



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**Seventieth session**
Agenda item 3(f)**Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific****70/13. 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 67/209 and 68/211 on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, through which it was decided to convene the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, to review the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters¹ and to adopt a framework for disaster risk reduction beyond 2015, and General Assembly resolution 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,

Reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,² in particular the decisions related to disaster risk reduction and the role of regional commissions in supporting member States and the development agenda,

Recalling its resolutions 69/12 on enhancing regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific, and 69/11 on implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017,

Recognizing that the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries has significantly contributed to regional multi-hazard risk reduction and early warning and the need to further strengthen the regional and subregional mechanisms to support the efforts of member States,

Also recognizing the adverse impact of drought on socioeconomic development in the Asia-Pacific region and unmet needs in capacity

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

² General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

development for using space-based data/products in drought-prone countries for effective drought monitoring and early warning,

Expressing appreciation for the progress made by members and associate members in the implementation of its resolution 69/11, the development and operationalization of the Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning in the pilot countries³ and the timely provision by the Regional Service Nodes in China and India of space-based data/products and capacity development through the existing Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP) and its education and training networks⁴ and partnerships with global and regional partners to help disaster-affected countries in Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the important contribution of disaster information management in disaster risk reduction and building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific,

Affirming that the development and implementation of disaster risk reduction policy contributes to enhancing inclusive growth and sustainable development,

Recognizing the importance of empowering and actively engaging women and other at-risk groups in decision-making on disaster risk reduction at all levels,

Reaffirming the commitment made by members and associate members to encourage disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and management, including, inter alia, through goal 7 of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific,⁵

Taking note of the outcome of the Asia-Pacific Meeting on Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction: Changing Mindsets through Knowledge, which was organized by ESCAP in Sendai, Japan, on 22 and 23 April 2014,

Welcoming greater collaboration between the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee and the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones in order to reduce disaster risk, particularly for countries with special needs,

Commending the One United Nations initiative and the efforts of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on the Environment and Disaster Risk Management to support the ASEAN-United Nations Strategic Plan of Cooperation on Disaster Management (2011-2015),

Noting the importance of disaster-risk-sensitive investments in development plans which include disaster risk management to protect and sustain development gains across all sectors,

1. *Welcomes* the convening of the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, which will review the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and adopt a global framework for disaster risk reduction beyond 2015;

³ Afghanistan, Cambodia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

⁴ The National Remote Sensing Center of China, the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific in India and the National Coordinating Agency for Surveys and Mapping in Indonesia.

⁵ Commission resolution 69/13.

2. *Reiterates* the importance of the Sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which was held in Bangkok from 22 to 26 June 2014, and of the Bangkok Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific 2014, and encourages regional cooperation to implement its outcomes;

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

(a) To enhance their efforts to build resilience to natural disasters by mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into domestic policies, plans and programmes, with necessary budgets within appropriate means, and by promoting institutional development at the national and local levels;

(b) To take a strategic approach towards “build back better”, namely reconstruction, including through international cooperation and appropriate means of implementation, to realize a more resilient community based on the experience of disaster, as the reconstruction phase is an opportunity to strengthen resilience by building local capacities in preparedness, mitigation and response to disasters;

(c) To take strategic approaches towards evidence-based resilience through improved disaster data;

(d) To ensure all vulnerable people are included in disaster risk reduction planning, based on the concept of human security in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/290;

(e) To consider contributing to the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries;

(f) To give disaster risk reduction due consideration in the development agenda beyond 2015;

(g) To consider contributing to regional cooperation in space technology applications for disaster risk reduction, such as regional disaster management support systems, including Sentinel Asia, and RESAP;

(h) To make concerted efforts to improve the capacity of drought-prone countries on the use of space technology, including through the strengthening of the operationalization of the Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning under RESAP and other similar initiatives, and hence to reduce the negative impact of drought on sustainable development;

4. *Welcomes* the holding of a joint session of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee and the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones in 2015 and encourages the implementation of joint projects for the sharing of knowledge, technology and skills between members of the organizations;

5. *Welcomes also* the holding of expert meetings, training programmes and related activities in the region to develop and strengthen disaster information management in Asia and the Pacific, which will contribute to building resilience to disasters and promoting sustainable development in the region;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, international and regional financing institutions, development partners and international organizations, as appropriate:

(a) To further strengthen regional space cooperation on disaster risk reduction, including the applications of space technology and geographic information systems, by enhancing the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development and its education and training networks;

(b) To facilitate the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into development planning, as appropriate, including through information-sharing and building the capacity of member States;

(c) To promote the sharing of knowledge, technology and skills in disaster risk reduction among member States through South-South cooperation, North-South cooperation and triangular cooperation;

(d) To continue analytical work as well as sharing of best practices on building the resilience of member States to disasters in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and other organizations involved in disaster risk reduction, including through the *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report*;

(e) To support and facilitate the extension and operationalization of the Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning in drought-prone countries in the region;

(f) To promote private sector engagement in disaster risk reduction, such as through public-private partnerships and the sharing of experiences in the region in engaging the private sector more effectively in disaster risk reduction, including through the ESCAP Business Advisory Council;

(g) To further enhance partnerships and collaboration in disaster risk reduction with regional organizations in Asia and the Pacific, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, building on the efforts of the Regional Coordination Mechanism and its Thematic Working Group on the Environment and Disaster Risk Management to implement the One United Nations initiative;

7. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*Seventh plenary meeting
8 August 2014*
