

**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific****Seventy-third session**

Bangkok, 15-19 May 2017

Item 3 (f) of the provisional agenda*

**Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure
of the Commission, including the work of the regional**

institutions: disaster risk reduction

**Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific
Centre for the Development of Disaster Information
Management on its first session***Summary*

The Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management held its first session in New Delhi on 2 November 2016.

The Governing Council adopted its rules of procedure based on the statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management, set out in the annex to resolution 71/11 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and relevant rules of the Commission.

The Governing Council endorsed the strategic plan and programme direction of the Centre, which are aligned with the statute of the Centre and subprogramme 5 (Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management) of the Commission's strategic framework. In support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and relevant Commission resolutions on disaster risk reduction, the Centre's aim is to become a hub of excellence built on three pillars: (a) information and knowledge repository; (b) capacity development in disaster information management; and (c) regional information services for cross-border disasters.

The Governing Council endorsed the workplan of the Centre for 2016-2017 and proposed outputs of the Centre for the programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019.

The Governing Council agreed that the Centre would help fill in critical information and knowledge gaps, particularly on initiating programme activities on cross-border disasters, with a focus initially on seismic risk and dust and sandstorms in North and Central Asia and South and South-West Asia.

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council, provide the secretariat with guidance on the future work of the Centre and endorse the report.

* E/ESCAP/73/L.1.

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

1. The Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management adopts the rules of procedure of the Governing Council based on the statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management, set out in the annex to Commission resolution 71/11, and relevant rules of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), as established in document E/ESCAP/APDIM/GC(1)/1.

2. The Governing Council endorses the strategic plan and programme direction of the Centre, which has been aligned closely with the statute of the Centre and the Commission's strategic framework. The objectives and activities of the Centre, as a subsidiary body of the Commission, will contribute to subprogramme 5 (Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management) of the Commission's strategic

framework. The programme and activities will also build on relevant subprogrammes of the Commission such as environment and development and statistics, within the overall global frameworks of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and relevant resolutions on disaster risk reduction of the Commission. The programme and activities will also take into account the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 adopted at the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in New Delhi in November 2016. The Governing Council will review the organizational structure, including the staffing and available financial resources of the Centre, at its second session in 2017.

3. The Governing Council requests member States to support the work to develop the Centre as an information and knowledge hub for multiple hazards and as a leading hub for capacity development in disaster information management. The Centre's programme and activities will be undertaken within the thematic priorities of information and knowledge management, capacity development in disaster information management and regional information services for cross-border disasters.

4. The Governing Council recommends that the Centre consider including in its priority activities the needs of countries that were collated from the expert group meetings on disaster information management held in various subregions. One of the key outcomes from these expert group meetings was the need expressed by countries for information management services for seismic risk reduction. The Centre's priority activities will be undertaken within its scope and mandate.

5. The Governing Council also requests the Centre to set up an effective mechanism to promote networking and partnerships and draw on the expertise and resources offered by centres of excellence from the Islamic Republic of Iran and subsequently extend the partnership network through the region to support the work of the Centre following South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation modalities.

6. The Governing Council endorses the workplan of the Centre and its capacity-building and advocacy activities for 2016-2017, as well as the necessary steps for the establishment of the Centre as an ESCAP regional institution. It acknowledges the efforts and progress made in, and encourages the early conclusion of, related agreements for the establishment of the Centre as a regional institution of the Commission pursuant to resolution 71/11.

7. The Governing Council endorses the proposed outputs for the Commission's programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019, which will contribute to the overall objective and expected accomplishment of the strategic framework of subprogramme 5 (Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management) for the biennium 2018-2019.

8. The Governing Council recommends that a standing agenda item on the Centre be incorporated in the future provisional agendas of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction of ESCAP.

9. The Governing Council expresses its appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its generous financial and in-kind contributions for the implementation of resolution 71/11 on the establishment of the Centre. In this context, the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed its readiness in providing the ESCAP secretariat and the Governing

Council at its next session with the detailed and disaggregated information on its voluntary contributions.

10. The Governing Council also expresses its appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for offering to host the second session of the Governing Council in Tehran in 2017.

II. Summary of proceedings

A. Adoption of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council

(Agenda item 4)

11. The Governing Council had before it document E/ESCAP/APDIM/GC(1)/1 on the proposed rules of procedure of the Governing Council. The Officer-in-Charge of the Centre presented the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, which were based on the statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management, as set out in the annex to resolution 71/11, and the relevant rules of ESCAP. In accordance with paragraph 30 of the statute of the Centre, the Governing Council adopted its own rules of procedure (annex I).

B. Review of the strategic plan and programme direction of the Asian and the Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management

(Agenda item 5)

12. The Governing Council had before it document E/ESCAP/APDIM/GC(1)/2 on the strategic plan and programme direction of the Centre. The Officer-in-Charge of the Centre presented the strategic plan, which was aligned with the Commission's strategic framework of subprogramme 5 (Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management).

13. In accordance with paragraph 35 of the statute of the Centre, the Governing Council reviewed and endorsed the strategic plan of the Centre. It approved the programme direction and thematic priorities to develop the Centre as an information and knowledge hub for multiple hazards, a leading hub for capacity development in disaster information management and a regional platform for information services for cross-border disasters. The Centre would build on the multisectoral strengths of ESCAP subprogrammes and adopt a regional networking and partnership strategy that promoted South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation modalities. The Centre's information and knowledge management products and services would support member States in achieving the disaster risk reduction and resilience-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

14. The Governing Council advised that the Centre's activities should be demand-driven based and evolve stepwise. The Council would review the organizational structure of the Centre and its administrative and financial matters at its subsequent session, in 2017.

15. The Governing Council recommended that the Centre should capitalize on institutional capacities of the Centre partnership group and build partnerships with other centres of excellence in disaster information management in the region to draw on their expertise and resources for capacity-building. It also suggested that the Centre's programme of work should take into account the outcomes of the 2016 Asian Ministerial

Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and include research work on multi-hazard vulnerability.

16. The Governing Council recommended that a standing agenda item on the Centre should be incorporated in the future provisional agendas of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction of ESCAP.

17. The Governing Council appreciated the generous voluntary contributions of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to support the Centre and bear its institutional, programmatic and operational costs as well as in-kind contributions in the form of office space and equipment. The Governing Council also encouraged voluntary contributions by all members.

C. Consideration of the workplan for 2016-2017 and the programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019

(Agenda item 6)

18. The Governing Council had before it document E/ESCAP/APDIM/GC(1)/3. The Officer-in-Charge of the Centre presented the proposed activities and related financial plan for 2016-2017 and the proposed outputs of the Centre for the Commission's programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019. The activities of the Centre would contribute to subprogramme 5 (Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management) of the Commission's strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017 and biennium 2018-2019, which aimed to address the challenges of building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific as guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and relevant resolutions of the Commission. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran had kindly contributed a first tranche of voluntary contributions amounting to \$396,119 for the implementation of resolution 71/11, including \$40,000 for the implementation of resolution 72/7 on regional cooperation to combat sand and dust storms in Asia and the Pacific through the programme of work of the Centre.

19. The Governing Council endorsed the workplan of the Centre and its capacity-building and advocacy activities for 2016-2017 to enhance its visibility as well as to pursue consultations on related agreements for the establishment of the Centre as a regional institution of the Commission pursuant to resolution 71/11. The Governing Council also endorsed the proposed outputs for the programme of work of ESCAP for the biennium 2018-2019.

20. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the Governing Council that the host country agreement had been approved in principle. The representative also informed participants that, in addition to the voluntary contribution in cash, the Centre would receive in-kind expertise to support its activities.

21. The Governing Council advised participants on the need for prioritization of the activities of the Centre based on the requests received from member States at the expert group meetings held in different subregions for determining disaster information management needs. It also proposed initiating programme activities on cross-border disasters, notably sand and dust storms in accordance with Commission resolution 72/7.

22. The Governing Council recommended building partnerships and synergizing activities of the Centre with other regional organizations such as

the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, the Economic Cooperation Organization and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, inter alia.

D. Date and venue for the second session of the Governing Council
(Agenda item 7)

23. The Governing Council decided that the venue of the second session of the Governing Council, in 2017, would be in Tehran. The Council expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for offering to host the session. The date would be determined in consultation with the secretariat at a later stage.

E. Other matters
(Agenda item 8)

24. Representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran thanked other members of the Governing Council and Japan for attending the first session of the Council. Full participation of all members was encouraged, as were contributions by other institutions in the region.

25. The representative of Nepal informed participants that his country would actively contribute to the activities of the Centre and strengthen cooperation. He expressed gratitude for the support given by ESCAP for the recovery and reconstruction efforts in Nepal following the Gorkha earthquake in 2015, and requested the Centre to continue providing such support and share the recovery and reconstruction experience of the Bam earthquake.

F. Adoption of the report
(Agenda item 9)

26. The Governing Council endorsed the matters calling for action or to be brought to the attention of the Commission on 2 November 2016. The Governing Council reviewed and endorsed the draft of the proceedings of the session, which were circulated to members of the Governing Council after the conclusion of the session. The full report of the Governing Council on its first session would be submitted to the Commission for its consideration at its seventy-third session.

III. Organization of the session

A. Opening of the session

27. The Governing Council of the Centre held its first session in New Delhi on 2 November 2016.

28. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP welcomed the members of the Governing Council. In her remarks, the Executive Secretary stressed the relevance of the Centre's work in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and urged the Governing Council members to strategically advise and guide the Centre's programme and priorities to develop the Centre as a hub of excellence with three pillars – namely information and knowledge repository, capacity development hub and information management services for cross-border disasters – to address the gaps and needs of the region for reliable disaster data and information for risk-sensitive policymaking. The Executive Secretary also stressed that

enhanced regional and South-South cooperation and partnerships would be critical to forge an effective information and knowledge-sharing platform, and urged that the work in establishing and operationalizing the Centre should be sped up to realize its vision.

29. In his remarks, the Deputy Vice-President for Production Affairs, Management and Planning Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed deep gratitude to the Executive Secretary for organizing the important inaugural session of the Governing Council. He acknowledged that the establishment of the Centre was an important turning point for further development of regional capacities in disaster risk reduction through South-South cooperation. Citing members of the Centre's partnership network such as the Road, Housing and Urban Development Research Centre in Tehran, he expressed a need for growth of the network to include other centres of excellence in the Asia-Pacific region. He stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the host country of the Centre, was pleased to make all-out concerted efforts to move forward and launch the Centre.

B. Attendance

30. The session was attended by representatives of the following members of the Governing Council: Cambodia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Macao, China; Nepal; and Turkey.

31. The representative of Japan attended as observer.

C. Election of officers

32. The Governing Council elected the following officers:

Chair: Mr. Seyed Hamid Pourmohammadi
(Islamic Republic of Iran)

Vice-Chair: Mr. Krishna Bahadur Raut (Nepal)

D. Adoption of the agenda

33. The Governing Council adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Adoption of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council.
5. Review of the strategic plan and programme direction of APDIM.
6. Consideration of the workplan for 2016-2017 and the programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019.
7. Date and venue for the second session of the Governing Council.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report.

Annex I

Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management*

Chapter I

Secretariat

Rule 1

The Director of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) shall be the Secretary of the Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as the “Secretary”). The Secretary shall be responsible for the organization and preparation of the Governing Council sessions and for the preparation of the records and reports of the Council.

Chapter II

Sessions

Rule 2

The following principles shall apply with regard to the date and place for the sessions of the Governing Council.

(a) The Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as the “Council”) shall have one regular session each year. Special sessions may be organized as required;

(b) Regular sessions of the Council shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) hereinafter referred to as the “Executive Secretary”, who may propose special sessions of the Council at her/his own initiative and shall convene such special sessions at the request of a majority of Council members;

(c) The Council shall at each session, in consultation with the secretariat, indicate the date and place of its next session, to be confirmed later by the Executive Secretary.

Rule 3

Sessions of the Council shall ordinarily be closed and shall be limited to the members and the secretariat. Representatives of (a) States that are not members of the Council; (b) United Nations bodies and specialized agencies; and (c) such other organizations, as well as experts in fields of interest to the Council as the Council may deem appropriate, may be invited by the Executive Secretary to attend the meetings of the Council.

* The present annex is being issued without formal editing.

Chapter III

Agenda

Rule 4

The Secretary shall communicate to the members of the Council, at least six weeks in advance of each regular session and at least two weeks before a special session, the provisional agenda together with relevant documentation and information.

Rule 5

The provisional agenda for each regular session shall include:

- (a) A report by the secretariat on the activities of the Centre;
- (b) Items pending from previous sessions of the Council;
- (c) Items proposed by any of its members;
- (d) Items proposed by the Executive Secretary.

Rule 6

At the beginning of each session, the Council shall adopt its agenda. The Council may also amend its agenda. Any matter within the competence of the Council not included in the provisional agenda for a session may be submitted to the Council by a member or the Secretary and added to the agenda by a decision of the Council.

Rule 7

The provisional agenda for special sessions shall be prepared by the secretariat, taking into account the reason for convening the special sessions.

Chapter IV

Officers

Rule 8

The Council shall, at each regular session, elect a Chair and Vice-chair. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council. They shall be eligible for a re-election.

Rule 9

The Chair or, in her/his absence, the Vice-Chair shall preside at meetings of the Council. If the Chair is unable to serve for the full term for which she/he has been elected, the Vice-Chair shall act as Chair for the remainder of that term.

Rule 10

If the Chair and the Vice-Chair are unable to attend a meeting, the Council shall select one of the members present to serve as Acting Chair at that meeting.

Chapter V

Reporting

Rule 11

The Executive Secretary shall submit an annual report on the work of the Centre, as adopted by the Council, to the Commission at its annual sessions.

Chapter VI

Conduct of Business

Rule 12

A majority of the members of the Council shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 13

The Chair shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Council, direct the discussions, ensure the observance of these Rules of Procedure, accord the right to speak, put questions to a vote and announce decisions. The Chair may call a speaker to order, if his/hers remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 14

During the discussion of any matter, a member of the Council may raise a point of order on which the Chair shall immediately give his/her ruling. If it is challenged, the Chair shall forthwith submit his/her ruling to the Council for consideration and a decision, and the ruling shall stand unless it is overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 15

Any member may at any time during a debate move for the closure of the debate, even if another member has asked for the floor. No more than two speakers may be granted permission to speak against the closure.

Rule 16

The Chair shall take a consensus of the Council on a motion for closure. If the Council is in favour of the motion, the Chair shall declare the debate closed.

Chapter VII

Voting

Rule 17

Each member of the Council shall have one vote.

Rule 18

The Council shall make every effort to reach a decision by consensus. The practice of ESCAP in this matter shall apply. In the absence of a consensus, the decision of the Council shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 19

Between sessions of the Council, when circumstances require decisions by the Council on urgent matters, the Secretary shall make such recommendations as he/she deems appropriate to the members of the Council by facsimile, mail or e-mail; a recommendation, if approved by a majority of the members of the Council, shall be accepted provisionally and acted upon by the Secretary, and later submitted to the Council, at its next session for final approval.

Chapter VIII

Working Language

Rule 20

English shall be the working language of the Council.

Chapter IX

Amendment and Suspension

Rule 21

The Council may amend or suspend any of these Rules of Procedure, provided the amendment or suspension is consistent with the Statute of the Centre.

Chapter X

Other Provisions

Rule 22

In the event of any matter arising, which is not covered by these Rules of Procedure, the pertinent rules of ESCAP shall apply.

Annex II

List of documents

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
E/ESCAP/APDIM/GC(1)/L.1	Annotated provisional agenda	1
E/ESCAP/APDIM/GC(1)/1	Adoption of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council	4
E/ESCAP/APDIM/GC(1)/2	Strategic plan and programme direction of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management	5
E/ESCAP/APDIM/GC(1)/3	Consideration of the workplan for 2016-2017 and the programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019	6
E/ESCAP/APDIM/GC(1)/4	Report of the Governing Council on its first session	
E/ESCAP/APDIM/GC(1)/INF/1	Information for participants	
E/ESCAP/APDIM/GC(1)/INF/2	List of participants	1
E/ESCAP/APDIM/GC(1)/INF/3	Tentative programme	1

Annex III

Financial statement of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management for the year ended 31 December 2016

(United States dollars)

<i>Income</i>	
Contributions	361 500
Interest income	590
Total income	362 090
<i>Less: Expenditure</i>	
	37 530
Net income over expenditure	324 559
Fund balance as at 1 January 2016	-
Refunds to donors/fund transfer	-
Fund balance as at 31 December 2016	324 559

Annex IV

**Financial statement of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the
Development of Disaster Information Management for the year
ended 31 December 2016, by project component**
(United States dollars)

	<i>Strengthening disaster information management in the Asia-Pacific region</i>
<i>Income</i>	
Contributions	361 500
Interest income	590
Total income	362 090
<i>Less: Expenditure</i>	37 530
Net income over expenditure	324 559
Fund balance as at 1 January 2016	-
Refunds to donors	-
Fund balance as at 31 December 2016	324 559