

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General
16 March 2021

Original: English

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

Bangkok and online, 26–29 April 2021

Item 4 (i) of the provisional agenda**

Review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission: Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction**Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management on its fifth session***Summary*

The fifth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) was held online on 26 January 2021, hosted by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Council addressed the programmatic and technical activities and the administrative and financial issues of the Centre.

The Council acknowledged the report on the activities of APDIM since its fourth session and noted with appreciation the conclusion of the Administrative and Financial Arrangement as the final step in establishing APDIM as a regional institution of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in line with Commission resolution 71/11.

The Council endorsed the Centre's multi-year strategic programme of work (2021–2030) and annual programmes of work for 2021 and 2022 and acknowledged the report on the administrative and financial status of the Centre. The Council encouraged members and associate members of ESCAP to mobilize financial and/or in-kind support for the Centre.

The Council expressed its deep appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting APDIM and providing generous financial and in-kind contributions to the Centre. It further expressed its thanks and appreciation to the governments of Cambodia and Macao, China, for providing financial contributions to APDIM. In addition, it expressed its appreciation for the interest expressed by the Government of Turkey to host its sixth session. The Council extended its gratitude to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting its fifth session.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 9 April 2021.

** ESCAP/77/L.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 takes note of the report on the activities of APDIM since the fourth session of the Council and expresses its satisfaction with the progress and achievements made in the implementation of the programme of work of the Centre.

Decision 2

The Council takes note of the administrative and financial status of the Centre.

The Council notes the completion of the process for the establishment of the Centre in line with Commission resolution 71/11, including the final ratification of the host country agreement, the conclusion of the Administrative and Financial Arrangement and the final approval by the Department of Safety and Security of occupancy of the APDIM premises in Tehran (Sepand Building).

The Council encourages the members and associate members of ESCAP to mobilize financial and/or in-kind support for the Centre and take an active role in the delivery of its programme of work.

Decision 3

The Council endorses the Centre's multi-year strategic programme of work (2021–2030) and annual programmes of work for 2021 and 2022.

Decision 4

The Council expresses its deep appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the Centre and providing generous financial and in-kind contributions for its establishment and activities. The Council also thanks the governments of Cambodia and Macao, China, for providing financial contributions to APDIM.

The Council endorses, with appreciation, the offer made by the Government of Turkey to host its sixth session.

The Council extends its gratitude to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting its fifth session.

Decision 5

The Council endorses the section containing the matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention. The Council, having reviewed the draft of the proceedings circulated to its members after the conclusion of the session, endorses the draft. The Council agrees to submit the full report on its fifth session for endorsement by the Commission at its seventy-seventh session.

II. Proceedings

A. Activities of the Centre since the fourth session of the Governing Council

(Agenda item 2)

2. The Council had before it the report on the activities of APDIM since the fourth 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 fourth session with regard to three key service areas of APDIM: information and knowledge repository; capacity development; and regional cooperation on transboundary hazards. The secretariat highlighted the Centre's efforts to create synergies across all its service areas.

3. The Council was informed of the Centre's important achievements in the area of work on the information and knowledge repository. For example, the Centre had produced the *APDIM Preliminary Assessment of the Gaps and Needs for Disaster Risk Information and Data Management Platforms in Asia and the Pacific Region*, which provided an overview of current capacities, available services and the needs of the regional and national stakeholders for disaster risk information and risk data management in the region. At the national level, specifically, four countries had been assessed, and the Centre had reviewed the cases in Bangladesh, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nepal and Tajikistan in detail. The structure of the assessment included a desk review of United Nations resolutions on the need for information and communications technology for disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management; an overview of gaps and regional cooperation; a review of the establishment and role of APDIM in supporting countries with disaster risk data management; horizon scanning of the existing relevant global or regional disaster risk data (hazard, exposure, vulnerability, resilience, risk and post-disaster impact) that are serving disaster risk reduction in the Asia-Pacific region; and an overview of the countries' current status and priorities for enhancing risk data availability and data management and developing a blueprint for a self-assessment methodology. The findings of the assessment together with the report on the review of the establishment of APDIM, endorsed by the Commission at its seventy-sixth session, had provided strategic inputs to the proposed programme of work submitted to the Council for endorsement under agenda item 4.

4. The Council was informed of the progress made on key capacity development services provided by APDIM. For example, APDIM had produced guidance on monitoring and reporting the impact of sand and dust storms through the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 monitoring process. The guidance had been developed to address the data gap identified by the sand and dust storms risk assessment in Asia and the Pacific, under key service area three. The guidance supported the most-affected countries to enable their authorities to report on the impact of sand and dust storms through existing agreed intergovernmental mechanisms such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Centre had been requested to contribute to the efforts of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to mainstream disaster risk reduction in development planning, in particular in the 7th five-year national development plan (2022–2026). To that effect, the Plan and Budget Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran and APDIM, with the support of the CIMA Research Foundation, had organized a technical workshop on disaster risk reduction mainstreaming in development plans, held on 14 and 15 September 2020, which was attended by representatives of key government offices involved in

development planning processes. The Centre would share the lessons learned from the experience of cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran related to the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in strategic development plans with other countries in the region.

5. The Council was informed that in the area of regional cooperation on transboundary hazards, APDIM had conducted the sand and dust storms risk assessment in Asia and the Pacific to provide an overview of the long-term risk and potential socioeconomic losses and impacts associated with sand and dust storms. This assessment had been conducted in collaboration with the secretariat, the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, and scientists from renowned universities and research centres in the region as well as several national meteorological institutes and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Looking ahead, APDIM would use the findings of the risk assessment to develop an evidence base upon which it could facilitate a conversation within or among the most affected countries of the region, to potentially establish cross-boundary and transboundary cooperation. The sand and dust storms risk assessment in Asia and the Pacific would be published by the end of the first quarter of 2021. The secretariat reported on the in-kind contributions that partners and support institutes had provided on a voluntary pro bono basis and pointed out APDIM achievements in leveraging existing cooperation mechanisms and expanding partnerships throughout the assessment.

6. The Council was informed of progress in implementing one of the recommendations of the report on the review of the establishment of APDIM, on enhancing collaborations, partnerships and visibility. In that connection, APDIM had attended, chaired and organized several events and meetings and had strengthened its collaboration with foundations and organizations working on disaster risk reduction, including the following: 1st meeting of the technical working group on disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific; Sixth Annual Meeting of Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System Steering Committee; 3rd and 4th meetings of the Governing Board of the Global Earthquake Model Foundation; ESCAP online executive training on environment and development; webinar on operational linkages and synergies between disaster risk reduction and security sector reform and governance, organized by the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance; 3rd and 4th meetings of the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms; fourth South Asia Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals, held on the theme “Fostering sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19 in South Asia”; international working group of the National Committee for Combating Sand and Dust Storms of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and forty-seventh session of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones.

7. The Council was informed that APDIM had upgraded its online presence in the form of a new fully functional portal. The portal is the main gateway for APDIM to connect with experts in member States, partners and stakeholders to facilitate the exchange of data, information and knowledge on disaster risk management and risk reduction.

8. The Council was informed about the webinar APDIM had convened on 25 January 2021, at which it had shared some of the outcomes about its work, with in-depth presentations on the *APDIM Preliminary Assessment of the Gaps and Needs for Disaster Risk Information and Data Management Platforms in Asia and the Pacific Region*, the guidance on monitoring and reporting the impact of sand and dust storms through the Sendai Framework, and the initial findings and progress with regard to the sand and dust storms risk assessment.

One hundred senior-level participants, including from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mongolia, Nepal and Pakistan, had attended the webinar.

9. The Council noted that APDIM had implemented all the planned activities with one minor exception.

10. The representative of Bangladesh congratulated the Chair and the other 8 members of the Council on organizing a successful online session on critical issues relevant to Bangladesh. Bangladesh was facing tremendous disasters including in the response to Cyclone Amphan as well as five floods in 2020, all against the backdrop of the widespread coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. In that connection, the representative reiterated the Government's appreciation for the disaster risk reduction efforts carried out by APDIM in Asia and the Pacific as well as globally, in particular to the webinar APDIM had convened on 25 January 2021 and in connection with the *APDIM Preliminary Assessment*. The representative recommended that APDIM directly contact the National Disaster Management Council of Bangladesh, especially the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, with regard to disaster management issues, and that APDIM provide more information on disaster risk data and information management in Bangladesh.

11. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran said that the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 had been a serious impediment to the implementation of some commitments at the national, regional and international levels. The representative appreciated the reaffirmation expressed by the Islamic Republic of Iran and ESCAP of their firm determination for closer cooperation as evidenced by the signing of the Administrative and Financial Arrangement. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran stood ready to fully cooperate with APDIM in its capacity as host of the Centre. Despite the unilateral sanctions imposed on it and their negative impact on its economy, the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the host country of APDIM, had made all efforts since the fourth session of the Council to fulfil its financial, administrative and logistical commitments to ESCAP. The Islamic Republic of Iran would continue to comply with its commitments in that respect for the coming year. The representative expressed the hope that APDIM members and observers, as well as the ESCAP members and associate members, would be even more active in regional cooperation endeavours with APDIM, and, in that connection, noted with appreciation the sizeable number of country representatives attending the Council deliberations as observers. The representative also expressed gratitude to APDIM and ESCAP for their kind assistance after widespread flash flooding in the country in 2019, and added that subsequent reports, including the post-disaster needs assessments, would not have been possible without the collaborative efforts and support of the United Nations. The representative informed the Council that the upcoming 7th five-year national development plan would facilitate the integration of climate and disaster risks into development planning processes, placing a higher priority on issues related to disaster risk reduction and resilience. Moreover, the representative expressed confidence that by promoting regional cooperation, APDIM would pave the way to move forward in disaster risk reduction through capacity-building, resilience-building, knowledge-sharing and the exchange of good practices for the common benefit of all in the region.

12. The secretariat said that APDIM looked forward to continuing the work on the *APDIM Preliminary Assessment* at the national level and to gaining a better in-depth understanding of the availability of and requirements for risk information management in the region.

B. Report on the administrative and financial status of the Centre
(Agenda item 3)

13. The Council had before it the report on the administrative and financial status of the Centre and was briefed on its contents by the secretariat.

14. The secretariat, in its introduction, recalled the following key background information: the APDIM statute was annexed to Commission resolution 71/11; the activities of the Centre were in line with relevant policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission and contributed to the organizational goals of ESCAP; the Centre was subject to the financial and staff regulations and rules of the United Nations and the applicable administrative instructions and reported to the Commission annually as part of ESCAP subprogramme 5 on information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management; the Council had held its fourth session in Islamabad on 20 February 2020 and its report had been submitted to and endorsed by the Commission at its seventy-sixth session, in May 2020 (ESCAP/76/13); and the host country agreement of APDIM, which had been signed by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP and the Vice-President of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on 30 January 2018 in Tehran, had been endorsed by the parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran and had entered into force in February 2020 following the completion of the domestic legislative procedures. In addition to the host country, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the membership of the Council for the period 2019–2021 comprised the following areas and countries: Bangladesh; Cambodia; Fiji; India; Macao, China; Mongolia; Pakistan; and Turkey.

15. The Council noted that on 21 January 2021, ESCAP and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran had signed the specific Administrative and Financial Arrangement for APDIM, which included terms and conditions for the occupancy and use of the APDIM premises as well as modalities for the disbursement of the host country financial contribution.

16. The Council was informed that APDIM premises, facilities and equipment were provided by the host country as in-kind contributions and were compliant with minimum operating security standards. The office of the Department of Safety and Security in the Islamic Republic of Iran had recently certified the compliance of the premises with requirements for APDIM occupancy.

17. The Council was informed that the APDIM management team consisted of a Director (D-1), a Senior Programme Officer (P-5), a Project Officer (NOB) and a Programme Assistant (G-5) recruited by ESCAP through extrabudgetary resources. In accordance with the APDIM programme of work approved by the Council, and within available resources, the APDIM team would expand in 2021 and 2022.

18. The Centre's programmes and operations were funded by voluntary contributions from members and associate members of ESCAP.

19. During the year ended 31 December 2020, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran had contributed \$170,620.84 to support the implementation of the Centre's programmes and activities within the framework of its programme of work from 2019 to 2021, bringing the total cash contributions of the Government for the establishment and programmes of APDIM for the period 2016–2020 to \$4,579,651.33.

20. In 2020, APDIM received a cash contribution of \$10,000 from Macao, China, for the institutional support of APDIM. The Government of Cambodia also made a contribution of \$2,000 to APDIM in 2020.

21. The Centre's budget for the financial year ended 31 December 2020 was \$1,171,471. The Centre's total expenditures for the reporting period were 83 per cent, or \$977,164. Expenditure items included staff and personnel; missions and regional workshops; and contractual services.

22. The representative of Bangladesh expressed his thanks to the Islamic Republic of Iran for its great contributions to the Centre which allowed it to run its programmes smoothly. The representative advised the secretariat to communicate with interested governments via their ministries of foreign affairs and official diplomatic channels to facilitate the processing at the appropriate level and the mobilization of financial resources so that contributions might be made to APDIM.

23. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran again reiterated the importance of the signing of the Administrative and Financial Arrangement by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and ESCAP. With the conclusion and finalization of the Headquarters Agreement and the Administrative and Financial Arrangement, the Islamic Republic of Iran had shown a strong commitment to its continued support for the activities of APDIM and programme of work of ESCAP, including through the provision of financial and in-kind contributions to the Centre. The representative encouraged other ESCAP member States to make their valuable contributions to APDIM and added that APDIM was a tool to serve and benefit people in the region. The representative requested the secretariat to mobilize additional resources through all possible means and to initiate negotiations and dialogue with all possible donors inside and outside the region to strengthen its capacity to carry out its functions.

24. The representative said that with the conclusion of Administrative and Financial Arrangement and the final preparation of APDIM office, the time was ripe for the whole APDIM team to be physically present in the Centre.

25. The secretariat noted with appreciation the important contributions made by the host country to support the work of the Centre and highlighted the collaborative spirit underpinning all substantive and logistical discussions with the host country. Mindful of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the secretariat noted that the full APDIM team would be privileged to work together in its permanent office as soon as the prevailing situation allowed.

C. Programme of work of the Centre (Agenda item 4)

26. The Council had before it the Centre's proposed multi-year strategic programme of work (2021–2030) and annual programmes of work for 2021 and 2022.

27. The secretariat gave a presentation on the way forward and what APDIM could deliver as a Centre. The secretariat briefed the Council on the proposed multi-year strategic programme of work, which had been designed in response to a request made by the Council at its fourth session.

28. The proposed programme of work was aimed at positioning APDIM as an important regional centre for disaster information management and risk-informed development. The Centre aspired to do so by becoming a thought leader and go-to repository of information.

29. The proposed programme of work was anchored in the global agenda of the United Nations, the global intergovernmental framework, the General Assembly and Commission resolutions and the institutional mandate of the Centre with regard to reducing disaster risk including through transboundary cooperation, demanding a new approach to data acquisition and integration in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, providing risk information, strengthening partnerships, and establishing a subregional cooperation mechanism for slow-onset hazards.

30. The independent and comprehensive review of the performance of APDIM, endorsed by the Commission at its seventy-sixth session, included a suggestion to develop the proposed programme of work by applying a theory-of-change methodology. The *APDIM Preliminary Assessment* had contributed inputs to the proposed programme of work to ensure the proposed activities were fully tailored to the needs of the region.

31. The Centre consulted with a group of stakeholders and experts who considered the review recommendations and the outcomes of the assessment through a theory-of-change lens to ensure accountability and prioritize actions accordingly. A two-day workshop had been held on 10 and 11 November 2020 for these stakeholders and experts to develop the proposed programme of work. The proposed programme of work was designed to position APDIM to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework in a results-oriented and effective manner.

32. The secretariat presented the findings of the *APDIM Preliminary Assessment*, including the following: there was a significant need to increase the use and application of risk information in policymaking and planning at the national and regional levels; countries needed support to access and analyse existing data and to conduct new hazard and risk assessments; countries needed support for enhancing risk data management and governance; using the Sendai Framework as a benchmark exposed significant gaps in the availability of many types of risk information; there were major gaps in hazard and risk data availability for droughts and sand and dust storms; cross-boundary collaborations needed the support of regional institutions; risk information developed by international entities was a valuable resource but not without its challenges; there was no central platform for accessing risk data in Asia and the Pacific; and establishing such a platform could benefit national and regional actors.

33. The secretariat also presented the suggestions from the *APDIM Preliminary Assessment* with regard to the following topics: facilitating dynamic dialogue, collaboration and co-design of initiatives and products by convening multidisciplinary teams from national, regional and international entities; supporting national entities to enhance national risk data governance and establish a national risk data platform when the required conditions are in place; supporting national and subnational science and policy stakeholders in conducting risk assessments, understanding risk information and applying it in policy and planning; mobilizing global and regional expertise and resources to move towards closing the gaps in hazard and risk data availability for disaster risk reduction; and investing in the design, implementation and maintenance of one regional risk data platform.

34. The Council noted that there was a persistent gap at the regional, national and subnational levels in understanding risk, assessing the available risk information and using the information to inform resilience policies and a ten-year vision for APDIM as effective disaster risk information was produced and used for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

35. The Council noted that policies and practices for disaster risk management were based on an understanding of risk in all its dimensions, including vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment. In order to achieve its overarching long-term outcome, APDIM had identified three long-term outcomes in line with the key service areas: risk information, information capacity and application, and regional cooperation.

36. The Council was informed of the first long-term outcome on ensuring that risk information was in place and access to effective disaster risk information was facilitated at the regional and national level. The Council also noted the results pathways which had been developed following the theory-of-change workshop which showed how all the intermediate outcomes were interconnected (see annexes V–VIII). Three intermediate outcomes were designed to achieve the first long-term outcome: equipping development and sectoral policymakers to apply and use risk information in sustainable development processes; increasing the use of disaster risk data at the national level through strengthened national governance of risk data; and developing a regional data platform to close gaps at the regional level in hazard mapping and risk analysis.

37. The Council noted that under the second long-term outcome, on information capacity and application, country and regional organizations would have the capacity to access, understand and apply disaster risk information to design risk-informed development policies and investments. Two intermediate outcomes were designed to achieve the second long-term outcome: ensuring that policymakers and development planners at the national and regional levels understood that disaster risk information was a necessary and integral component of development planning across sectors to protect development gains; and equipping key organizations at the national level with the knowledge (APDIM would develop guidance), skills (APDIM would deliver training programmes) and access to international networks (APDIM would organize meetings/connect national institutions with one other) to ensure that disaster risk information and data were fully applied to national development processes.

38. The Council noted that under the third long-term outcome, on regional cooperation, there would be effective regional cooperation and coordination to compile, access and apply disaster risk information. Two intermediate outcomes were designed to achieve the third long-term outcome: increasing the understanding at the regional level of the transboundary impact of hazards; and facilitating and supporting transboundary cooperation on disaster risk information management.

39. One of the recommendations of the report on the review of the establishment of APDIM was to develop a partnership strategy as part of the proposed programme of work. According to the section of the report devoted to the partnership strategy, APDIM plans included the following: to develop partnerships in two key categories, namely hazard-specific partnerships and information technology innovation and coordination partnerships, including close interaction with substantive divisions and subregional offices of ESCAP; to liaise closely with the Regional Coordination Office in Bangkok and

resident coordinators in relevant countries; to interact with sister organizations in the United Nations system; and to focus on building synergies with partners that could enhance the quality and range of products and services APDIM could offer to its stakeholders.

40. The delivery of the proposed programme of work was predicated on some key assumptions, detailed below.

41. The first assumption, on income, was that APDIM would receive on a yearly basis the agreed contribution of \$2.5 million from the Islamic Republic of Iran and would complement its income with additional voluntary contributions from other donor governments, reaching by 2025 a minimum of 30 per cent of its total resources. The secretariat looked forward to receiving the contribution for 2021 and noted that the contribution for 2022 was expected in October 2021. That would allow APDIM to continue to implement and deliver the proposed programme of work. In addition, the Centre would continue to receive significant pro bono collaboration and advice from think tanks and research institutions, quantifiable in the range of \$100,000 annually.

42. The second assumption, on human resources, was that APDIM would be able to promptly fill any additional positions created in line with the organizational chart endorsed by the Council (see annex IX).

43. The third assumption, on institutional collaboration, was that APDIM would continue to collaborate proactively with a view to taking seamless synergetic action at the regional and international levels with relevant ESCAP divisions and sister institutions in the region.

44. The fourth assumption, on public information, was that the Centre's image as a credible actor at the regional and international levels would continue to be effectively strengthened by contributing think pieces and blog posts in specialized and technical forums, participating in broader sustainable development discussions and ensuring the knowledge and products APDIM developed were well known in the region. In that regard, the secretariat informed the Council that APDIM had nearly completed the selection of a national associate public information officer. The selection process had included all the steps required by the secretariat, and APDIM was looking forward to receiving the contribution so that the staff member could be confidently added to the team on the basis of the financial sustainability of the Centre.

45. The secretariat said that the broad participation in the APDIM webinar held on 25 January 2021 was a clear indication that the Centre's efforts with regard to developing and leveraging partnerships were well on their way. The example of the partnerships APDIM was leveraging for its sand and dust storms risk assessment in Asia and the Pacific was brought to the attention of the Council. Tohoku University had run data analysis completely free of charge, and several different organizations were providing technical advice to APDIM on a regular basis on the methodology for the assessment. This assessment was considered a very innovative analysis of the socioeconomic impact of sand and dust storms, because of its geographic and sectoral scope.

46. The Council noted the proposed annual programmes of work for 2021 and 2022, which were based on the assumptions described above, especially with regard to the availability of resources and the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic.

47. The representative of Bangladesh appreciated the efforts of the secretariat in developing the multi-year strategic programme of work (2021–2030) and the annual programmes of work for 2021 and 2022 in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework. The representative requested to hold one of the two country-level workshops in Bangladesh, which had a wealth of experience on disaster risk reduction, including with regard to flood risk.

48. The representative of India expressed his confidence that APDIM, as part of the ESCAP framework, would enhance the dialogue between the member States and strengthen regional cooperation on the issue of disaster risk information management. The representative shared information about the national disaster management plan developed in 2016, which was focused on the multiple hazards and vulnerabilities facing the country. The plan's design was based on the Sendai Framework priorities. The plan clearly indicated specific responsibilities at the central and provincial levels. It had been revised in 2019 to include a fifth priority pillar on climate risk, divided into short-, medium- and long-term goals in alignment with the Sendai Framework, including its 2030 deadline and that of the Sustainable Development Goals.

49. The representative of India further briefed the Council on a national workshop conducted in India in 2018 on identifying hazards, thresholds, accessibility and quality of data. A national disaster management information system that would provide data at the provisional level was about to be finalized. India could report on target E of the Sendai Framework under the Sendai Framework monitoring process. Risk-informed data were needed to facilitate risk-informed decisions and policies for sustainable development. The representative said that all generated data must be available because no single process or system can work in isolation, and a converged approach was needed. Floods were a major threat in Asia, accounting for more than two thirds of deaths and economic losses. India had also faced Cyclone Amphan and Cyclone Burevi and had experienced concurrent disasters alongside COVID-19. The action plan of the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which was hosted by the Government of India in 2016, included short-, medium- and long-term objectives to be achieved by countries in Asia. In addition, the national indicator framework of India included targeted indicators for all the Sustainable Development Goals, taking into consideration the indicators and subindicators of the Sendai Framework. The representative of India recommended that the Ulaanbaatar Declaration be included in the introduction to the multi-year strategic programme of work.

50. The representative of Pakistan requested that information-sharing on locusts be included in the programme of work.

51. The representative of Mongolia said that monitoring, reporting and efficiently reducing and mitigating sand and dust storms by using information and knowledge was always a priority for the Government of Mongolia.

D. Date of and venue for the sixth session of the Governing Council (Agenda item 5)

52. The secretariat would engage in consultation on the date and venue and inform the Council members of the result.

E. Other matters (Agenda item 6)

53. No other matters were discussed.

F. Adoption of the report of the Governing Council on its fifth session
(Agenda item 7)

54. The Governing Council adopted the present report on 26 January 2021.

III. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the session

55. The Council held its fifth session online, on 26 January 2021. Opening statements were delivered by the following attendees: Lieutenant General Akhtar Nawaz Satti, Chair, National Disaster Management Authority, Pakistan; Mr. Seyed Hamid Pourmohammadi Gelsefidi, Deputy Vice-President, Plan and Budget Organization, Islamic Republic of Iran; and the Executive Secretary of ESCAP.

B. Attendance

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

57. Representatives of the following members and associate members of the Commission attended as observers: Georgia; Japan; Kazakhstan; Maldives; Myanmar; Nepal; Singapore; Sri Lanka; and Turkmenistan.

C. Election of officers

58. The Council elected the following officers:

Chair: Mr. Seyed Hamid Pourmohammadi Gelsefedi
(Islamic Republic of Iran)

Vice-Chair: Mr. Muhammet Maruf Yaman
(Turkey)

D. Agenda

59. The Council adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Activities of the Centre since the fourth session of the Governing Council.
3. Report on the administrative and financial status of the Centre.
4. Programme of work of the Centre.
5. Date of and venue for the sixth session of the Governing Council.
6. Other matters.

7. Adoption of the report of the Governing Council on its fifth session.

E. Other events

60. The Centre organized a webinar on disaster risk information management, entitled “Developing capacities and enhancing collaboration”, on 25 January 2020 in conjunction with the fifth 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 fourth session of the Governing Council	2
	Report on the administrative and financial status of the Centre	3
	Proposed multi-year strategic programme of work (2021–2030) and annual programme of work (2021) of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management	4
<i>Limited series</i>		
ESCAP/APDIM/GC/2021/L.1	Annotated provisional agenda	1
<i>Information Series</i>		
	List of participants	1
	Information for participants	1
	Tentative programme	1

Annex II

Financial statement of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management for the year ended 31 December 2020 (United States dollars)

<i>Income</i>	
Contributions	182 621
Interest income	28 332
Total income	210 953
<i>Less: Expenditures</i>	(978 209)
Net income over expenditure	(767 256)
Fund balance as at 1 January 2020	2 168 100
Refunds to donors	-
Fund balance as at 31 December 2020	1 400 844

Annex III

Financial statement of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management for the year ended 31 December 2020, by project component (United States dollars)

	<i>Strengthening disaster information management in Asia-Pacific region</i>	<i>Institutional support for the Centre (Multi-donor)</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Income</i>			
Contributions	170 621	12 000	182 621
Interest income	27 800	532	28 332
Total income	198 421	12 532	210 953
<i>Less: Expenditures</i>	(978 209)	-	(978 209)
Net income over expenditures	(779 788)	12 532	(767 256)
Fund balance as at 1 January 2020	2 135 226	32 874	2 168 100
Refunds to donors	-	-	-
Fund balance as at 31 December 2020	1 355 438	45 406	1 400 844

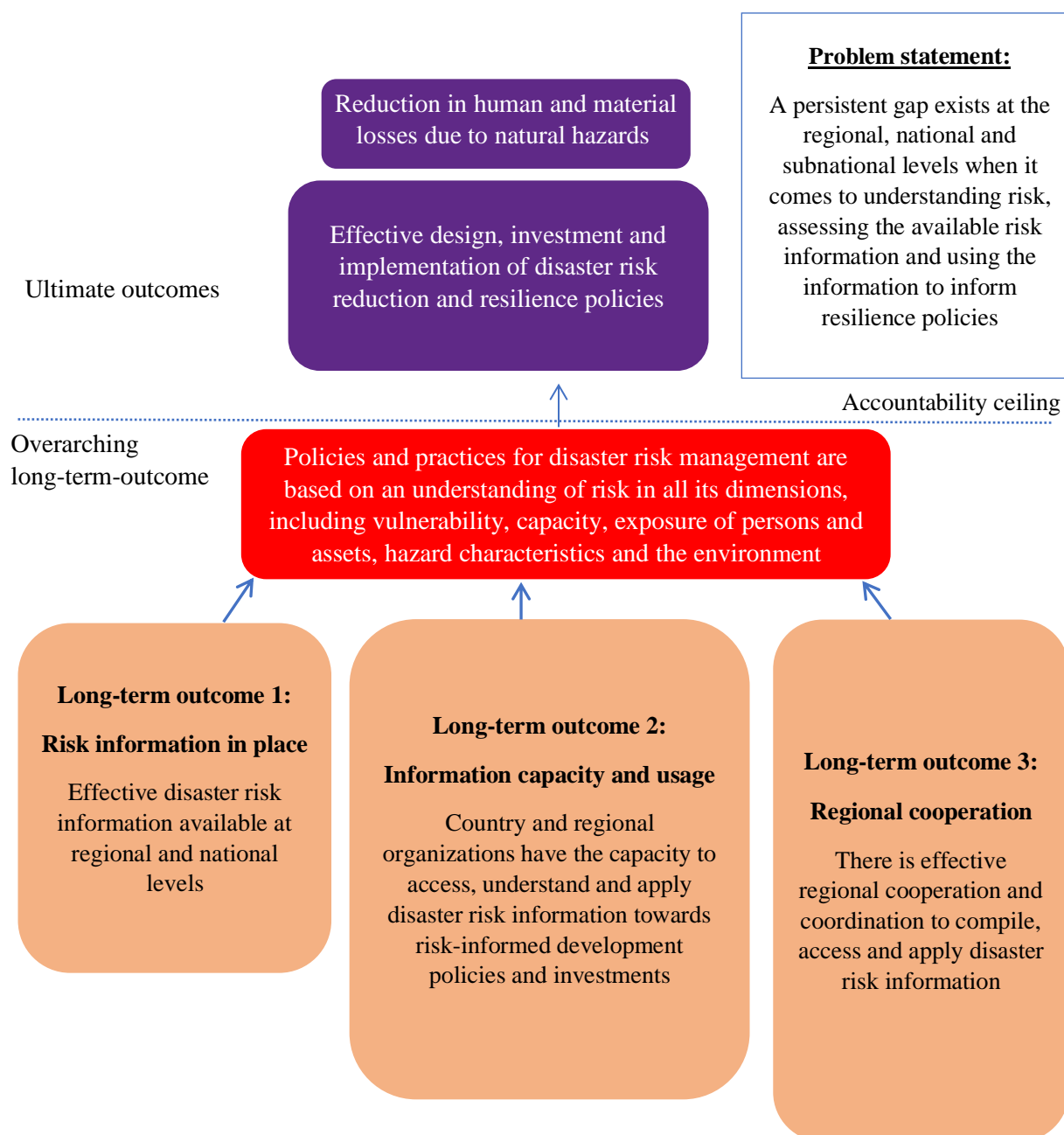
Annex IV

**Cash contributions to the Asian and Pacific Centre for the
Development of Disaster Information Management received for the
year ended 31 December 2020**
(United States dollars)

<i>Country/area</i>	<i>Year ended 31 December 2020</i>	<i>Year ended 31 December 2019</i>
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	170 621	385 043
Cambodia	2 000	2 000
Macao, China	10 000	10 000
Total	182 621	397 043

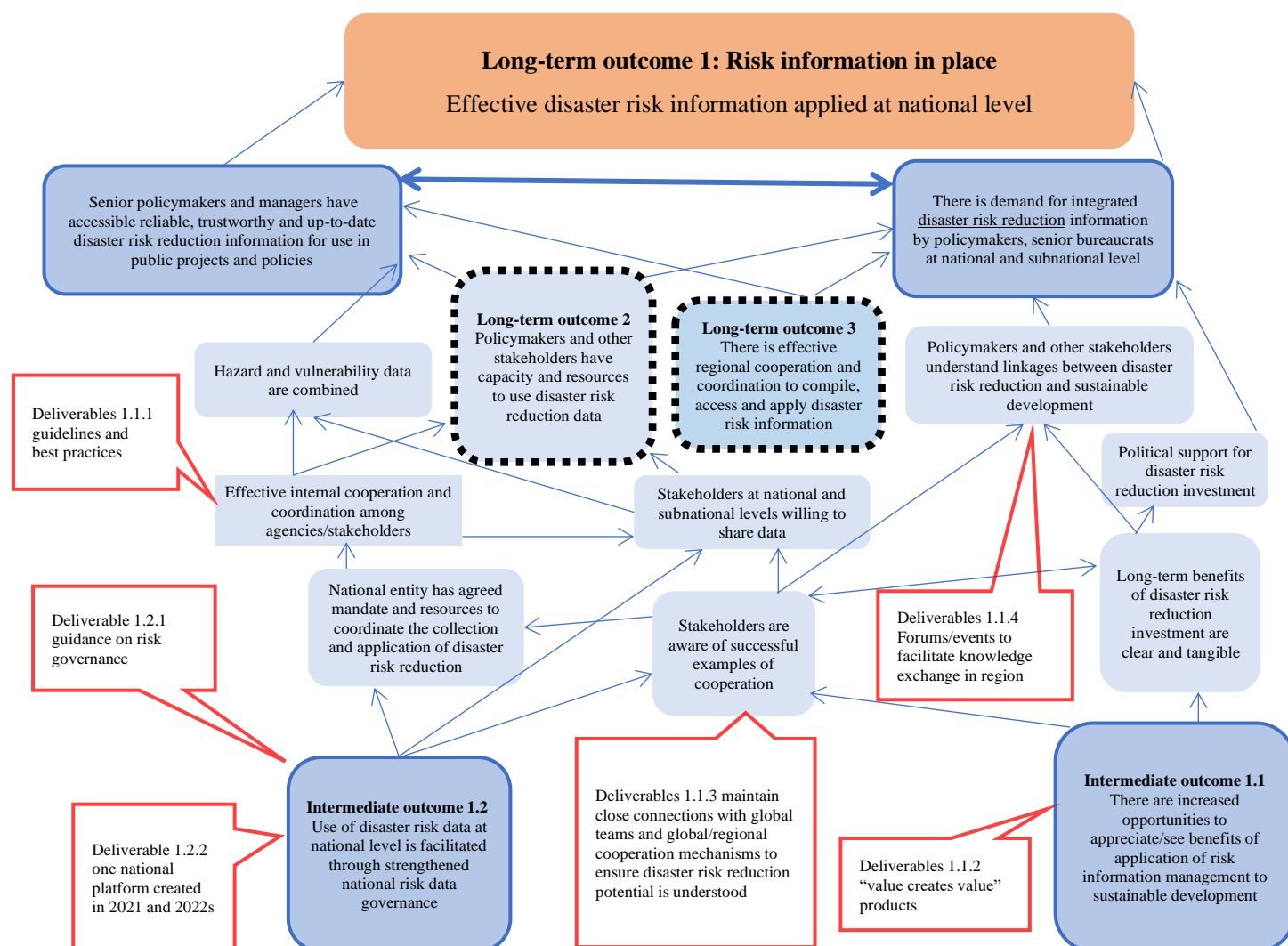
Annex V

Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management theory-of-change pathway: top-level outcomes



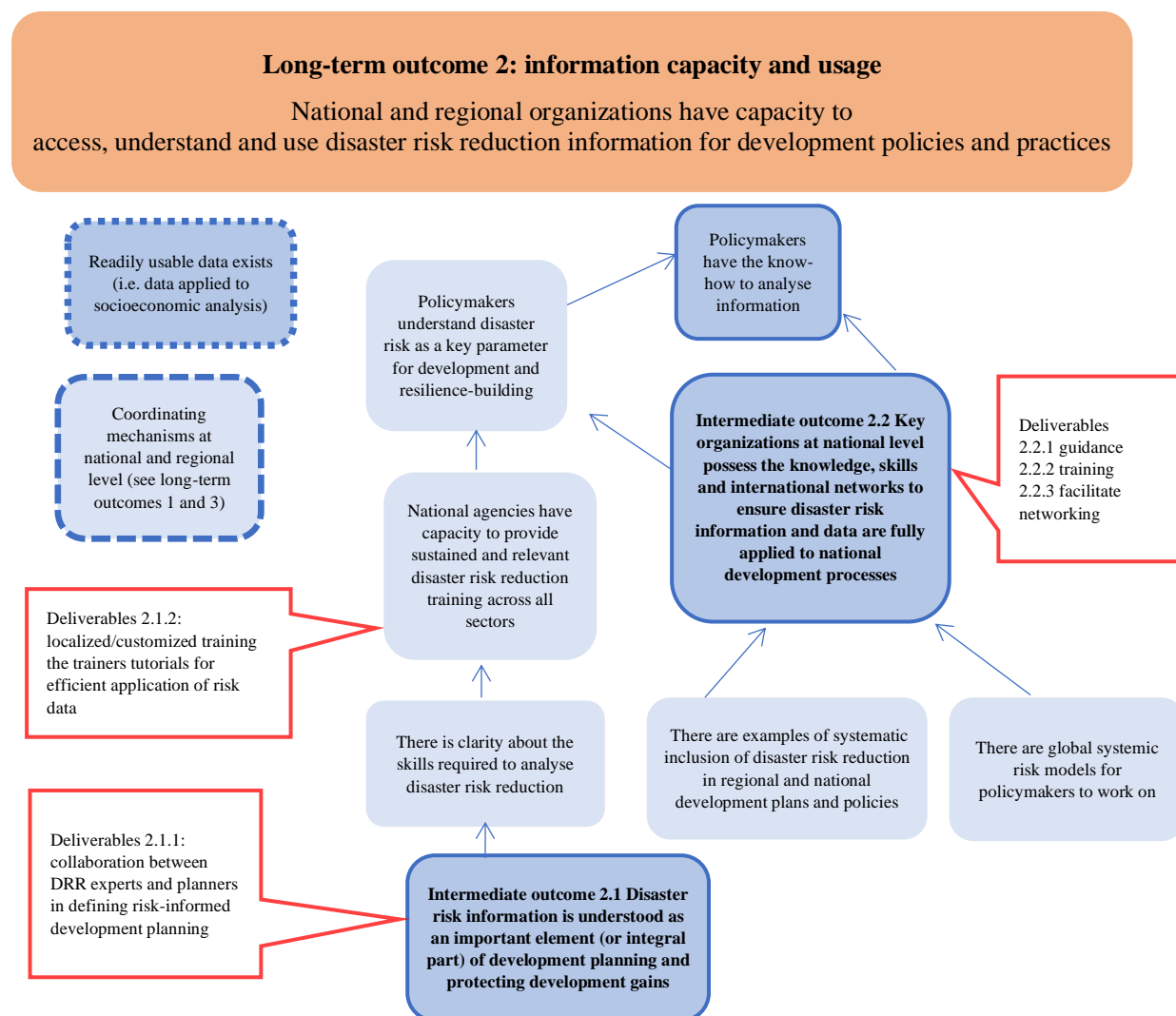
Annex VI

Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management theory-of-change pathway: long-term outcome 1 – risk information in place



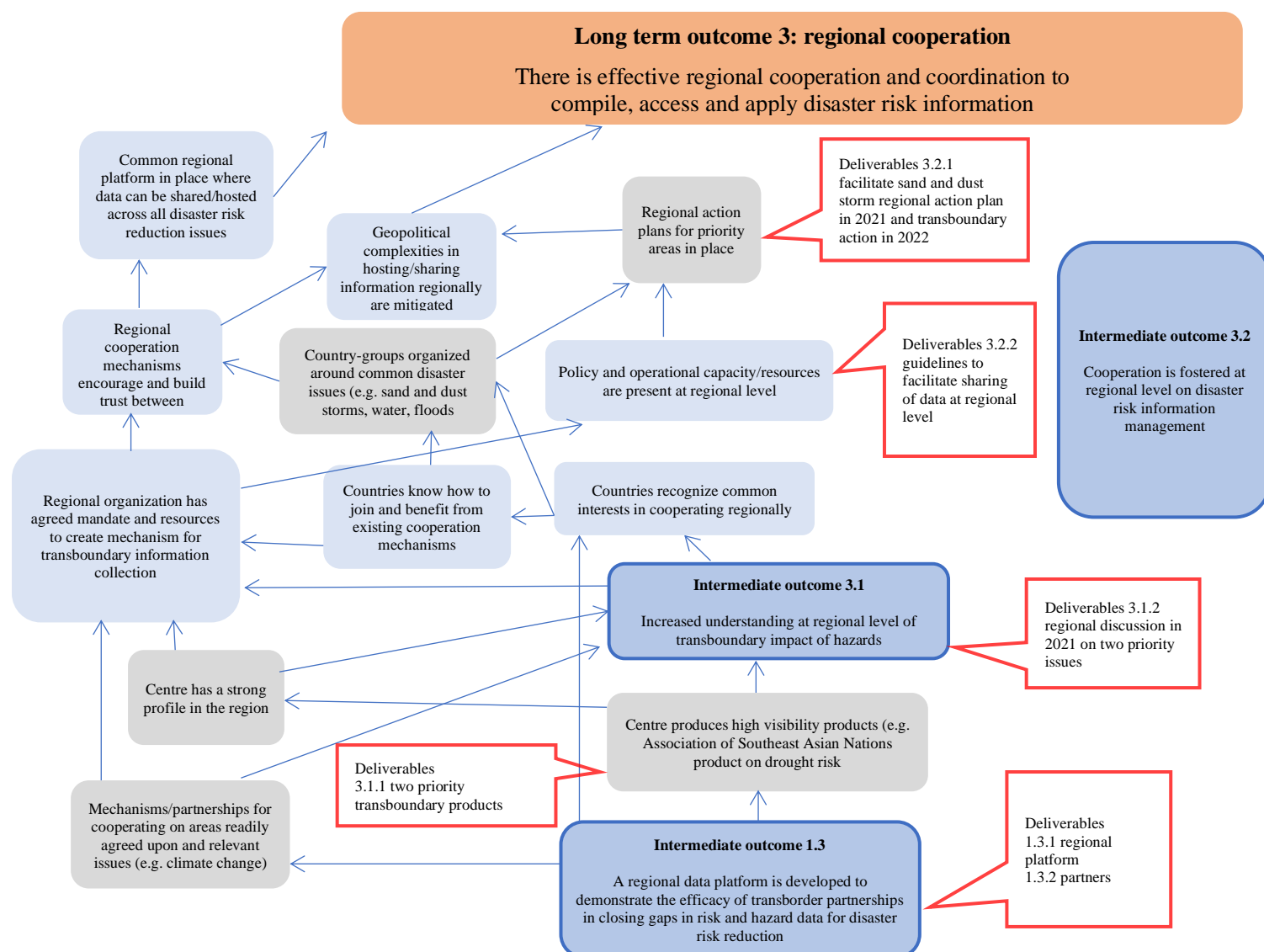
Annex VII

Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management theory-of-change pathway: long-term outcome 2 – information capacity and application



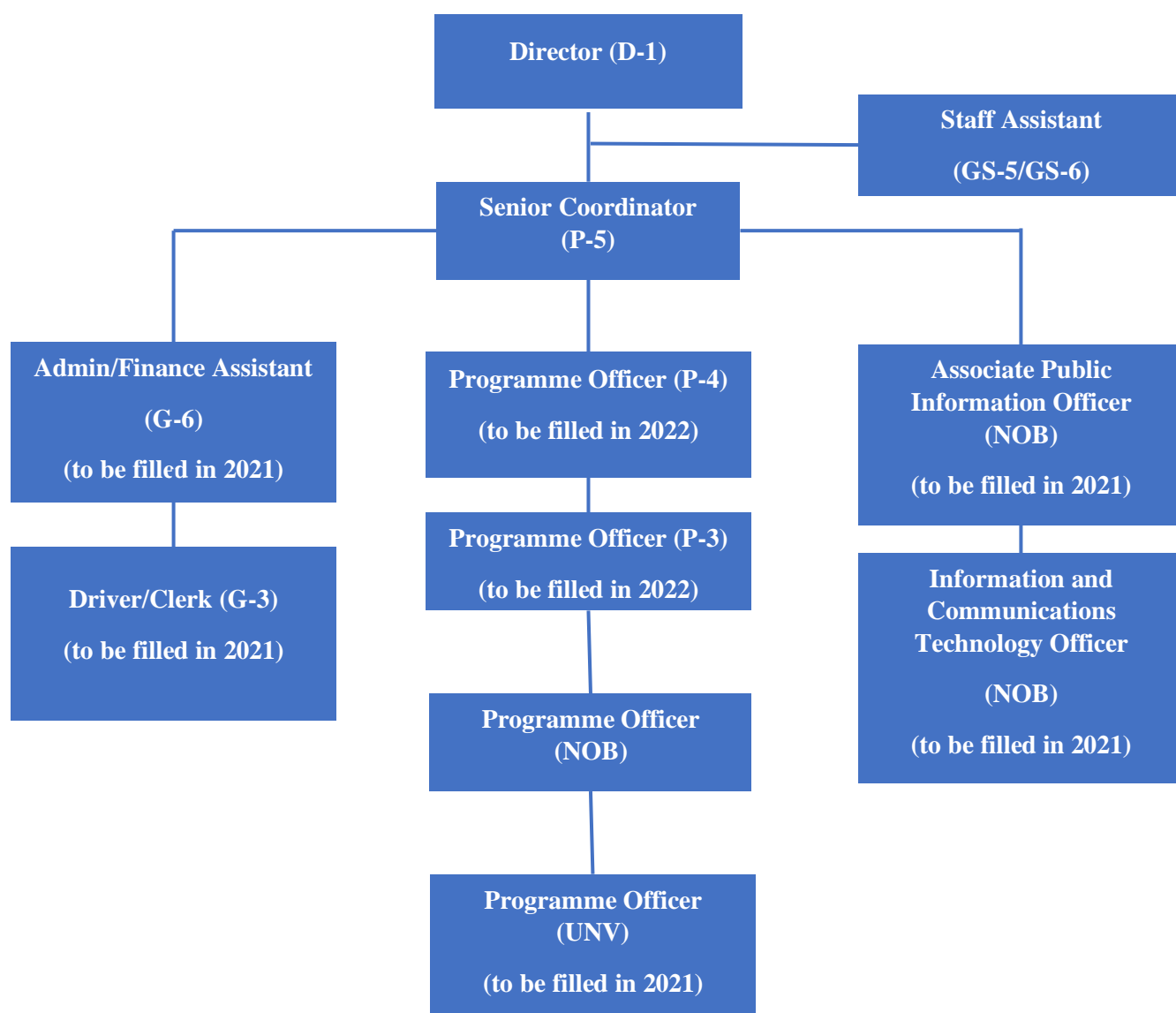
Annex VIII

APDIM theory of change pathway: long-term outcome 3 - regional cooperation



Annex IX

Proposed Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management organizational chart (2021–2022)



Abbreviations: D, Director; G/GS, General Service and related; P, Professional; NOB, National Professional Officer Level B; UNV, United Nations Volunteers.