

Statement of India
79th Commission Session of the United Nations ESCAP
Agenda 4 (d): Disaster Risk Reduction

Madam Chair,

India has consistently demonstrated its strong commitment to regional, sub-regional and south-south cooperation in multi-hazard early warning and disaster risk management. India has set up the BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate, chairs the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (RIMES) Council and hosts the SAARC Disaster Management Centre.

2. India has been working on strengthening end-to-end early warning systems for all hydro-meteorological hazards. This has resulted in significant reduction in disaster related mortalities. On both east and west coasts of India, we have nearly 100% coverage of early warning systems for cyclones. Mortality from cyclones reduced up to 90% over the last 15 years. Similarly for other hazards – such as Heat waves – India is making swift progress, leading to much greater resilience of our communities.

3. The Cyclone Warning Division (CWD) at India Meteorological Department (IMD) in New Delhi acts as a multilateral Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre for monitoring, predicting and issuing warning services on tropical cyclones developing over the north Indian Ocean (one of the six centres in the World), along with 13 countries in Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea region. The collaboration helped in the exchange of meteorological data from the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea countries to IMD and improved monitoring and forecast.

4. The meteorological data of satellite & radar, and model guidance from IMD along with Tropical Cyclone Advisory Bulletins helped the countries to minimize loss of lives. As an example, the number of lives lost have been minimised, being limited to 100 due to tropical cyclones during the last 10 years, not only in India but also in all the countries in

the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea region for which IMD provides tropical cyclone forecast and advisories.

5. India has developed a robust and reliable early warning system for early prediction of floods by collecting, collating and analysing the pattern and frequency of floods over a prolonged period of 60-70 years. This has resulted in developing a highly accurate and reliable flood forecasting system which has substantially reduced mortality from floods. India has integrated hazard, vulnerability, and exposure information to develop Web – DCRA (Dynamic composite Risk Atlas) to enable swift and advanced action on early warnings.

6. India's G20 Presidency has achieved a significant milestone by building consensus to start a new workstream on disaster risk reduction. The 1st Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG) meeting was held in the end of March 2023 during which deliberations were held on global coverage of Early Warning Systems, Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, stronger national financial frameworks, disaster response systems and increased application of ecosystems-based approaches to disaster risk reduction. We appreciate UNESCAP's collaboration with India's G20 initiative in disaster risk reduction.

Thank You.