

**The Seventy-Ninth Session of The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and
The Pacific (ESCAP) at The United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok**

Bangkok, 15-19 May 2023

**COUNTRY INTERVENTION
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

**AGENDA ITEM 4 (D)
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
18 MAY 2023**

Esteemed Chair,

Distinguished Excellencies,

Honorable Colleagues,

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the importance of more adaptive and responsive programs, including social protection programs. The pandemic impacted many individuals from various backgrounds, especially vulnerable populations. While the government expanded some programs to prevent further negative impacts, not all programs could reach all affected groups effectively.

The COVID-19 pandemic was a global disaster, which has led us to learn the importance of protecting people from catastrophic risks. Indonesia and many Asia Pacific countries face many types of natural disaster risks. Non-natural disasters, such as conflicts, social unrest, pandemic, and crises, are also a threat. Based on previous experiences, natural disasters have always been followed by significant increases in poverty rates and other vulnerability types.

Some groups, such as people living in poverty, children, women, people with disabilities, older people, and other marginalized communities, face higher risks than others and become even more vulnerable.

More adaptive programs will increase the resilience of populations facing risks, and prevent more people from falling into poverty, including those caused by disasters and climate change. More adaptive programs will allow quick expansion during disasters to ensure basic needs fulfillment for all impacted groups. Such programs will also function optimally in preventing man-made disasters, improving community preparedness, and accelerating victims' recovery.

Indonesia is developing and has gradually started implementing more adaptive policies and programs, combining approaches in disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and inclusive social protection.

As for now, we coordinate the formulation of a presidential regulation on social protection system reform, which includes a roadmap to more adaptive social protection. We are also developing our next mid and long-term development planning, in which we envision applying more adaptive approach on social protection and other programs to ensure a more resilient community.

Realizing the importance of this topic:

- Indonesia urges more discussions on adaptive social protection development among Member countries, including dialogues on establishing sustainable and risk-based social protection financing. The discussions will open opportunities for Members to learn and exchange best practices on providing the best protection for vulnerable communities during emergencies and in facing climate change impacts.*
- Indonesia calls for commitments and more active cooperation in improving resiliency, especially for the most vulnerable groups, particularly among countries in Asia and Pacific countries facing similar disaster and climate change risks and impacts.*

Thank you, Chair.

Word Count: 377