

Summary Assessment

Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction

Bangkok
10-12 October 2017

I. Introduction

The Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 10 to 12 October 2017.

A questionnaire assessing the relevance, effectiveness and quality of the meeting was distributed to each delegation of ESCAP members and associate members. In total, 10 of the 28 members and associate members in attendance submitted questionnaires. The overall response rate is therefore 36 per cent. The present assessment was prepared on the basis of these questionnaire responses.

The main purpose of this assessment is to support the secretariat's ongoing efforts to improve its servicing of session.

II. Attendance

The Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction was attended by 45 per cent of all ESCAP members and associate members (28 of 62). Some 23 of delegations (82 per cent) were headed by officials from the respective Capital, 2 of which at ministerial level (9 per cent); the remaining 5 (18 per cent) were represented through their embassies in Bangkok. In total there were 135 individual participants, of whom 51 were female (38 per cent).

A number of other entities participated, including United Nations bodies and agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations. From these entities, there were 48 participants of whom 16 were female. Therefore, the total number of participants from both governments and other entities is 183 individuals.

III. Relevance of the session

Respondents found that the session was relevant to the needs and priorities of their countries and there was a very positive agreement that the agenda items reflected the present development trends and issues in the disaster risk reduction in the Asian and Pacific region (See table 1).

There were some suggestions and comments on the relevance of the session to the needs and priorities:

- The topics of this session fully demonstrated the real situation of DRR in the Asia-Pacific region and reflected the specific needs and priorities. In particular, the emphasis on regional cooperation of DRR reflected the goals and paths to implement the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the Sendai Framework.
- Session highly targeted to desertification and dust and sand storm. But it is much better if you could spare some time for floods.

Table 1

EVALUATED STATEMENT	INDEX (0-100) ¹
The agenda items reflected the present development trends/issues of the Asian and Pacific region.	85
The agenda items are relevant to the needs and priorities of my country/territory.	80

IV. Effectiveness of the session

Respondents found the session to be very effective in highlighting of regional development trends and issues as well as identifying priority areas and emerging issues in the region. The Committee documents were found to be of high quality, concise and clear. Good reviews were made in promoting of regional dialogue and subregional approaches. Respondents rated positively but slightly less in addressing gender related issues (See table 2).

There were some suggestions and comments on the effectiveness of the session:

- The Asia-Pacific Region suffers huge losses for natural disasters, but has also achieved a lot in DRR, particularly since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework. This session provides a sound platform to display the achievements made in the Asia-Pacific Region in terms of DRR, put forward existing problems, and give priorities as well as solutions. It is conclusive to further enhance our DRR capabilities and make sure we "leave no one behind".
- The issues of gender and vulnerable segments in DRR should be highlighted in a more pronounced manner, particularly a more effective specific side event on the issues.

Table 2

EVALUATED STATEMENT	INDEX (0-100)
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¹ Methodology, an index between 100 and 0 is given, whereby, at a value of 100, all respondents rate to a great extent to the statement, and, at a value of 0, all respondents rate to not at all.

Index = actual value of all aggregated responses - minimum value of all aggregated responses / maximum value of all aggregated responses - minimum value of all aggregated responses.

The formula we have used is based on the same principles as the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Human Development Index (HDI). This allows the calculation of a unit-free index between 0 and 1 from all received responses for each statement. This enables indices to be added together as well as compared among each other. For more detail, see http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr_2013_en_technotes.pdf.

The session effectively highlighted regional development trends and issues.	85
The session effectively identified priority areas and emerging issues in the region.	85
The session effectively promoted dialogue on regional and subregional approaches to disaster risk reduction.	81
The session effectively addressed gender-related issues.	72
The session documents were of high quality, concise and clear.	83

V. Efficiency of the session

Respondents rated session efficiency positively in terms of secretariat servicing and communication on the preparations for the session. Respondents felt that the time available for discussion during the meeting was generally adequate (See Table 3).

There were some suggestions and comments on the efficiency of the organizational and servicing aspects of the session:

- The organizational and servicing aspects of the session was excellent.
- China appreciates the organization of this session and the thoughtful and passionate arrangements.

Table 3

EVALUATED STATEMENT	INDEX (0-100)
The time available for discussion during the session was adequate.	80
The servicing by the secretariat was efficient and effective.	85
The communications from the secretariat to the member States on the preparations for the session were effective.	85

VI. Other comments

According to respondents, the most useful and successful aspects of the Committee session and other suggestions for improvement included:

- Everything was perfectly organized. Thank you!
- I think each and every session was successful on their purpose.
- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
- We'd like to know more about the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework in the Asia-Pacific Region. We'd like to be informed of the efforts of ESCAP in promoting regional DRR in the future. The results and

documents of the session will be helpful for China to prepare for the 2018 Asian Technological DRR Conference to be held in April.

- Thank you for inviting us for sharing new idea, road map, information and objectives. We will continue to join. Thanks!
- The launch of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2017 was the most important aspect of the session. Such useful research provides evidence to DRR community to sensitize respective political leadership and decision makers on the needs of giving priority to DRR on national agenda.
- Lessons Knowledge shared. Maybe a Pacific Country (Fiji or Vanuatu or Samoa). Great session.

VII. Conclusion

Overall, delegations felt that the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction was successful.

The session was seen as relevant to the needs of the region and very effective in highlighting regional development trends and issues; and identifying priority areas and emerging issues in the region. The efficiency of the session received positive feedback in servicing of the session and communication to the member States by the secretariat. Furthermore, there was a recommendation to further improving its effectiveness in addressing gender-related issue in the field of disaster risk reduction.
