



UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

**Expert Group Meeting on Capacity Development for Disaster Information Management  
in South and South West Asia**

16-17 April 2014, New Delhi, India

**CONCEPT NOTE**

The Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Capacity Development for Disaster Information Management aims to understand the critical gaps in disaster information supply chains and the related institutional and policy issues in South and South West Asia. The EGM intends to discuss the opportunities for capacity development through regional and south-south cooperation to narrow down the existing gaps in disaster information management. The Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) in Tehran has put in place the programme of work related to the capacity development in disaster information management for South and South West Asia subregion. The APDIM envisages addressing the existing gaps in disaster information management as well as promoting cooperation and partnership among the countries of the subregion. The goal of the EGM is therefore to provide the intergovernmental platform for the key stakeholders from the ESCAP member Countries of the subregion to understand, interact and assess whether the proposed APDIM's programme of work will be able to add value to the existing and planned initiatives and help in building their institutional capacities for disaster information management.

The EGM is to further promote south- south cooperation for sharing information, good practices and promoting collaboration in pursuit of building resilience to natural disasters in the subregion.

**Key objectives:**

1. To understand the gaps/barriers in disaster information supply chain in the subregion
2. To discuss the APDIM's programme of the work vis-à-vis the needs and aspirations of the key stakeholders from the member Countries in the subregion
3. To outline the 'need for' and 'benefit to' APDIM to the respective member Countries.

**Key Stakeholders:**

The target audience of EGM includes the key stakeholders/participants from ESCAP member Countries from the subregion – viz. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Turkey.

- 10 participants - one each from the National Disaster Management Authorities (NDMAs)/Centres (NDMCs)/ Ministry of Home Affairs/Interior representing all member Countries from the subregion
- Three participants from UN Organizations involved in DRR sector in the subregion (UNISDR, UNDP, UNOCHA)
- Two participants - One each from Disaster Management Unit of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Tehran and SAARC Disaster Management Centre, New Delhi.
- Four-five representatives/resource persons from Islamic Republic of Iran's NDMO, Building and Housing Research Centre (BHRC) and National Cartographic Centre (NCC)
- One eminent expert, who is the members of the Advisory Group to provide the technical advice on implementation of the Resolution.
- Three from ESCAP (participants from IDD and SRO-SSWA)

Suggested number of participants (24 approximately) – 10 from member Countries, 3 from UN organizations, 1 each from ECO and SAARC, 4-5 from the Islamic Republic of Iran, 1 Eminent expert and 3-4 ESCAP officials.

### **Format of the EGM:**

It is suggested to have a two day EGM which will be divided in two parts:

- a) First day session – plenary, where all key note speeches and presentations will be made to highlight disaster information management issues – covering mostly supply and demand scenarios at subregional level and
- b) Second day session – specific demand, needs and aspirations at country level, mapping out APDIM's programme of work vis-à-vis demand scenarios, the feedback from the key stakeholders and analysis of the outcome.

### **Expected Outputs and Outcomes:**

At the end of EGM, the participants will know about APDIM's programme of work; the participants will have better insights on the status and development of disaster information system in the subregion; the representatives from the member Countries will be able to understand the need for and the benefit of APIDM for building the institutional capacity in the subregion; the recommendations/intended outcome of EGM will be adopted based on comments and feedback from the stakeholders.

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