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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

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Agenda item 3 (c)

Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions: Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction

Resolution 69/12

Enhancing regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 60/195 on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in which the Assembly endorsed the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,¹ 63/217 of on natural disasters and vulnerability, 65/157 and 67/209 on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and 65/264 on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development, 66/290 on follow-up to paragraph 143 on human security of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, and Commission on the Status of Women resolution 56/2 on gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters,²

Recalling the results of the midterm review of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,³

Also recalling its resolutions 62/7 on strengthening regional cooperation and coordination of early warning system arrangements for tsunamis through the Multi-Donor Voluntary Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia, 64/2 on regional cooperation in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters in Asia and the Pacific, and 68/5 on the Asia-Pacific Years of Action for Applications of Space Technology and the Geographic Information System for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017,

¹ A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolutions 1 and 2.

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No. 7* (E/2012/27-E/CN.6/2012/16), chap. I, sect. D.

³ See A/66/301. See also General Assembly resolution 66/199.

Reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,⁴ in particular the sections related to disaster risk reduction,⁵

Recalling the Yogyakarta Declaration adopted on 25 October 2012 at the fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction,

Welcoming global dialogue processes on disaster risk reduction, such as the United Nations Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters as well as the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction,

Recalling that, at its sixty-eighth session, it endorsed “opportunities to build resilience to natural disasters and major economic crises” as the theme topic for its sixty-ninth session,⁶

Noting that the theme study for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission,⁷ through its analysis, offers a valuable contribution to the policy debate on one of the most pressing contemporary development challenges that the region faces and provides useful recommendations on building resilience to natural disasters and major economic crises in Asia and the Pacific,

Expressing deep concern at the challenges to member States in addressing the negative impacts of multiple shocks, in particular disasters and environmental hazards, including climate-related risks, on the achievement of sustainable development,

Underlining the important role of traditional and community-based disaster risk management, as well as encouraging governments at all levels to incorporate successful traditional and community-based disaster risk management into their policies,

Acknowledging the importance of building resilience and improving adaptive capacities to cope with hazards and multiple shocks to protect development gains made by member States, including progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and addressing the underlying risk factors identified in the Hyogo Framework for Action,

Emphasizing the added value of governments at all levels, as well as relevant subregional, regional and international organizations in committing adequate, timely and predictable resources for disaster risk reduction in order to enhance the resilience of cities and communities to disasters, according to their own circumstances and capacities,

Recognizing that Asia and the Pacific is highly vulnerable to disasters and that climate change may aggravate the intensity and frequency of extreme events, and therefore acknowledging that disaster risk reduction strategies and related climate adaptation measures need to be developed in a coordinated and holistic manner,

Also recognizing the need to further strengthen existing regional initiatives and mechanisms for building the capacity for disaster risk reduction,

⁴ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

⁵ Ibid., paras. 186-189.

⁶ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No.19* (E/2012/39-E/ESCAP/68/24), para. 291.

⁷ ST/ESCAP/2655. See also E/ESCAP/69/23.

and the role of the regional commissions in supporting the efforts of member States in this regard, in coordination with agencies of the United Nations system and other partners,

Acknowledging the contributions by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and other regional organizations, and recognizing the value of partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations in fostering cooperation for effectively addressing disaster risk reduction at the subregional level,

Emphasizing the importance of local participation and partnership in disaster risk management to enhance the adaptive capacity of communities and local institutions in the event of disasters,

Recognizing the contributions made by the Asian Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction to building awareness and sharing experiences on disaster risk reduction at the regional, national and local levels, and welcoming the next Ministerial Conference, which is to be held in Thailand in 2014,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of Thailand, the Government of Sweden and the Governments of other States members of the Commission for their contribution to the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries,

Acknowledging that the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries has strengthened regional capacity, promoted South-South and triangular cooperation for multi-hazard risk reduction and related climate change adaptation measures, and enhanced the tsunami early warning capacity of member States,

Recognizing the importance of integrating gender perspectives as well as empowering and actively engaging women and other vulnerable groups in decision making on disaster risk reduction at all levels,

Also recognizing the importance of a disaster risk management integration approach with special emphasis on sustainable development and poverty reduction at all levels of government,

Welcoming the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific,⁸ which contains a specific goal, as well as related targets and indicators, to promote disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and management,

Also welcoming the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017,⁹ and recognizing that information and communications technology can play an important role in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation,

1. *Welcomes* the convening of the sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Thailand in 2014 and the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan in early 2015, the latter

⁸ See E/ESCAP/69/12, chap. I, sect. A, annex I.

⁹ E/ESCAP/69/25, annex II.

to review the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action¹ and to adopt a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;

2. *Invites* members and associate members, in cooperation with relevant international organizations, international and regional financial institutions, the private sector and civil society, as appropriate:

(a) To work towards implementing the key policy recommendations on building resilience to natural hazards and disasters provided by the theme study, as appropriate;

(b) To address building resilience to natural hazards and disasters with a renewed sense of urgency by mainstreaming disaster risk reduction considerations and climate change adaptation into long-term development strategies, as appropriate, through policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels of government, and across all relevant ministries, including those responsible for planning and for finance;

(c) To ensure that disaster risk reduction strategies and related climate change adaptation measures are developed in a coordinated manner;

(d) To improve the quality and availability of disaggregated data related to disasters, to enable a more comprehensive assessment of the socio-economic effects of disasters, and strengthen evidence-based policymaking for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation;

(e) To strengthen capacities in disaster risk reduction, including those related to climate change adaptation, and share capacity-building and training resources and experiences with all developing countries in Asia and the Pacific;

(f) To make effective use of information and communications technology for disaster risk reduction and relief systems, including for climate monitoring and early warning, and, in the event of major disasters, ensure network resilience and recovery and share products and services associated with space-based and geographic information systems;

(g) To consider contributing to the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries through financial contributions and technical cooperation;

(h) To encourage public-private partnerships, strengthen collaborative efforts and share experience in the region in engaging the private sector more effectively in disaster risk reduction;

(i) To work to ensure that disaster risk reduction is given due consideration in the post-2015 development agenda;

(j) To consider continuing the dialogue on water and disasters in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in continuation of the discussion at the United Nations Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters;

(k) To respect local cultures and practices in disaster risk management;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to further strengthen the capacity of the secretariat in building resilience to disasters in the region in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and

the United Nations Development Programme as well as other relevant United Nations agencies;

4. *Reaffirms* its commitment to the Hyogo Framework for Action, 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, and call upon States, the United Nations system, international financial institutions, subregional, regional and international organizations and civil society to accelerate implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and the achievement of its goals;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, international financial institutions, and donor organizations, as appropriate:

(a) To facilitate the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development as they pertain to disaster risk reduction in the region, and to work with relevant United Nations entities to encourage appropriate consideration of disaster risk reduction, and including as related to climate change adaptation, in discussions of the post-2015 agenda as it may pertain to disaster risk reduction;

(b) To provide a platform for the members and associate members of the Commission to articulate a strong regional voice in favour of giving due consideration to disaster risk reduction in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, emphasizing the view that sustainable development cannot be achieved without disaster risk reduction considerations and measures, based on the experience of the region;

(c) To enhance regional knowledge sharing and, in particular, strengthen the capacity of member States, especially the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, to design and implement strategies and policies that mainstream disaster risk reduction into all sectors and levels of government;

(d) To provide substantive support, in cooperation with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, to the organization of the sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which will be hosted by Thailand in 2014, and subsequent biennial Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, and facilitate the implementation of the outcomes of the ministerial conferences within the framework of the mandate and programme of work of the Commission;

(e) To continue to ensure that the ESCAP Multi Donor Trust Fund

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