



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**Seventy-sixth session**

Bangkok, 21 May 2020

Item 5 (d) of the provisional agenda*

Review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific: disaster risk reduction**Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management on its fourth session***Summary*

The fourth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) was held in Islamabad on 20 February 2020, hosted by the National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan. The Council addressed programmatic, administrative and financial issues. The Council endorsed the report on the activities of APDIM since its third session and noted with appreciation the final ratification of the host country agreement. The Council endorsed the report on the administrative and financial status of the Centre and encouraged members and associate members to mobilize financial and/or in-kind support for the Centre. The Council endorsed the Centre's programme of work for 2020 and requested that APDIM develop a multi-year strategic programme of work to be submitted for approval at the fifth session of the Council. The Council noted the recommendations of the high-level expert meeting on disaster information management, held in Islamabad on 19 and 20 February 2020, and suggested that these be included in the Centre's programme of work and activities.

The Council endorsed the recommendations in the review of the Centre, which was commissioned by the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, pursuant to its resolution 71/11, adopted in 2015.

The Council expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its voluntary commitment and continuing generous financial contributions and expressed its appreciation to the government of Macao, China, and the Government of Cambodia for their additional voluntary cash contributions to APDIM. The Council expressed its appreciation for the expression of interest made by the Government of Turkey to host the fifth session of the Council. The Council extended its gratitude to the Government of Pakistan for hosting its fourth session and its generous hospitality.

* ESCAP/76/L.1/Rev.1.

I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention

1. The following decisions adopted by the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP):

Decision 1

The Governing Council of APDIM endorses the report on the activities of APDIM since the third session of the Council.

Decision 2

The Council notes with appreciation the final ratification of the host country agreement as notified by the Islamic Republic of Iran and endorses the report on the administrative and financial status of APDIM. The Council expresses its hope that the administrative and financial agreement can also be finalized as soon as possible.

The Council encourages members and associate members to mobilize financial and/or in-kind support for the Centre and to take active roles in the delivery of the Centre's programme of work.

Decision 3

The Council recommends a broad multi-hazard focus in the capacity-building and regional cooperation areas of the Centre's work, endorses the programme of work for 2020 (see agenda item 5) as part of the subprogramme on information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management of the Commission, and requests APDIM to develop a multi-year strategic programme of work to be submitted for approval at the Council's next session.

Decision 4

The Council notes the recommendations of the high-level expert meeting on disaster information management, held in Islamabad on 19 and 20 February 2020, as contained in annex II to the present document, and recommends that APDIM incorporate these recommendations into its future programme of work within the scope and mandate given to it and taking into account the availability of funds.

Decision 5

The Council endorses the recommendations of the APDIM review presented by the independent consultant. The Council recommends that APDIM incorporate these recommendations, including the programmatic focus, into its future programme of work within the scope and mandate given to it and taking into account the availability of funds.

The Council recommends that APDIM capitalize on the expanded partnership networks and advances made in the programmes that were initiated under its three thematic pillars for the implementation of its programme of work in disaster information management.

Decision 6

The Council expresses its appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its voluntary commitment and continuing generous financial contribution to APDIM. The Council also expresses its appreciation to the government of Macao, China, and the Government of Cambodia for their additional voluntary cash contributions to APDIM.

The Council expresses its appreciation for the expression of interest made by the Government of Turkey to host the fifth session of the Council.

The Council extends its gratitude to the Government of Pakistan for hosting its fourth session and its generous hospitality.

II. Proceedings

A. Report on the activities of the Centre since the third session of the Governing Council (Agenda item 2)

2. The Council had before it the report on APDIM activities since the third session of the Council. The secretariat briefed the Council on the progress in the implementation of the decisions and recommendations made by the Council at its third session with regard to the workplan for 2019.

3. The Council noted that among the outputs for the area of work on information and knowledge repository, APDIM had initiated a supply and demand study on disaster information management in the region. This included an institutional review of all recommendations and resolutions, as the formal requests of member States, on information management and risk reduction, the global and regional overview of the availability and accessibility of risk information management platforms, and assessing and understanding the current status and priorities of pilot countries with regard to the enhancement of risk data availability and data management and the development of a risk information self-assessment tool at the national level. APDIM contributed to the ESCAP *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2019: The Disaster Riskscape across Asia-Pacific – Pathways for Resilience, Inclusion and Empowerment*, which used the Asia-Pacific Disaster Risk Atlas as a source of data. APDIM, in a joint effort with ESCAP, had also been facilitating the use of high-resolution maps for flood-affected areas in the aftermath of flood events in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

4. The Council noted the progress made in the area of capacity development services. At the request of the Council at its third session, APDIM, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the country team for the Islamic Republic of Iran and partners from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the Planning and Budget Organization, the National Disaster Management Organization, and the Road, Housing and Urban Development Research Centre, trained experts and government authorities on the Sendai Framework monitor and disaster loss and damage assessment. After the floods in the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2019, APDIM contributed technical expertise to the joint efforts of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations agencies in conducting the post-disaster needs assessments. Further, in collaboration with the University of Tehran and the Special Reporting Committee on Iran Floods 2019, APDIM provided the opportunity for national and regional institutions, experts and

professionals to exchange ideas, knowledge and experiences on effective flood management in line with South-South and regional cooperation in the area of flood risk management. APDIM also contributed to the Expert Consultation on Scientific Tsunami Hazard Assessment for the Makran Subduction Zone on 8 March 2019, which was organized by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

5. The Council noted that in the area of regional information services for cross-boundary disasters, in response to a request from the Council at its third session, APDIM organized the expert group meeting on combating sand and dust storms and a regional plan of action for information-sharing and capacity development in Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok on 27 and 28 August 2019 on the margins of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction. Working with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), APDIM organized a technical workshop in Geneva on 30 and 31 October 2019 to develop a viable methodology to develop a regional risk assessment on sand and dust storms. Risk modellers, sand and dust storm experts, and sand and dust storm forecasters were brought together at that meeting. At the meeting of the Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System Steering Committee organized by the China Meteorological Administration, APDIM obtained further input as a result of its efforts with WMO to develop a methodology to assess the risk of sand and dust storms in the long term in Asia and the Pacific. APDIM also participated in the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in September 2019.

6. The representative of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran recognized and acknowledged the efforts and work of APDIM since the previous meeting of the Council. The representative also expressed appreciation for the support from the APDIM team, the ESCAP secretariat and all members of the Council.

7. The representative of the Government of Pakistan, which served as the Chair of the Council meeting, expressed gratitude to all members and expressed assurances that all efforts would be made to contribute towards strengthening the Centre and through it the regional partnerships for a common pursuit of a resilient region. The representative also reiterated the importance of regional cooperation in disaster risk reduction and observed that APDIM had a critical role to play in facilitating disaster risk assessment, disaster risk reduction planning and mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into the development process, without which disaster risk management and resilience building could be difficult to achieve.

B. Report on the outcomes of the high-level expert meeting on disaster information management, Islamabad, 19 and 20 February 2020

(Agenda item 3)

8. Information regarding the outcomes of the high-level expert meeting on disaster information management is contained in annex II to the present document.

C. Report on the governance and the administrative and financial status of the Centre, including progress on its review

(Agenda item 4)

9. The Council had before it the report on the governance and the administrative and financial status of APDIM.

10. The secretariat briefed the Council on the governance and the administrative and financial status of the Centre, including progress on its review, pursuant to Commission resolution 71/11.
11. The elections for the Council were held at the seventy-fifth session of the Commission, in May 2019, as proposed by the Council at its third session in the Centre's programme of work for 2019 and 2020. The following countries and areas were elected as Council members: Bangladesh; Cambodia; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Macao, China; Mongolia; Pakistan; and Turkey.
12. A Director (D-1), Programme Officer (National Professional Officer, level B) and Staff Assistant (G-5) were recruited in 2019. A consultant was hired to conduct a supply and demand study on disaster information management. Two individual contractors were also hired to provide communication, information, administrative and financial support to the Centre.
13. The APDIM office space in the Sepand Building was compliant with the minimum operating security standards of the United Nations.
14. In accordance with resolution 71/11, the review of APDIM was initiated. The final report would be submitted to the Commission for consideration at its seventy-sixth session, in May 2020.
15. The ratification of the host country agreement was finalized and officially communicated to the ESCAP secretariat by the host country.
16. Under the guidance of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, ESCAP and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran were working on the completion of the APDIM administrative and financial agreement.
17. Total contributions to APDIM to date equalled \$4,409,030. The total contribution to APDIM in 2019 comprised \$397,043, of which \$385,043 were from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
18. The expenditure in 2019 equalled \$1,087,979, and the funding balance as of 31 December 2019 equalled \$2,108,825.
19. The secretariat reiterated warm thanks to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its political, financial and logistic support to the Centre. The secretariat also briefed the Council on the advocacy activities of the Executive Secretary with the aim of getting additional donor countries to increase and expand the income base for APDIM.
20. The Council members were briefed on the independent review of APDIM. The purpose and methodology of the review were explained by the ESCAP independent consultant. The Council was also briefed on the recommendations to the Commission with regard to the Centre's service lines and the way forward.
21. The representative of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran thanked the consultant for conducting the independent review of APDIM. The representative also stated that it was promising to hear about the value of APDIM as revealed by the review and the recommendations to the Council on strategic directions to build on efficiency and capacities for the next period.

22. The representative expressed sincere gratitude to the Government of Pakistan for its excellent hospitality in hosting the Council's meeting. The representative also thanked the ESCAP secretariat, in particular, the Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP, and the APDIM team, especially the Director of APDIM, for their tireless efforts to further operationalize the Centre's work and ensure the efficient delivery of its programmes across the region. The representative also thanked the members of the Council for their proactive participation in the discussions of the Council.

23. The Council noted with appreciation the determination and commitment of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide all required support in accordance with resolution 71/11.

24. The Council was briefed on the efforts of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to arrange and facilitate visas for APDIM secretariat staff before the ratification of the host country agreement.

25. The Council also took note of the efforts of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide the headquarters building and its determination to continue political and financial support for the sustainability of the Centre's programmes in the long term.

26. The Council also noted that, in line with the magnitude of the needs in the region and the relevance of the Centre's mandate in meeting those needs, there was a need to diversify funding sources and promote and establish a network of partnerships across the region.

27. The representative of the Government of Turkey highlighted the importance of the independent review of APDIM. The representative stated that it was important to broaden the activities of APDIM in Asia and the Pacific and identify the specific needs of the countries through a multi-hazard approach. APDIM should use all data and models from all countries in the region as well as their capacities. Disaster was a horizontal theme which directly impacted all sectors, including health, culture and youth. The representative also highlighted the importance of additional funding sources and increasing the relevance of the Centre's work in relation to the secretariat's ongoing programmes.

28. The secretariat stated that further help was needed from the members of the Council to broaden the financial basis of APDIM. Contributions from all Council members and the other member States were welcomed. Members and associate members were encouraged to consider including such a contribution in their long-term planning. The secretariat also urged Council members to continue to provide high-level guidance to and engagement on Centre-related matters at the Commission session as the highest-level political gathering in the region.

D. Programme of work (Agenda item 5)

29. The Council had before it the Centre's proposed workplan for 2020.

30. The secretariat briefed the Council on the programme of work for 2020. Key programmes in all three areas of the Centre's services for a multi-year strategic programme of work would be adopted by implementing the recommendations that were accepted from the independent review, inputs from the theory of change and the outcomes of the supply and demand study on information management at the national and regional level.

31. For information and knowledge repository services, APDIM would apply the theory of change and would hold a workshop with relevant and concerned partners in the region. APDIM would also work towards incorporating the findings of the supply and demand study. In 2020, an in-depth analysis would be conducted to assess the baseline, demands and gaps in disaster risk data for risk reduction at the national level in at least five countries. Those countries were identified according to specific criteria for high-risk, low-capacity exposure and include Bangladesh, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nepal, Pakistan and Tajikistan. The Centre's services on disaster information management for risk-informed development and planning will be provided to at least one country upon its request. It would be done to see how disaster information management and risk reduction best practices could lead to risk-informed development and planning to achieve sustainable development and to leave no one behind.

32. The Council also noted that under the area of capacity development, APDIM would focus on at least two areas, one of which would be information management needs assessment at the country level. APDIM would also develop at least one training module on reporting on the impact of sand and dust storms through the Sendai Framework monitor. The Sendai Framework monitor tools and methods training would also be conducted in Pakistan.

33. With regard to the regional information services for cross-boundary disasters, the Council took note of the Centre's efforts to complete the development of the methodology for regional long-term assessment of the hazardous impact of sand and dust storms, which would facilitate the production of a regional plan of action for sand and dust storms. APDIM would also extend the current work on the sand and dust storm impact-based forecasting in collaboration with WMO and the relevant divisions in ESCAP. The Council also took note of the Centre's ongoing attempts to facilitate the establishment of a Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System node in West Asia.

E. Dates of and venue for the fifth session of the Governing Council

(Agenda item 6)

34. The representative of the Government of Turkey expressed interest in hosting the next session of the Council, possibly in November. The exact date and venue would be decided later, once the Government of Turkey could confirm its expression of interest.

F. Other matters

(Agenda item 7)

35. The Council noted with appreciation the draft of the Centre's annual report which contained information on the impact and results of its activities since its establishment.

G. Adoption of the report of the Governing Council on its fourth session

(Agenda item 8)

36. On 20 February 2020, the Council endorsed the section containing the matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention. The Council reviewed and endorsed the draft of the proceedings that were circulated to its members after the conclusion of the session. The full report of the Council on its fourth session would be submitted to the Commission for its endorsement at its seventy-sixth session.

III. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the session

37. The Council held its fourth session in Islamabad on 20 February 2020. Lieutenant General Muhammad Afzal, Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority, Pakistan; Mr Seyed Hamid Pourmohammadi Gelsefidi, Deputy Vice-President, Plan and Budget Organization, Islamic Republic of Iran; and the Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP delivered the opening statements.

B. Attendance

38. The session was attended by representatives of the following members of the Council: Bangladesh; Cambodia; Fiji; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Mongolia; Pakistan; and Turkey.

C. Election of officers

39. The Council elected the following officers:

Chair:	Lieutenant General Muhammad Afzal (Pakistan)
Vice-Chair:	Dr. Mehmet Gulluoglu (Turkey)

D. Agenda

40. The Council adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Report on the activities of the Centre since the third session of the Governing Council.
3. Report on the outcomes of the high-level expert meeting on disaster information management, Islamabad, 19 and 20 February 2020.
4. Report on the governance and administrative and financial status of the Centre, including progress on its review.
5. Programme of work.
6. Date of and venue for the fifth session of the Governing Council.
7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of the report of the Governing Council on its fourth session.

E. Other events

41. The high-level expert meeting on disaster information management was held in Islamabad on 19 and 20 February 2020 in conjunction with the fourth session of the Council.

Annex I

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>General series</i>		
	Report on the activities of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management since the third session of the Council	2
	Report on the administrative and financial status of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management	4
	The Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management programme of work for 2020	5
ESCAP/APDIM/GC/2020/1	Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management on its fourth session	
<i>Limited series</i>		
ESCAP/APDIM/GC/2020/L.1	Annotated provisional agenda	1
<i>Information Series</i>		
	List of participants	1
	Information for participants	1
	Tentative programme	1

Annex II

High-level expert meeting on disaster information management, Islamabad, 19 and 20 February 2020

1. The Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM), in cooperation with the National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan, organized the high-level expert meeting on disaster information management in Islamabad on 19 and 20 February 2020. The meeting was organized in accordance with the APDIM workplan endorsed by the Governing Council of APDIM at its third session in Tehran on 19 December 2018.

2. The high-level expert meeting on disaster information management was attended by representatives, official authorities and senior experts from ESCAP member countries, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mongolia, Pakistan and Turkey. Representatives from Islamic Relief Pakistan, the Provincial Disaster Management Commission of Sindh and Punjab, the Pakistan Engineering Council and the National Humanitarian Network of Pakistan attended the meeting. Also, representatives from the United States Agency for International Development, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Embassy of Tajikistan in Pakistan were present at the meeting.

3. At the meeting, sessions on strategic topics such as the development of disaster information management in Asia and the Pacific as well as short- and mid-term needs and priorities of the countries of the region, including as related to specific hazards, were convened.

Major conclusions and recommendations

4. The expert meeting made the following recommendations for APDIM to consider implementing in 2020 and beyond.

5. The expert meeting reviewed and appreciated the Centre's efforts to arrive at a shared understanding on specific needs for disaster information management at the regional and national levels in the Asia-Pacific region and encouraged APDIM to continue its work in assessing the supply and demand of information management in the region.

6. A request was made to APDIM to consider providing tools and information management resources in national languages as a way to strengthen accessibility and capacity-building at the national level.

7. The meeting also underscored the continued need for capacity-building to support countries in their progress reports through international mechanisms, such as the Sendai Framework Monitor. A suggestion was made by APDIM to provide additional guidance to incorporate impact from hazards such as sand and dust storms through the Sendai Monitor report.

8. Offering advice on the information management platform at the regional level, the expert meeting suggested that consideration should be given to the interoperability of local- and national-level information management systems, even if the Centre's focus at that stage was only at the regional and national levels.

9. On sand and dust storms, the meeting appreciated the expert presentation by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and agreed that there was an urgent need to develop a regional plan of action based on evidence on the long-term impact of sand and dust storms, especially in the most affected cross-boundary areas. In that connection, the meeting encouraged APDIM to continue its work on the long-term risk assessment of sand and dust storms in the Asia-Pacific region. The meeting noted with appreciation developments towards the establishment of a node in West Asia for the World Meteorological Organization Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System.

10. Taking note of the draft recommendations of the APDIM review, the meeting encouraged APDIM to continue its work in partnership with relevant organizations in the region.

11. On flood risk management, the meeting appreciated the presentation made by the Government of Pakistan and experts agreed on the importance of working with national hydro-meteorological services to strengthen regional cooperation based on lessons learned and best practices for spatial land-use planning. The meeting encouraged APDIM to consider these issues for inclusion in its capacity-building area of activity.

12. On seismic risk management, the meeting appreciated the expert presentations made by the Governments of Turkey and Pakistan and encouraged APDIM to strengthen opportunities for exchanges of expertise, including by expanding earthquake monitoring networks at the regional level to generate higher resolution hazard maps.

13. The meeting agreed on the need to leverage innovation in disaster information management, appreciated the impact-based sand and dust storm forecasting work presented by APDIM and encouraged APDIM to continue those efforts.

14. On regional cooperation, the meeting appreciated the insight from the Governments of Cambodia and Pakistan on the contribution that regional-level cooperation could make on disaster risk information management, especially with regard to developing specific protocols and guidance, with clear parameters, to facilitate the sharing of specific data sets and in cross-boundary hazard contexts. The meeting encouraged APDIM to explore working in that direction in the context of its longer-term programmes. The meeting also underscored the importance of a regional centre such as APDIM to building trust between partners to facilitate data sharing and appreciated, in that connection, occasions such as the expert meeting.

Annex III

Financial statement of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management for the year ended 31 December 2019

(United States dollars)

<i>Income</i>	
Contributions	397 043
Interest income	57 670
Total income	454 713
<i>Less: Expenditures</i>	
	(1 089 162)
Net income over expenditure	(634 448)
Fund balance as at 1 January 2019	2 802 549
Refund to donors	-
Fund balance as at 31 December 2019	2 168 100

Annex IV

**Financial statement of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the
Development of Disaster Information Management for the year
ended 31 December 2019, by project component**
(United States dollars)

	<i>Strengthening disaster information management in the Asia-Pacific region</i>	<i>Institutional support for the Centre (Multi-donor)</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Income</i>			
Contributions	385 043	12 000	397 043
Interest income	57 077	593	57 670
Total income	442 120	12 593	454 713
<i>Less: Expenditure</i>			
	(1 089 162)	-	(1 089 162)
Net income over expenditure	(647 042)	12 593	(634 449)
Fund balance as at 1 January 2019	2 782 268	20 281	2 802 549
Refund to donors	-	-	-
Fund balance as at 31 December 2019	2 135 226	32 874	2 168 100

Annex V

**Cash contributions to the Asian and Pacific Centre for the
Development of Disaster Information Management received for
the year ended 31 December 2019**
(United States dollars)

<i>Country/area</i>	<i>Year ended 31 December 2019</i>	<i>Year ended 31 December 2018</i>
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	385 043	978 515
Cambodia	2 000	-
Macao, China	10 000	10 000
Total	397 043	988 515