



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

Bangkok, 15-19 May 2016

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 Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction on
its fourth session***Summary*

The Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction held its fourth session in Bangkok from 27 to 29 October 2015. The Committee recognized the important role of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) as a multidisciplinary and multisectoral intergovernmental platform in supporting member States in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and various aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development pertaining to building resilience to disasters.

In this regard, the Committee requested the secretariat to continue developing regional analytical knowledge and strengthen member States' risk-sensitive development policymaking, through regular publication of *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report*; promote the development of a basic range of disaster-related statistics; expand its support to disaster information management and e-resilience; and make regional advisory services in disaster risk reduction available to high-risk low-capacity countries.

The Committee also requested the secretariat to facilitate regional cooperation to address disaster risks, particularly those that were transboundary in nature, and improve regional multi-hazard early warning systems. In that regard, the Committee called on the secretariat to work towards the establishment of a regional cooperation mechanism for flood forecasting in transboundary river basins; strengthen the early warning services in the Pacific through partnering with the World Meteorological Organization Tropical Cyclone Committee for the South Pacific and South-East Indian Ocean; and integrate seamlessly the outcomes of the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction with the work of the Committee and subsequently with that of ESCAP.

The Committee further requested the secretariat to continue to strengthen regional cooperation in space technology applications through the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development and the Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning. In that regard, the Committee requested the secretariat to organize a regional space leaders' forum during the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to promote space technology and the applications of geographic information systems. The Committee also recommended that the secretariat work on a new regional plan of action for applications of space technology and geographic information systems for disaster risk reduction and sustainable development beyond 2017.

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action or brought to its attention that are contained in the present report and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

* E/ESCAP/72/L.1.

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

1. The Committee recognizes the role of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) as a multidisciplinary and multilateral regional platform and, in this regard, requests the secretariat to continue to facilitate regional dialogue and cooperation in integrating disaster risk reduction into all development activities, as guided by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. The Committee requests the secretariat to establish formal linkages with various regional disaster risk reduction platforms in order to ensure that policy recommendations from these platforms are brought to the interdisciplinary and multisectoral deliberations of the Commission. To this end, the Committee recommends that the secretariat make concerted efforts to integrate seamlessly the outcomes of the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction with the work of the Committee and subsequently with that of the Commission.

3. While appreciating the work of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism and its Thematic Working Group on Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction, the Committee recommends that the secretariat, through this mechanism, promote greater coherence among the United Nations system in addressing disaster risk reduction.

4. The Committee requests the secretariat to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework, climate change agreements and various aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development pertaining to building resilience to disasters. To this end, the Committee recommends a standing bureau, consisting of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of its fourth session, to provide leadership when engaging with other regional platforms during the intersessional period of the Committee. The terms of reference of the standing bureau will be prepared by the secretariat and submitted to the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission for its consideration and adoption.

5. The Committee expresses appreciation to the secretariat for its efforts to assist member States in addressing disaster risks through analytical and policy analysis. In this respect, the Committee requests that the secretariat promote regional learning and document good practices and lessons learned on integration of disaster risk reduction into development planning, budgeting and relevant sectoral programmes.

6. The Committee commends the analytical work of the secretariat and calls on it to continue developing regional analytical knowledge and strengthen risk-sensitive development policymaking, through regular publication of *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report* to inform the Committee of the progress made by countries in the region in achieving the goals and targets under the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

7. The Committee requests that the secretariat facilitate regional cooperation to address disaster risks, particularly those that are transboundary in nature, including through performing the role of a regional hub for sharing knowledge, technical assistance, tailored training, including e-learning, technology applications, experience and policy analysis. In this context, the Committee recommends that the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management address the gaps in information management and knowledge-sharing by promoting regional and South-South cooperation.

8. While appreciating the regional advisory services in disaster risk reduction, the Committee requests the secretariat to make available to more countries – particularly those living with high risk but having low capacity – demand-driven, tailor-made services such as comprehensive alignment of national disaster management systems with the Sendai Framework, upgrading of technical guides on post-disaster needs assessment and contingency planning, and the development of medium-term strategic plans for transboundary disaster risk management.

9. The Committee requests the secretariat to continue to improve regional multi-hazard early warning systems and assist member States in further strengthening their national systems, including by providing capacity-development support.

10. The Committee recommends the secretariat to work towards the establishment of a regional cooperation mechanism for early warning for transboundary river basin floods and requests the secretariat to collaborate with partners to take this priority forward, in line with Commission resolution 71/12. The Committee further recommends that the secretariat address gaps in early warning for glacial lake outburst floods, flash floods and landslides, including by setting up a research network.

11. While appreciating the long-standing partnership between the secretariat of ESCAP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in multi-hazard early warning, the Committee recommends the further deepening of this collaboration, as part of the regional implementation of the International Network for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems. In this regard, the Committee also recommends further strengthening the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee and the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones and that the secretariat become a partner in the WMO Tropical Cyclone Committee for the South Pacific and South-East Indian Ocean.

12. The Committee recommends that the secretariat pursue developing guidelines on the integration of disaster risk reduction into multisectoral and subnational development planning and provide technical cooperation to enhance the capacity of the member States in this regard.

13. The Committee requests the secretariat to develop a regional guide for the sharing of good practices in country-level, post-disaster needs assessments, including the scope for using innovative mobile technology and space applications.

14. The Committee expresses support for the secretariat to take forward the public-private partnership initiative under the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network to review best practices.

15. Whereas the present mandate of the ESCAP Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific will soon expire, the Committee recommends that guidance be sought from the Commission, at its seventy-second session, on the possible extension of the mandate, from developing a regional guide on the basic range of disaster-related statistics to promoting the application of this guide.

16. The Committee expresses its appreciation to the secretariat for the timely provision of satellite imagery, through the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, to disaster-affected member States and requests the secretariat to further strengthen its regional support to help member States to improve access to space technology applications.

17. While appreciating the services of the Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning and its service nodes in China and India, the Committee recommends that the secretariat undertake an impact assessment of drought on agriculture and to extend its services to incorporate other hazards such as *dzud* and El Niño. The Committee also notes the request by Bangladesh to be a pilot of the Mechanism.

18. Given that the current Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017, will end in 2017, the Committee requests the secretariat to work on a new and extended regional plan of action for disaster risk reduction and sustainable development beyond 2017.

19. The Committee notes that the upcoming Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which will take place in New Delhi in November 2016, is an important regional event on disaster management and one avenue for promoting space technology and the applications of geographic information systems (GIS) in disaster risk reduction. In this regard, the Committee requests the secretariat to organize a space leaders' forum during the Ministerial Conference. The Committee notes with appreciation that India offers to extend all necessary support to the secretariat for this event.

20. Given the importance of monitoring land cover change over time, the Committee recommends that the secretariat, with its partners, assist member States to develop regional land cover maps and further enhance their capacity to analyse change. The Committee notes that Bangladesh, Fiji, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam have requested to be pilot countries in this initiative.

21. Considering the importance of resilient information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure, in particular broadband networks, in disaster response and disaster risk reduction, the Committee requests that the secretariat expand its support to disaster information management and e-resilience as part of disaster risk reduction efforts and strengthen the synergies between ICT and disaster risk reduction.

22. The Committee notes with appreciation the offers from member States of their valuable experience, information, tools and services through regional, South-South and North-South cooperation.

II. Proceedings

A. Regional mechanisms for disaster risk reduction in the context of the post-2015 development agenda

23. The Committee had before it the document entitled "Regional mechanisms for disaster risk reduction in the context of the post-2015 development agenda" (E/ESCAP/CDR(4)/1). The deliberations on the agenda item consisted of a panel discussion and country statements.

24. The Committee benefited from a panel discussion that comprised: Mr. Inia Seruiratu, Minister of Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management, Fiji; Mr. Singye Dorjee, Director of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Secretariat; and the Head of the Regional Office for Asia-Pacific of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. Statements were made by the following countries: Bangladesh; Cambodia; China; Fiji; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kyrgyzstan; Maldives; Pakistan; Philippines; Russian Federation; and Sri Lanka.

25. Statements were also made by representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); Secretariat of the Pacific Community; and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

26. The Committee recognized that the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development required stronger commitment to integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into development plans and policies to protect development gains in Asia and the Pacific.

27. Recognizing that the Asia-Pacific region was extremely prone to disasters and that many hazards were transboundary, the Committee noted the need for strengthening regional cooperation to address those disaster risks. The Committee noted with appreciation the secretariat's role in facilitating an exchange of experience between SAARC, ASEAN and the Economic Cooperation Organization. The Committee noted various initiatives on regional cooperation mechanisms, including the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre Regional Consultative Committee for Disaster Management and the Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

28. The Committee acknowledged the role of the secretariat in bringing greater convergence of regional initiatives through the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism.

29. The Committee recognized the important role of ESCAP as a multidisciplinary and multisectoral intergovernmental platform of the United Nations in supporting member States in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Committee took note of the role of the secretariat as a regional clearing house for the sharing of knowledge and best practices, building capacities and facilitating cooperation and coordination at the regional level.

30. The Committee noted the need for its recommendations to be taken forward between sessions. In that regard, the Committee noted that the bureau could strengthen the linkages of various regional and subregional efforts to be linked to the Committee.

31. The Committee expressed support for the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management in its efforts to facilitate access to regional and global disaster information and data sources through the creation of appropriate standards, frameworks and mechanisms, such as a regional disaster database for multi-hazard risk assessment, particularly for high-risk, low-capacity countries. Considering the importance of cultural and monument buildings, the Committee highlighted the importance of retrofitting buildings in accordance with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) guidelines.

32. The Committee was informed of national initiatives in disaster risk management outlined by several delegations and noted the following events in which member States were invited to participate: the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in New Delhi in November 2016, which would be preceded by the meeting of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Asia Partnership for Disaster Reduction in New Delhi in November 2015; the International Conference on Implementation of Health Aspects in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Thailand in March 2016; and the meeting of the Heads of Agriculture Ministries of the Pacific in Fiji in March 2016.

B. Regional multi-hazard early warning systems

33. The Committee had before it the document entitled "Strengthening regional multi-hazard early warning systems" (E/ESCAP/CDR(4)/2). The deliberations on the agenda item consisted of a panel discussion and country statements.

34. The Committee benefited from a panel discussion comprising the following panellists: the Director of the Weather and Disaster Risk Reduction

Services Department, World Meteorological Organization; and Mr. Hitoshi Kozaki, Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP and Head of the International Organizations Department, Embassy of Japan in Thailand. Statements were made by the representatives of the following countries: Bangladesh; China; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Kyrgyzstan; Pakistan; and Republic of Korea.

35. The Committee reiterated the importance of multi-hazard early warning systems as an effective tool in building disaster resilience and an integral part of overall strategies in disaster risk reduction, as recognized in the Sendai Framework as well as in the specific context of the WMO-led initiative on the International Network for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems. Noting that many hazards had transboundary origins, the Committee highlighted the value of regional cooperation in early warning, and expressed its appreciation for the secretariat's efforts in that regard.

36. The Committee took note of the progress made in strengthening regional early warning systems in Asia and the Pacific. The Committee further noted the opportunities for deepening regional cooperation and information sharing for certain hazards with transboundary origins, such as river basin floods, flash floods, glacial lake outburst floods, droughts and landslides.

37. The Committee highlighted the need to mobilize and reach the community level and to ensure that warnings were based on scientific information, in order to achieve effective early warning and action. In that regard, the Committee welcomed initiatives to strengthen national early warning systems and extend capacity development support through bilateral and regional cooperation, as outlined by several delegations.

38. The Committee welcomed the long-standing partnership between ESCAP and WMO in early warning. In that regard, it noted the progress made in strengthening regional cooperation on tropical cyclones through the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee and the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones, and welcomed the efforts of ESCAP and WMO to build synergies between those two platforms. The Committee noted the need for additional assistance and capacity development to improve preparedness and hydrometeorological services in Pacific small island developing States, which could be provided through regional and South-South cooperation mechanisms, such as the WMO Tropical Cyclone Committee for the South Pacific and South-East Indian Ocean.

39. The Committee welcomed the secretariat's efforts in enhancing the knowledge base for future work in early warning, as evidenced in *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2015*. The Committee further welcomed the secretariat's efforts in promoting joint standards and guidelines in early warning. In that regard, appreciation was expressed for the support of ESCAP in activating the Common Alerting Protocol.

40. The Committee recognized the importance of knowledge management, information sharing, effective utilization of ICT and capacity development in developing multi-hazard early warning systems. In that regard, the Committee reaffirmed its commitment to sharing its experience, expertise and good practices among its members, and welcomed the secretariat's role in facilitating such sharing through regional and South-South cooperation. Support was also expressed for sharing the experiences of Asia and the Pacific at the global level.

41. The Committee highlighted the importance of ensuring adequate financing for early warning. In that regard, it expressed its appreciation for the activities of the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries, including the recent expansion of the geographic scope of the Trust Fund to include small island developing States in the Pacific. The Committee also welcomed the support provided by the Trust Fund to the development of the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia. In this regard, one member State specifically expressed its appreciation for the work of ESCAP with the Early Warning System in support of national monsoon forums. The Committee further welcomed the expansion of the Early Warning System to the Pacific and Central Asia.

C. Risk-sensitive development

42. The Committee had before it the document entitled “Risk-sensitive development in Asia and the Pacific” (E/ESCAP/CDR(4)/3) and the information note entitled “Disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction” (E/ESCAP/CDR(4)/INF/4).

43. The Committee benefited from a panel discussion comprising the following panellists: Mr. Shahid Ula Mia, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Bangladesh; Mr. Govind Raj Pokharel, National Planning Commission, Nepal; and the Regional Director and Representative for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Environment Programme.

44. The Committee noted the importance of integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into development plans and policies to protect development gains and prevent future losses in Asia and the Pacific. The Committee highlighted the importance of the involvement of communities, particularly those that were most vulnerable, in decision-making.

45. The Committee also noted the need for continued efforts in reducing the underlying risk factors and preventing the creation of new risks of disasters. In that respect, the Committee expressed support for the secretariat to promote regional learning in integrating disaster risk reduction into long-term development strategies, in allocating appropriate budgets and implementing disaster risk reduction strategies.

46. The Committee recognized that the United Nations system and regional commissions at the regional level had a significant role to play in creating enabling policy frameworks and promoting collaboration across specialized agencies, especially in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and encouraging policymakers and decision makers to factor disaster risk reduction into their development plans and policies.

47. The Committee commended the analytical work of the secretariat, in particular the production of *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2015*. The Committee emphasized the relevance and usefulness of *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report* and expressed support for the secretariat to continue developing regional analytical knowledge to fill the existing gaps in knowledge through the publication of subsequent editions.

48. The Committee noted that building resilience to disasters involved all sectors, including the private sector, and expressed support for ESCAP initiatives on public-private partnerships under the aegis of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network.

D. Development of disaster-related statistics

49. The Committee had before it the document entitled “Towards an agreed basic range of disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific” (E/ESCAP/CDR(4)/4). The deliberations on the agenda item consisted of presentations and country statements.

50. The Committee benefited from presentations by Mr. Romeo Soon Recide, Interim Deputy National Statistician, Philippine Statistics Authority; and Mr. Agus Wibowo, Co-Chair of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific and Head of Data Division, National Agency for Disaster Management, Indonesia. A statement was made by the representative of China.

51. The Committee noted the importance of developing robust disaster-related statistics to establish the baseline for the implementation of the Sendai Framework and to inform policymaking processes as well as to guide planning and decision-making in disaster risk management.

52. The Committee noted the progress being made in improving statistics at the national level and also noted with appreciation the offer of China to support the development of disaster-related statistics in high-risk but low-capacity developing countries.

E. Regional cooperation on the applications of space technology and geographic information systems for disaster risk reduction

53. The Committee had before it the document entitled “Promoting regional cooperation on the applications of space technology and geographic information systems for effective disaster risk reduction” (E/ESCAP/CDR(4)/5). The deliberations on the agenda item consisted of a panel discussion and country statements.

54. The Committee benefited from a panel discussion comprising the following panellists: Ms. Chai Mei, Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Civil Affairs, China; Mr. Shantau Bhatawdekar, Associate Director, Earth Observations System, and Assistant Scientific Secretary, Indian Space Research Organization, India; Mr. Anond Snidvongs, Executive Director, Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency, Thailand; Mr. Santosh Kumar, Director, SAARC Disaster Management Centre; and the Director of Research, Technology Applications and Knowledge Systems, Operational Satellite Applications Programme of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). Statements were made by the following countries: Bangladesh; Cambodia; China; Fiji; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Mongolia; Myanmar; Sri Lanka; and Viet Nam.

55. Statements were also made by representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: UNITAR; United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER); ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management; and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.

56. The Committee highlighted the important role of space technology and GIS applications in the implementation of many of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework. The Committee also

identified the progress made by member States in utilizing space technology and GIS for effective disaster risk reduction.

57. The Committee noted with appreciation the work of the secretariat in filling the capacity gaps in using space technology and GIS applications. The Committee recognized there were unmet needs and considerable gaps in addressing multi-hazard early warning systems in developing countries in the use of geoportals for disaster management, space-based models for extreme weather and drone-based geospatial data management as well as the lack of standard operating procedures on the use of satellite imagery for emergency response.

58. The Committee noted with appreciation efforts made by member States, through regional cooperation, in providing satellite imagery to disaster-affected countries. The Committee reiterated that that type of regional support was a prime example of successful regional cooperation in addressing transboundary risks. The Committee noted with appreciation the commitments made by member countries of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development on the timely provision of satellite imagery and products for emergency response.

59. The Committee noted with appreciation the progress made by the secretariat and pilot countries participating in the operationalization of the Cooperative Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning. The Committee commended the efforts of the regional service nodes of the Mechanism in China and India in the provision of space-based data, products and services to pilot countries, starting with Mongolia and Sri Lanka. The Committee noted with appreciation the continued support of China and India on the operationalization of the Mechanism.

60. The Committee acknowledged that many other countries in the region suffered from drought and other climate variability, such as El Niño. In that regard, the Committee heard suggestions from member States on how to integrate hydrologic and disaster risk reduction aspects into meteorological issues in order to properly reflect disaster risk reduction as a part of sustainable development.

61. Mindful that regional land cover mapping was an overarching area of work that assisted decision makers in the region in understanding the current situation, potential areas for development and areas at risk, the Committee supported the initiative on regional land cover mapping, presented by the secretariat, and noted with appreciation the work already undertaken by the secretariat in order to showcase its benefits as a proposal for future work. The Committee noted the additional commitments of support provided by member States and the secretariat's partner agencies, by making their existing products available, to take that area of work forward.

62. The Committee recognized that the current Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development 2012-2017 would be coming to an end and that an extended regional plan of action needed to be continued beyond 2017. The renewed plan of action would serve as the basis for harnessing space technology applications to monitor the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals.

63. The Committee acknowledged the importance of resilient ICT infrastructure, in particular broadband communication, in transmitting

information during disasters. In that context, the Committee expressed its view that the secretariat should expand its work in enhancing e-resilience as part of disaster risk reduction in an integrated manner, while appreciating the foresight of the secretariat in combining the two functions in one division and the efficacy with which the division handled them.

64. The Committee noted with appreciation the offer from China, India, Thailand and Viet Nam to share geospatial data to disaster-affected countries and to provide opportunities for capacity-building for geospatial data management and disaster risk reduction.

65. The Committee noted with appreciation the offer from Japan to share the experiences and good practices gained during Sentinel Asia Step-3 as well as the offer of satellite imagery and capacity-building for member States.

66. The Committee acknowledged the collaborative partnerships between ESCAP and other United Nations agencies, such as the Operational Satellite Applications Programme of UNITAR, UN-SPIDER, United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management, Global Earth Observation System of Systems and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and global/regional organizations and initiatives, such as SAARC, ASEAN, Sentinel Asia and the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific.

F. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme

67. The secretariat presented information on the process for preparing the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019, which would be submitted to the General Assembly. The main features of the strategic framework included incorporation of the outcomes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the programmes of action for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as regional mandates in relation to economic integration. Advancement of gender equality at the regional level would be integrated in all subprogrammes.

68. A delegation noted that global mandates needed to be translated into national and local actions and, in that respect, regional commissions had an important role in promoting enabling frameworks and collaboration at the regional level.

G. Consideration of possible draft resolutions for submission to the Commission at its seventy-second session

69. No draft resolutions were proposed.

H. Other matters

70. No other matters were discussed.

I. Adoption of the report

71. The Committee adopted the report on its fourth session on 29 October 2015.

III. Organization of the session

A. Opening, duration and organization

72. The Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction held its fourth session in Bangkok from 27 to 29 October 2015.

73. At the onset, the Committee observed a minute of silence in remembrance of those who had lost their lives during natural disasters in the region. The Ambassador of Nepal delivered a statement.

74. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP delivered the opening remarks. Mr. Davletbek Alimbekov, Deputy Minister of Emergency Situations of Kyrgyzstan, delivered the welcoming remarks. Mr. Inia Seruiratu, Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management of Fiji, delivered a keynote speech. General Anupong Paojinda, Minister of Interior of Thailand, delivered the opening statement.

75. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP officially presented *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2015* to the dignitaries.

B. Attendance

76. The session was attended by representatives of the following members of ESCAP: Australia; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Fiji; France; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Maldives; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nepal; Pakistan; Palau; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Tuvalu; and Viet Nam.

77. Representatives of the following States also attended: Argentina; Belgium; Germany; Morocco; and South Africa.

78. In addition, representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction; and United Nations Population Fund.

79. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented: International Telecommunication Union; secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; UNESCO; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; UNITAR; Universal Postal Union; World Health Organization; and WMO.

80. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Asia-Pacific Telecommunity; Asian Reinsurance Corporation; and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

81. The following additional entities were represented: Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre; International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; International Recovery Platform; Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency; Japan International Cooperation Agency; Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization of Bangladesh; Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation; Turkish Red Crescent Society; and United States Agency for International Development.

82. Twelve panellists from ESCAP member States and United Nations organizations attended the high-level panel discussions organized in conjunction with the session of the Committee.

C. Election of officers

83. The Committee elected the following officers:

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| Chair: | Mr. Inia Seruiratu (Fiji) |
| Vice-Chairs: | Mr. Davletbek Alimbekov (Kyrgyzstan) Mr. Santosh Kumar (India) Ms. Lenie Duran Alegre (Philippines) Ms. Ariunaa Chadraabal (Mongolia) |

D. Agenda

84. The session adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Regional mechanisms for disaster risk reduction in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.
5. Regional multi-hazard early warning systems.
6. Risk-sensitive development.
7. Development of disaster-related statistics.
8. Regional cooperation on the applications of space technology and geographic information systems for disaster risk reduction.
9. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme.
10. Consideration of possible draft resolutions for submission to the Commission at its seventy-second session.
11. Other matters.
12. Adoption of the report.

E. Back-to-back events

85. The following side/special events were held:

- (a) 26-28 October 2015: nineteenth session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development;
- (b) 26-28 October 2015: Expert Group Meeting on Regional Strategies towards Building Resilience to Disasters in Asia and the Pacific;
- (c) 27 October 2015: Launch of *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2015*;

(d) 27 October 2015: 3rd meeting of the Task Force on Disaster Risk Reduction of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network;

(e) 26-27 October and 29 October 2015: Workshop on Promoting ICT for Inclusive and Disaster Resilient Development;

(f) 29-30 October 2015: 3rd meeting of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics.

86. In addition, an exhibition on disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction by the Social Development Division of ESCAP was displayed from 27 to 28 October 2015 at the United Nations Conference Centre.

Annex
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