

## **Commission 80, 22-26 April 2024**

### **Concept note of APDIM side event on: Innovative disaster information management for sustainable and climate resilient development. (23 April 2024)**

#### **Introduction:**

In the context of the 80th Commission session on "Leveraging digital innovation for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific," APDIM will organize a side event on: "Innovative disaster information management for sustainable and climate resilient development". This event aims to delve into the crucial intersection of leveraging digital innovation in information management, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. Specifically, the focus will be on the role of innovative information management in seamlessly integrating DRR measures into development plans, highlighting the importance of harnessing new technologies for a resilient and sustainable future in the region.

The ESCAP Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2023 demonstrates that existing disaster risk hotspots are forecasted to face more frequent and intense disasters, and new risk hotspots are expected to emerge. New technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), machine learning, satellite imagery, and so on, can enhance our understanding of natural hazards and support disaster relief/early warning. To protect people and development gains, transformative adaptation measures are needed, including increased investments in new technologies, innovation, and scientific breakthroughs. In the face of these challenges, there is a pressing need to harness innovation, science, and technology to enhance disaster information management for sustainable and climate-resilient development.

#### **Objective:**

The main objective of this side event is to generate awareness about innovative solutions and approaches in the effective use of technology to enhance disaster information management for sustainable development planning.

#### **Key Themes:**

##### **1. Leveraging New Technologies and AI for Enhanced Disaster Resilience**

The discussion aims to explore the ways in which emerging technologies and Artificial Intelligence (AI) can significantly contribute to strengthening disaster resilience by improving data collection, analysis, communication, and decision-making processes. The session will feature compelling success stories and delve into best practices to inspire collaboration, promote knowledge sharing, and deepen our understanding of how AI and new technologies serve as catalysts for resilience in the face of disasters.

Speakers will address pivotal questions surrounding the challenges and barriers that countries encounter when adopting new technologies and integrating AI into disaster information management. The discussion will also emphasize potential solutions to overcome these challenges. Furthermore, the conversation will center on how countries with limited resources and infrastructure can effectively harness the benefits of these technologies to bolster their disaster resilience, ensuring inclusivity in the pursuit of a safer and more resilient future.

## **2. Information management for integration of disaster risk reduction into development plans:**

This theme revolves around the pivotal role of information management in facilitating the seamless integration of disaster risk reduction (DRR) measures into broader development plans. The focus is on creating a cohesive and strategic approach that not only identifies potential risks but also incorporates effective strategies for risk reduction within the framework of overall development initiatives.

The theme underscores the importance of a systematic and well-coordinated information management system that captures, analyzes, and disseminates relevant data pertaining to disaster risks. By integrating disaster risk reduction into development plans, the aim is to proactively address vulnerabilities, enhance resilience, and promote sustainable development.

### **Date and Time:**

12:45-14:15 hours on Tuesday, 23 April 2024- Bangkok, Thailand

### **Meeting room:**

MR-H, Level 1, United Nations Conference Centre

### **Mode of side event:**

Hybrid (in-person and virtual)

### **Format:**

The side event will feature a combination of expert speaker presentation and panel discussions. Policymakers and experts from the Asia-Pacific region are invited to share their experiences, insights, and success stories in leveraging digital innovation for innovative disaster information management.

### **Target Audiences:**

The side event is designed for policymakers, experts, and other stakeholders interested in exploring the intersection of digital innovation, disaster information management, and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.

### **Outcome:**

The event aims to generate actionable insights and recommendations for innovative information management for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development plans and using new technologies to contribute to the development of sustainable and climate-resilient communities in Asia and the Pacific.

**Tentative Agenda:** (Moderator: Ms. Letizia Rossano, Director of APDIM)

- Opening remarks by H.E. Dr. Davoud Manzour, Vice-President and the Head of Plan and Budget Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran
- Expert speaker: Dr. Shahzad Khan, the Chief Executive Officer at Environmental Management and Engineering Consultants (EMEC) and a Professor at East West University (Bangladesh) (15 Min.)
- Panel discussion on Governments experiences in applying new technologies in disaster risk reduction for sustainable development planning (60 Min.)
- Wrap up and conclusion remarks by Ms. Lin Yang, Deputy Executive Secretary-ESCAP (10 Min.)

**Panelists:**

- Colonel General Rustam Nazarzoda, Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense, Tajikistan.
- Mr. Nou Keosothea, Deputy Secretary General, National Committee for ESCAP, Cambodia.
- Dr. Hisan Hasan, Chief Executive, National Disaster Management Authority, Maldives

**Key questions:**

1. *What is the role of new technologies and innovative information management in integration of disaster risk reduction into national development plans?*
2. *What are the most promising emerging technologies and artificial intelligence (AI) in the field of disaster information management, and how are they transforming the landscape?*
3. *What role do AI and machine learning play in disaster information management, and how can these technologies improve data analysis and prediction?*
4. *What success stories and case studies demonstrate the practical impact of new technologies on disaster resilience and response?*
5. *What challenges and barriers have countries faced in adopting new technologies and working with AI for disaster information management, and how have they addressed these challenges?*
6. *How can countries with limited resources and infrastructure access the benefits of these technologies to strengthen their disaster resilience?*