



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

Bangkok, 25-29 May 2015

Agenda item 3 (f)

Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions: disaster risk reduction and management**Draft resolution****Sponsored by: Japan****Co-sponsored by: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Samoa, Thailand, Tonga and Viet Nam****Strengthening regional mechanisms for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Asia and the Pacific***The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,*

Reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development entitled “The future we want”,¹ in particular the decisions related to disaster risk reduction and the role of regional commissions in supporting member States and the development agenda,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/209 of 21 December 2012 on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in which the Assembly requested the regional commissions, within their mandates, to support the efforts of Member States to achieve disaster risk reduction as part of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,²

Noting with appreciation the successful organization and outcomes of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, and expressing deep appreciation to the people and Government of Japan for hosting the conference in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015,

Reaffirming the commitment of member States to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 as a guide for enhancing the efforts of the international community in addressing disaster risk reduction and building resilience to disasters,

¹ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

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

Taking note of the targets of the Sendai Framework and its four priority areas for action, including at the regional level, namely understanding disaster risk, strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to “build back better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction,

Noting that the Sendai Framework recognized the importance of science and technology for facilitating a science-policy interface for effective decision-making in disaster risk reduction, and the need to enhance the access of developing countries to technology, science and innovation through regional cooperation mechanisms, with a particular focus on building the capacity of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States,

Reiterating the importance of promoting the understanding of hazards and to strengthen early warning systems for tsunami to protect the lives of people through awareness-raising of precautionary measures and dissemination of good practices and lessons learned from traditional knowledge, such as the “Inamura-no-hi” or the anecdote of the burning of harvested rice sheaves in Japan on 4 and 5 November 1854, which saved the lives of village inhabitants from a large tsunami through quick information dissemination and evacuation actions,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/245 of 29 December 2014 on oceans and the law of the sea, in which the Assembly welcomed the progress made towards the establishment of regional and national tsunami warning and mitigation systems and stressed the need for continued efforts in developing mitigation and preparedness measures for natural disasters, particularly tsunami events caused by earthquakes,

Taking note of the priorities expressed in the 2014 SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, including the need to build the resilience of small island developing States, a distinct group of countries that are disproportionately affected by disasters,³

Recognizing that Asia and the Pacific is the most disaster-prone region and noting that the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development had agreed that building resilience to natural disasters was an urgent regional priority to avoid reversal of development gains and that regional and international cooperation were highlighted as crucial for strengthening Governments’ efforts in reducing disaster risks and building resilience,

Expressing appreciation to the secretariat for its efforts to assist member States in addressing disaster risks in Asia and the Pacific through policy analysis, regional advisory services and capacity-building initiatives,

Recognizing that the Commission’s Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries has significantly strengthened regional mechanisms for multi-hazard risk reduction and enhanced the early warning capacity of member States, and noting that the needs for additional support remain significant, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States,

³ General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

Reaffirming its commitment to Commission resolutions 69/12 of 1 May 2013 on enhancing regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific, 69/11 of 1 May 2013 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, 70/2 of 23 May 2014 on disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific and 70/13 of 8 August 2014 on regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific,

1. *Invites* members and associate members to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and address disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and, as appropriate, to integrate it into policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels and to consider it within the relevant frameworks;

2. *Recognizes* that North-South cooperation, complemented by South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, play important roles in addressing disaster risk reduction and building resilience, and encourages the international community to continue such efforts and also to use all the existing regional mechanisms and centres of excellence;

3. *Invites* members and associate members, in coordination with relevant international organizations, the private sector and civil society, as appropriate:

(a) To promote people-centred, multi-hazard and multisectoral policies and practices for disaster prevention and disaster risk reduction based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure, hazard characteristics and the environment;

(b) To mainstream and integrate disaster risk reduction within and across all sectors at all levels and promote risk-sensitive public investment and eco-system based approaches to enhance economic, social and environmental resilience;

(c) To consider contributing financial support to the Commission's Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries to strengthen people-centred multi-hazard early warning systems;

(d) To raise awareness of precautionary measures against tsunamis through possible establishment of the World Tsunami Day;

(e) To attach priority to promoting information and communications technology and space applications for effective disaster risk management to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Asia and the Pacific;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To accord priority to the implementation of the Sendai Framework by strengthening the role and capacity of the secretariat in the area of information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction for the provision of policy recommendations, regional guidelines, technical assistance and advisory services to developing countries, particularly those that are at high risk and have low capacity;

(b) To coordinate with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and other relevant United Nations organizations and stakeholders

to help member States to monitor and report on progress in their implementation of the Sendai Framework in conjunction with the sustainable development monitoring and accountability framework, including through the development of a basic range of disaster-related statistics;

(c) To establish formal linkages between the Commission's interdisciplinary and intergovernmental platforms with regional platforms on disaster risk reduction in order to promote the integration of disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience into policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all sectors and levels of Government aimed at achieving sustainable development and poverty reduction goals;

(d) To guide actions at the regional level through agreed regional and subregional strategies and mechanisms to strengthen disaster risk modelling, assessment, mapping, monitoring and multi-hazard early warning systems of common and transboundary disasters, particularly those related to hydrometeorological issues, by deepening existing regional cooperation mechanisms such as the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee, the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones and the Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning, as well as by extending regional cooperation for floods, glacial lake outburst floods and landslides;

(e) Through the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism: (i) to implement a "One United Nations" approach to promote coherence of instruments and tools relevant to disaster risk reduction across the United Nations system and relevant regional organizations; (ii) to strengthen the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-United Nations Strategic Plan of Cooperation on Disaster Management for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030; and (iii) to extend such approaches of cooperation to other subregional organizations, such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific;

(f) To assist developing countries in Asia and the Pacific to gain from advances in science, technology and innovations, in particular with regard to applications of space technology and geographic information systems, by increasing access to and use of geospatial information and space-derived data, products and services, and strengthening disaster risk modelling, monitoring and impact assessment;

(g) To work with the Advisory Council of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries to further strengthen the Trust Fund and expand its geographic scope to include Pacific small island developing States;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventy-third session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.