

## **Training Workshop on Addressing Disaster Risks Specific to South and South-West Asia**

Date: 30 - 31 October 2017

Venue: Kathmandu, Nepal

Draft concept note

### **Background**

The widespread monsoon floods and landslides that hit South Asia this year highlight, yet again, the need for the subregion to be at the forefront of building resilience to disasters. Asia-Pacific, as the world's most disaster-prone region, has shouldered the burden of more than 2 million lives lost with economic damage of approximately \$1.3 trillion between 1970 and 2016.<sup>1</sup> The region also accounts for over half of the world's absolute poor living under the international poverty line of \$1.90 per day, largely from South Asia. Thus, the ability of South Asia to reduce impacts from and build resilience to disasters for its most vulnerable populations will have important implications on achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The countries of Asia and the Pacific agreed on a regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the 4th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in 2017. The road map identifies priority areas of regional cooperation for the means of implementation and partnerships, as well as six thematic areas including disaster risk reduction and resilience that correspond to major challenges still faced particularly in South Asia.

The *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2017* highlights that developmental response to these natural disaster risks inevitably must take on board subregional specificities of shared vulnerabilities and disaster risk. Countries in South and South-West Asia are exposed to floods, drought, tropical cyclones and high seismic risks with the inherent critical vulnerability embedded in widespread poverty, hunger and food insecurity. Therefore, risk-sensitive sustainable development strategies need to be highly contextualised to the specific disaster risks facing the subregion. Better understanding of the subregional specificity would facilitate cooperation among countries and enhance the capacity of member States, particularly least developed countries and land-locked developing countries to implement risk-sensitive sustainable development strategies, monitor the progress, and report their results towards pursuing the SDGs.

In this regard, ESCAP organizes a training workshop with expert group discussions on Addressing Disaster Risks Specific to South and South-West Asia from 30 to 31 October in Kathmandu, with its partners including the SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC), Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC).

### **Objective**

To discuss disaster-risk reduction and resilience related challenges and opportunities in South and South-West Asia, in line with the *Regional Roadmap for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*, and in preparation for the 5<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

---

<sup>1</sup> Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2017, ESCAP

**Target audience**

Officials from national disaster management, development planning agencies or other related ministries in South and South-West Asia

*\* Media will also be invited to the launch of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2017.*

**Tentative Programme**

**Monday, 30 October 2017**

09:00 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 10:00	<p><b>Opening Session</b></p> <p><b>Opening remarks</b> – <i>Mr. Michael Williamson</i>, Officer-in-Charge, a.i., Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, ESCAP</p> <p><b>Keynote Address</b> – <i>Mr. Arbind Kumar Mishra</i>, Hon. Member, National Planning Commission, Nepal</p>
10:00 – 10:15	Break
10:15 – 12:00	<p><b>Session 1: South and South-West Asia Risk Context</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr. Govinda Nepal, Professor, Tribhuvan University</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Challenges of building resilience for sustainable development – <i>Mr. Michael Williamson</i>, ESCAP</li> <li>• Understanding climate risk in SSWA and its transboundary nature – <i>Ms. Neera Shrestha Pradhan</i>, Water and Adaptation Specialist, ICIMOD</li> <li>• South Asia Climate Outlook -Seasonal and Long-term Risk Scenarios – <i>Mr. Sivananda Pai</i>, Scientist and Head, IMD -tbc</li> </ul> <p>Discussion</p>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break
13:00 –15:30	<p><b>Session 2: Sharing of experiences and best practices in South and South-West Asia</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr. S. Amalanathan, Additional Secretary, Sri Lanka</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr. Mohammad Sediq Hassani</i>, Director of Policy and Planning, Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority, Afghanistan – tbc</li> <li>• <i>Mr. Md Abdul Mannan</i>, Project Director, Department of Disaster Management, Bangladesh – tbc</li> <li>• <i>Mr. Tshewang Rigzin</i>, Deputy Executive Engineer, National Center for Hydro and Met, Bhutan</li> <li>• <i>Mr. Pavan Kumar Singh</i> – Senior Research Officer, NDMA, India tbc</li> <li>• <i>Ms. Farzaneh Agharamezanali</i>, Group Head of Technical Affairs, Budget and Planning organization, Islamic Republic of Iran</li> <li>• <i>Mr. Ramiz Abdul Muhsin</i>, Director, Maldives Meteorological Service,</li> </ul>

	<p>Maldives – tbc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr. Suman Karna</i>, Special Advisor, National Reconstruction Authority, Nepal – tbc</li> <li>• <i>Mr. Muhammad Amjad Iqbal</i>, Deputy Director, National Disaster Management Authority, Pakistan</li> <li>• <i>Mr. S. Amalanathan</i>, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management, Sri Lanka</li> </ul> <p>Discussion</p>
15:30 – 16:00	Break
16:00 – 17:30	<p><b>Sessions 3: Innovations in addressing disaster risks in development planning</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms. Farzaneh Agharamezanali, Islamic Rep. of Iran</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieving DRR and resilience targets: international/regional cooperation in space applications – <i>Mr. N.K. Shrivastava</i>, International Space Charter for DRR – tbc</li> <li>• Geo-spatial framework for monitoring Sendai targets and indicators – <i>Ms. Shimonti Paul</i>, Senior Assistant Editor, Geospatial media and Communications, India</li> <li>• Addressing disaster risks in development planning: perspectives of countries with special needs – <i>Mr. Ramraj Narasimhan</i>, DRR Advisor, UNDP Nepal</li> <li>• Climate change adaptation for resilience in countries with special needs – <i>Mr. Ramraj Narasimhan</i>, DRR Advisor, UNDP Nepal – tbc</li> </ul> <p>Discussion</p>

**Tuesday, 31 October 2017**

09:30 – 10:15	<p><b>Special event: Subregional launch of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2017</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key findings of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2017: Major highlights for South and South West Asia – <i>Mr. Sanjay Srivastava</i>, Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction Section, ESCAP</li> <li>• Briefing to the media</li> </ul>
10:15 – 10:30	Break
10:30 – 12:00	<p><b>Session 4: Risk Transfer Mechanisms – Lessons learned from the subregion and strategies for countries with special needs</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: NPC / NRA, Nepal – tbc</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk Transfer Mechanisms in South Asia – challenges and potentials – <i>Mr. Erik Khaegaard</i>, Disaster Risk Management Specialist, Asian Development Bank</li> <li>• Risk Transfer Mechanisms – experience from India – <i>Mr. Pavan Kumar Singh</i>, Senior Research Officer, National Disaster Management Authority,</li> </ul>

	<p>India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovative financial solutions/mechanisms for South-Asian countries with special needs – recorded presentation of <i>Mr. Giriraj Amarnath</i>, Research Group Leader – Water Risks and Disasters, International Water Management Institute, Sri Lanka</li> </ul> <p>Discussion</p>
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 – 16:00	<p><b>Sessions 5: Regional cooperation for disaster-risk reduction and resilience – including support to countries with special needs</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: <i>Mr. Michael Williamson</i>, ESCAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network for a regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – thematic areas DRR (ESCAP) - <i>Mr. Sanjay Srivastava</i>, ESCAP</li> <li>• One UN Approach – <i>Ms. Ivana Brnovic</i>, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, ESCAP <b>tbc</b></li> <li>• South and South-West Asia monitoring of Sendai targets and indicators – <i>Ms. Shimonti Paul</i>, Senior Assistant Editor, Geospatial Media and Communications</li> <li>• Regional cooperation for addressing disaster risks in CSNs – <i>Mr. Nisargkumar Dave</i>, SAARC Disaster Management Authority, India – <b>tbc</b></li> </ul> <p>Discussion</p>
16:00 – 16:30	<b>Wrap up and Closing</b>