related to disaster management in the Asia-Pacific region. The document provides an overview about the main activities of the Centre and describes programmes that will be carried out by the Centre to strengthen the technology transfer capacity of countries in the region.

(a) Typhoon Committee

E/ESCAP/CDR/6

In this document, the secretariat presents the status and achievements of the Typhoon Committee, an intergovernmental body organized under the joint auspices of ESCAP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1968 to promote and coordinate the planning and implementation of measures required for minimizing the loss of life and material damage caused by typhoons in Asia and the Pacific.

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

(b) Panel on Tropical Cyclones

E/ESCAP/CDR/7

In this document, the secretariat presents the status and achievements of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones, an intergovernmental body organized by ESCAP and WMO in 1970 to promote and coordinate the planning and implementation of measures required for minimizing the loss of life and material damage caused by tropical cyclones in Asia.

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

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

E/ESCAP/CDR/8

The Committee may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on its work related disaster risk reduction, including possible work programme outputs that could be reflected in the programme of work for 2010-2011.

8. Other matters

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

9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its first session

Draft report
E/ESCAP/CDR/L.3

Draft recommendations of the Committee
E/ESCAP/CDR/L.3/Add.1

The Committee will adopt the report on its first session for submission to the Commission at its sixty-fifth session.

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