

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

Bangkok and online, 15–19 May 2023

Item 4 (d) 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: disaster risk reduction**Update on the financial situation of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management******Note by the secretariat***Summary*

At its seventh session, held in Istanbul, Türkiye, on 7 December 2022, the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management took note of the report on the administrative and financial status of the Centre. It expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the generous financial and in-kind contributions for the establishment and operation of the Centre. The Governing Council also expressed its thanks and appreciation to Cambodia, as well as to Macao, China, for their valuable financial contributions to the Centre. Also at its seventh session, the Governing Council adopted a decision in which it requested the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to provide a written update on the financial situation of the Centre. The present document was prepared pursuant to that decision.

1. At its seventh session, held in Istanbul, Türkiye, on 7 December 2022, the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management took note of the report on the administrative and financial status of the Centre and expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the generous financial and in-kind contributions for the establishment and operation of the Centre. The Governing Council also expressed its thanks and appreciation to Cambodia, as well as to Macao, China, for their valuable financial contributions to the Centre.

* ESCAP/79/1/Rev.2.

** The present document was submitted after the deadline so as to include the most recent information.

2. The Governing Council appreciated the verbal pledge made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding an upcoming disbursement of funds to the Centre in the amount of \$1.3 million by 31 December 2022 and expressed the hope that all pending contributions would be disbursed as soon as possible.

3. In its decision 6, which was adopted at the seventh session, the Governing Council requested the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to provide a written update on the financial situation of the Centre by 31 March 2023 so as to provide the most updated information to the Commission at its seventy-ninth session. In response to that request, the Governing Council reports that:

(a) On 27 February 2023, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran disbursed 375 billion rials into the ESCAP account at a branch of the Middle East Bank in Tehran;

(b) Measures are currently being taken by the United Nations Treasury, together with other United Nations entities, to convert that amount into euros and United States dollars in-country;

(c) Pending the realization of those in-country exchanges, an initial amount of \$1,327,739 was recorded by the ESCAP secretariat on 14 March 2023; the exact total may be adjusted by the United Nations Treasury to take into account the currency exchange loss due to the devaluation of the currency at the time of the exchange into United States dollars.

4. The initial contribution mentioned above will enable the Centre to honour its current staff obligations and carry out some programmatic activity in line with its programme of work for 2023, which was approved by the Governing Council at its seventh session.

5. The secretariat expresses its deep appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its recent contribution of 375 billion rials. The disbursement of all outstanding contributions, in accordance with the Administrative and Financial Arrangement between ESCAP and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran signed in 2021, however, remains urgent and essential for the Centre to fully implement its mandated activities.
