

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Regional Conference on Strategies and Tools for Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction into Development Planning and Financing

Bangkok, 16-18 February 2015

TENTATIVE ANNOTATED AGENDA

Context

The Asia Pacific region is the most disaster prone in the world. Despite the rapid economic growth in the region, many developing countries in particular smaller economies are vulnerable to disasters. The impacts of disasters on the economy and people are expected to continue and be further aggravated by the effects of climate change triggering extreme events. Disasters impact multiple socio-economic sectors. In this respect, there are needs for multi-sectoral policy planning and implementation to address disasters and mainstream disaster risk reduction into broader development planning. The Rio+20 outcome document specifically calls for disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters to be addressed with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. ESCAP resolution 69/12 also sets out the agenda for further enhancing regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in the region.

In light of above, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is executing a project entitled ‘Enhancing knowledge and capacity for the management of disaster risks for a resilient future in Asia and the Pacific’ with funds from the 9th tranche of the United Nations Development Account (DA), which aims to enhance the capacity of senior government policymakers of selected vulnerable developing countries in Asia and the Pacific to develop policies and strategies for multi-sectoral disaster-resilient development planning. The project promotes multi-sectoral approach for optimizing the allocation of scarce resources for development that helps in reducing vulnerability and exposure of particularly critical sectors, and hence contributes to building disaster resilience.

Organization and objectives of the conference

ESCAP will organize the Regional Conference on Strategies and Tools for Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction into Development Planning and Financing from 16 to 18 February 2015 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand.

The specific objectives of the regional conference are to: (i) improve the knowledge of senior policymakers on effective policies and strategies and applications of effective tools for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into multi-sectoral development planning, and (ii) discuss countries’ gaps and needs in DRR and confirm countries participating in the project.

The conference will consist of two major segments: Part I - Practices, tools and policy guidelines for disaster risk reduction planning and financing, and Part II - Regional cooperation and national needs and priorities in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and building resilience to disasters.

At the end of the regional conference, the participants from member States are expected to:

- have increased awareness of the need for and benefit of integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into multi-sectoral development planning;
- have enhanced knowledge in the use of assessment and planning tools for resilient multi-sectoral development planning that could be adapted by developing countries;
- confirm their interest and commitment to participate in the project. Needs and priorities of participating countries will be outlined.

Participation

The regional conference will bring together senior policymakers from the ministries of planning, finance and in charge of disaster risk management of selected countries with special needs, including least developed and small island developing countries that have taken mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development as a national priority. Targeted countries tentatively include Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Maldives, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal and Samoa.

Experts from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES) will be invited to contribute their expertise and approaches for disaster risk reduction and management planning.

Tentative programme

Day 1- Monday, 16 February 2015

09:00 – 09:45 Agenda item 1. Opening of the conference

- Opening address, by Ms. Shamika Sirimanne, Director, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division
- Special event: Launching of the ‘ESCAP Regional Network of Knowledge and Innovation Centres in Disaster Risk Reduction’ (TBC)
- Introduction: overview of the project, scope and expected outcomes of the workshop, by ESCAP

09:45 – 10:00 *Coffee*

Part I: Practices, tools and policy guidelines for disaster risk reduction planning and financing

10:00 – 12:30 Agenda item 2 – Practices and guidelines in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into development planning processes

The session will present and discuss disaster risk reduction mainstreaming and national and provincial level development planning and financing processes.

- Financing DRR : the interface between national and provincial governments, by ESCAP
- Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into development planning processes in the ECLAC region, by ECLAC (TBC)
- Discussions

12:30 – 13:30 *Lunch*

13:30 – 15:00 Agenda item 2 (continued):

The session will present and discuss the planning and financing aspects of mainstreaming across multiple sectors and resilience building considerations for long term development planning processes in Asia and the Pacific. The discussions will also take into considerations the opportunities and challenges presented by the upcoming Sustainable Development Goals.

- Integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the ESCAP region – practice and lessons learned, by ESCAP
- Planning and budgeting aspects of mainstreaming DRR into development, by ESCAP consultant
- Discussions

15:00 – 15:15 *Coffee*

15:15 – 17:00 Agenda item 2 (continued):

- Principles and policy guidelines for incorporating planning and financial aspects of mainstreaming DRR within the context of the post-2015 development agenda, by ESCAP consultant
- Discussions and way forward

Day 2 - Tuesday, 17 February 2015

09:00 – 10:45 Agenda item 3 - Assessment and planning methodologies and tools for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

The session will present assessment and planning methodologies and tools, including damage and loss assessment methodology, probabilistic risk assessment tool and other tools for resilient multi-sectoral development planning. The session will also discuss ways to adapt the methodologies and tools to the conditions and needs for integrating disaster risk reduction into national development planning of developing countries.

ECLAC will bring its expertise and experience in the applications of the Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA) methodology and provide an overview of practices and lessons learned in applying the methodology for planning DRR and resilience building measures into development planning processes.

- Damage and Loss Assessment methodology for high-level policy makers, including update (Third edition of the Handbook for Disaster Assessment), by ECLAC (TBC)
- Discussions

10:45 – 11:00 *Coffee*

11:00– 12:00 Agenda item 3 (continued):

- Practices in ex-ante planning based on the DaLA methodological approach in selected countries of the ECLAC region, by ECLAC (TBC)
- Discussions
- Climate risk scenarios for disaster risk reduction planning in the Maldives and Myanmar, by RIMES
- Discussions

12:00 – 13:00 *Lunch*

13:00 – 15:00 Agenda item 3 (continued):

The session will present tools which are currently being developed by ESCAP for use by the DA project and discuss the feasibility of their operational applications. These include a rapid impact assessment tool using space-based information being developed by ESCAP in coordination with the SAARC Disaster Management Centre, and probabilistic risk model and their applications for development planning and financing.

- Rapid impact assessment using space-based information, by ESCAP;
- Discussions
- Probabilistic risk assessment tool: prototype probabilistic risk model for seismic hazards customized for Nepal and Myanmar, by ESCAP consultant;
- Discussions

15:00 – 15:15 *Coffee*

15:15 – 17:15 Agenda item 3 (continued):

Under this session, UNDP, UNISDR and UNOCHA will present approaches and tools for disaster risk reduction and management planning.

- Risk sensitive development and investment planning, by UNISDR (TBC)
- Disaster loss database for resilient development planning – practice and lessons learned in Cambodia, by UNDP (TBC)
- Effective preparedness for response, by UNOCHA (TBC)
- Discussions

Day 3 - Thursday, 18 February 2015

Part II: South-South cooperation and national needs and priorities in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and building resilience to disasters

09:00 – 10:00 Agenda item 4: South-South cooperation in disaster risk reduction

The session will discuss regional strategies that promote the pooling of resources through a regional network of specialized institutions that are recognised for their expert knowledge and innovative capacity in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and building resilience to disasters following South-South cooperation modalities to reinforce the capacity building of member States at the national level;

- Capacity building programme in disaster risk reduction, by NIDM, India (TBC)
- Capacity building programme in disaster risk reduction, by NDRCC, China (TBC)
- Discussions

10:00 – 10:15 *Coffee*

10:15 – 12:30 Agenda item 5: Sharing countries experience and mapping countries needs

Representatives from participating countries will share their countries' experience, gaps and needs in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The session will confirm the list of countries and outline project activities at national level in respective countries.

- Sharing countries' experience, gaps and needs in DRR planning and financing -- presentations by Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Maldives
- Discussions

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 15:45 Agenda item 5 (continued):

- Sharing countries' experience, gaps and needs in DRR planning and financing -- presentations by Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal and Samoa
- Discussions

15:45 – 16:00 *Coffee*

16:00 – 17:00 Agenda item 5 (continued):

The session will confirm the list of participating countries based on their capacity development needs, expression of interest, commitments in mainstreaming DRR and coordinating across sectors, and outline national level activities. The session will also discuss ways forward at the regional level.

- Discussion on commitments and future work plan
- Wrap up and conclusions of the regional conference