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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

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II).

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development strategies.
5. Strategies in disaster risk reduction, including those related to climate change adaptation, for sustainable development.
6. The development agenda beyond 2015 as it pertains to disaster risk reduction in Asia and the Pacific.
7. Promoting regional cooperation on applications of space technology and geographic information systems for disaster risk reduction.
8. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme.
9. Consideration of draft resolutions for submission to the Commission at its seventieth session.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the session

Documentation

Tentative programme (E/ESCAP/CDR(3)/INF/3)

Annotation

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

2. Election of officers

Documentation

List of participants (E/ESCAP/CDR(3)/INF/2)

Annotation

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

3. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CDR(3)/L.1)

Annotation

The provisional agenda shall be considered and adopted by the Committee, subject to such changes as are deemed necessary.

4. Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development strategies

Documentation

Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and building resilience to disasters into development strategies (E/ESCAP/CDR(3)/1)

Disaster databases for development planning (E/ESCAP/CDR(3)/INF/4)

Annotation

In document E/ESCAP/CDR(3)/1, the secretariat discusses the challenges faced by countries in Asia and the Pacific in terms of the more frequent, large and overlapping natural disasters amid other shocks. Such events highlight interlinked economic, social and environmental factors and thus the need for equally comprehensive solutions. This calls for multisectoral policy planning aimed at mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development plans, poverty reduction frameworks and national budgets. The secretariat reviews the benefits and costs of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and outlines strategies for building resilience to natural disasters, based on good practices across the region.

In addition, the secretariat submits an information note (E/ESCAP/CDR(3)/INF/4) that provides a summary of key issues and challenges

discussed at an expert group meeting in connection with the establishment of a set of guidelines and tools for assessing disaster losses and damage.

The Committee may wish to discuss national practices in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, especially with regard to national development plans and budgets. The Committee may also wish to explore the establishment of a set of guidelines to which countries may refer when undertaking such mainstreaming.

The Committee may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance in promoting regional collaborative mechanisms with the support and participation of relevant United Nations agencies and other entities in order to build resilience in the Asian and Pacific region.

5. Strategies in disaster risk reduction, including those related to climate change adaptation, for sustainable development

Documentation

Strengthening resilience through disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation for sustainable development (E/ESCAP/CDR(3)/2)

Strengthening early warning for coastal hazards through the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries (E/ESCAP/CDR(3)/3)

Climate information and services: the role of the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (E/ESCAP/CDR(3)/INF/5)

Annotation

In document E/ESCAP/CDR(3)/2, the secretariat highlights the key challenges faced by the region due to climate-related disasters and the possibility that climate variability may exacerbate the frequency and severity of these events. Issues related to the synergistic relationship between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation are discussed, along with strategies and policy measures to address them. Opportunities for regional cooperation in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation associated therewith are highlighted through, among other things, existing intergovernmental platforms, such as the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones.

In document E/ESCAP/CDR(3)/3, the secretariat reviews the progress of the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries. It discusses the long-term impact of the activities supported by the Trust Fund, and outlines the Trust Fund's strategy and priorities for the period 2013 to 2016.

In an information note (E/ESCAP/CDR(3)/INF/5), the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee and the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones review efforts to improve climate-related disaster preparedness through the provision of climate information and services as well as the potential for further cooperation.

The Committee may wish to discuss the importance of aligning strategies for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. In this regard, the Committee may wish to explore promoting a regional dialogue, utilizing regional and international forums including, but not limited to, the sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, and the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

The Committee may also wish to review the impact of the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries, identify remaining gaps and needs in early warning, and discuss opportunities for resource mobilization. The Committee may also wish to encourage further synergy between the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones to provide coordinated and harmonized climate-related information and services.

6. The development agenda beyond 2015 as it pertains to disaster risk reduction in Asia and the Pacific

Documentation

Disaster risk reduction related to the development agenda beyond 2015, including issues pertinent to least developed countries and countries with special needs (E/ESCAP/CDR(3)/4)

Annotation

In document E/ESCAP/CDR(3)/4, the secretariat presents a brief account of the way in which disaster risk reduction issues have been raised at major regional events and discussions on the development agenda beyond 2015. These include (a) the regional implementation meeting for Asia and the Pacific on the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, (b) the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015, and (c) ongoing dialogues on shaping the Hyogo Framework for Action beyond 2015. It also makes the case for a more prominent position of disaster risk reduction in the development agenda beyond 2015, as contained in the report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which emphasizes that poverty eradication and sustainable development cannot be achieved without addressing disaster risk reduction. Moreover, the secretariat submits that disasters afflict more adversely those countries with the compounded characteristics of high disaster risks and high incidence of poverty, especially countries with special needs.

The Committee may wish to articulate regional perspectives on integrating disaster risk reduction in the development agenda beyond 2015 that can be presented to the Commission at its seventieth session, the sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, and the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, among others. The Committee may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance in advancing the strategic positioning of Asia-Pacific views on disaster risk reduction in the development agenda beyond 2015.

7. Promoting regional cooperation on applications of space technology and geographic information systems for disaster risk reduction

Documentation

Promoting regional cooperation on applications of space technology and geographic information systems for disaster risk reduction (E/ESCAP/CDR(3)/5)

Annotation

In document E/ESCAP/CDR(3)/5, the secretariat presents issues relevant to applications of space technology and geographic information systems in disaster risk reduction, response, recovery and long-term development planning. It discusses the progress made 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 (see Commission resolution 69/11). It also briefly describes key activities in three areas, namely: (a) strengthening regional cooperation, in particular, through the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP); (b) building the capacity of member countries in space technology and geographic information system applications for disaster risk reduction; and (c) operationalization of the Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Disaster Monitoring and Early Warning, Particularly Drought.

Committee members may wish to share good practices in space technology and the geographic information system applications for building resilience to disasters in various sectors.

The Committee may wish to provide guidance on the future focus and activities of the secretariat related to fostering regional cooperation in space applications for disaster risk reduction and management.

8. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme

Under this agenda item, the Committee may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on its short- and long-term work in the area of disaster risk reduction, taking into account the programme direction and priorities outlined in the approved strategic framework for 2014-2015.

The Committee may also wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on the long-term work in disaster risk reduction to enable the outcomes of the Committee's deliberations to be integrated in the planning of the strategic framework for 2016-2017.

9. Consideration of draft resolutions for submission to the Commission at its seventieth session

Under this agenda item, member countries may wish to circulate, in advance, proposals for and/or texts of draft resolutions on priority issues related to disaster risk reduction for consideration by the Commission at its seventieth session, in 2014.

10. Other matters

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

11. Adoption of the report

Documentation

Draft recommendations (E/ESCAP/CDR(3)/L.2)

Draft report (E/ESCAP/CDR(3)/L.3)

Annotation

The Committee will consider and adopt the report on its third session for submission to the Commission at its seventieth session, in 2014.