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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

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

First session New Delhi. 2 November 2016

Consideration of the work plan for 2016-2017 and the programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 (Agenda item 6)

Note by the secretariat^{*}

I. Introduction

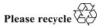
1. The Commission in its resolution 71/11 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management (APDIM), decided to establish the Centre as a regional institution of the Commission. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to take all the necessary measures to ensure that the Centre is established promptly, including the conclusion of a headquarters agreement between the host country and the United Nations.

2. The present document outlines proposed capacity-building and advocacy activities and the related financial plan for 2016-2017. It also proposes outputs for the programme of work of ESCAP for the biennium 2018-2019.

3. In accordance with paragraph 35 of the statute of APDIM, the Council shall review and endorse annual and long-term work plans consistent with the programme of work. In this context, the Governing Council is invited to review and provide guidance on the draft work plan and the proposed outputs for the subprogramme on information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction of ESCAP, taking into account the ESCAP strategic framework for 2018-2019, as presented in this document.

II. Work plan for 2016-2017

4. The proposed work plan for 2016-2017 has been developed based on ESCAP Commission resolution 71/11 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management. APDIM, hosted by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, aims to reduce the negative impact of natural hazards, strengthen capacities for disaster information management and enhance regional cooperation and coordination in disaster risk reduction.



 ^{*} The present document is being issued without formal editing.
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5. The activities for 2016-2017 will contribute to ESCAP subprogramme 5 on information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management for the biennium 2016-2017, which aims to enhance the contribution of disaster risk reduction strategies to achieving inclusive, sustainable and resilient development in Asia and the Pacific. The activities will contribute to the following expected accomplishments: (a) strengthened regional cooperation in disaster risk reduction and management for inclusive and sustainable development; and (b) improved knowledge and awareness of member States of effective policies and strategies in disaster risk reduction for inclusive, sustainable and resilient development.

6. With financial support from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the work plan proposes that the Centre initiate the following activities during the period 2016-2017: organize the Governing Council of APDIM; a regional conference on disaster information management; an expert meeting on sand and dust storms; and side events at international and regional events, such as the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and the session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction, with the objective to raise the visibility of APDIM.

7. The work plan also includes consultations and meetings with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on related agreements for the establishment of APDIM as a regional institution of the Commission pursuant to resolution 71/11.

8. In line with resolution 71/11, APDIM will support the most vulnerable countries in Asia and the Pacific in disaster risk management, with a particular focus on disaster-prone countries in North and Central Asia and South and South-West Asia. The work plan will also include a regional workshop on information and knowledge management in disaster risk management that focuses on seismic risk reduction, including on retrofitting of cultural monuments, subject to the receipt of an additional extrabudgetary contribution.

9. The activities of the work plan will draw on the expertise and resources offered through the strategic APDIM partnership group by the centres of excellence in the Islamic Republic of Iran, such as the Building and Housing Research Centre and the National Cartographic Centre. Regional mechanisms to address sand and dust storms will be organized in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Convention on Combatting Desertification (UNCCD) and affected member States in the region.

	Outputs and key activities	2016		.6 2017								
	Quarter	3	4	1	2	3	4					
Output 1	Policymakers and disaster risk reduction experts in governments and related organizations obtain greater knowledge on policy options and programmes for strengthening disaster information management											
A1.1	Organize APDIM thematic session on knowledge and information management at the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 2-5 Nov 2016, New Delhi		x									
A1.2	Develop APDIM analytical report on managing information and knowledge for disaster risk reduction – a status report on unmet needs and capacity development strategy to present at the high-level regional conference on disaster information management in Asia and the Pacific			x	х	х						
A1.3	Develop APDIM analytical report on the regional cooperation mechanism for information management and early warning for sand and dust storms to present at the regional expert meeting			x	х	х						
A1.4	Organize APDIM high-level regional conference on disaster information management in Asia and the Pacific, including a session on sand and dust storms, and the role of APDIM, in Tehran ¹						х					
A1.5	Organize APDIM side event on knowledge and information management at the fifth session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction, Bangkok						х					
A1.6	Organize a regional workshop on information and knowledge for disaster risk management with a focus on seismic risk reduction, including on building codes and retrofitting of cultural monuments, in Bam, Islamic Republic of Iran ²					Х						
Output 2	2 APDIM is established as a regional institution of the Commission pursuant to resolution 71/11											
A2.1	Organize the First Session of the Governing Council of APDIM ³		x									
	Prepare the report on the activities of APDIM for											

A. Proposed outputs and key activities for 2016-2017

¹ ESCAP and the host Government to organize this event in Tehran on the occasion of the Executive Secretary's visit to Tehran and the opening of the APDIM office. A session on sand and dust storms to promote regional and interregional networking to combat sand and dust storms will be organized in cooperation with UNEP, WMO, UNCCD and relevant member States.

² Subject to the receipt of additional extrabudgetary contribution.

³ The Governing Council session is scheduled to be organized back-to-back with the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in New Delhi on 2 November 2016.

	submission to the Commission for its consideration at its seventy-third session, in 2017.						
A2.2	Organize consultations between ESCAP and the host Government regarding the required agreements for establishing APDIM	х	x	x	x	х	
A2.3	Recruit APDIM management and staff members in line with United Nations rules and regulations ⁴		x	x	x	x	x
A2.4	Develop the programme of work of APDIM and the road map for the establishment and operation of APDIM		x	x			
A2.5	Organize an inspection of the APDIM office and review the security and safety measures ⁴			x	x	x	
A2.6	Organize the second session of the Governing Council of APDIM.						x
	Prepare the report on the activities of APDIM for submission to the Commission for its consideration at its seventy-fourth session in 2018.						
A2.7	Opening of the APDIM office in Tehran ⁵						x

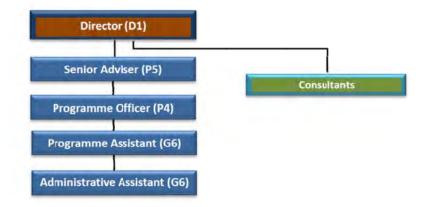
B. Administrative and financial matters

10. In accordance with the recommendations of the evaluation of APDIM, which was endorsed by the Commission in resolution 71/11, an interim management team for APDIM will be established. The team will be responsible for developing and implementing the programme of work of APDIM and supporting the necessary steps for the establishment of the Centre as an ESCAP regional institution in close coordination and collaboration with the Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division.

11. The APDIM management team shall include the Director of APDIM (D1), professional staff (Senior Adviser P5, Programme Officer P4) and general service staff (Programme Assistant G6, Administrative Assistant G6) to be recruited by ESCAP using an extrabudgetary contribution from the host Government.

⁴ Subject to the receipt of the full project fund.

⁵ Subject to the receipt of the full project fund and conclusion of host country agreement.



12. The total budget for implementing the work plan for 2016-2017 is estimated at \$3 million, including for staff and other personnel costs.

13. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has kindly contributed the first tranche, amounting to US\$396,119, for the implementation of resolution 71/11 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management and its operationalization in Tehran, 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 APDIM.

14. The first tranche will support the implementation of selected key activities as outlined in the table of outputs and key activities above. The implementation of other activities will be subject to the receipt of additional extrabudgetary voluntary contributions. The recruitment of the APDIM Director, professional and general service staff will be subject to the receipt of the full project fund for the work plan for 2016-2017.

III. Outputs for the programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019

15. The Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management will contribut to the objective of subprogramme 5 on information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management of ESCAP strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019, as it aims to foster disaster risk reduction and management for resilient and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

16. The expected accomplishments of the subprogramme relevant to disaster risk reduction and management include: (a) strengthened regional mechanisms to effectively address shared challenges and opportunities in disaster risk reduction and management for resilient and sustainable development; (b) enhanced evidence-based policies on disaster risk reduction and management for resilient and sustainable development, including gender perspectives; and (c) strengthened capacity of member States to use disaster risk reduction and management for resilient and sustainable development. The Centre will substantially contribute to expected accomplishment (c).

17. The subprogramme will address challenges of building resilience to natural 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 resolutions contained in the list of legislative mandates annexed to the strategic framework.

18. Disaster risk reduction and building resilience are cross-cutting themes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; as such, they feature in several of the Goals. In line with the subprogramme, the activities of the Centre will support member States, in particular, in their efforts to achieve Goal 1 (end poverty in all its forms everywhere), Goal 2 (end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture), Goal 11 (make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) and Goal 13 (take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts).

19. The subprogramme will be implemented through a combination of normative, analytical and capacity-building work and will be anchored in regional cooperation mechanisms. Capacity-building activities will be delivered, where relevant, through the Centre.

20. For the biennium 2018-2019, the Centre proposes to deliver the outputs listed below, which will be included in the programme of work of subprogramme 5 on information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management. These outputs will contribute to the overall objective of the subprogramme and to the expected accomplishment (c), as follows:

<u>Objective of the organization</u>: To foster [...] disaster risk reduction and management for resilient and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

<u>Expected accomplishment of the secretariat</u>: EA(c) Strengthened capacity of member States to use [...] disaster risk reduction and management for resilient and sustainable development.

<u>Indicators of achievement</u>: (c) (i) Increased percentage of surveyed participants indicating that they have increased their skills to use [...] disaster risk reduction and management for resilient and sustainable development following activities conducted by ESCAP, including the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management.

Proposed outputs by Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management⁶

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget/extrabudgetary)

(i) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Parliamentary documentation

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