

14-18 April 2019

Documentation of the Work of the Economic and Social
Commission for Asia and the Pacific



Conference B

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Committee Staff

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Agenda

- I. Promoting Climate Resilience
- II. Transitioning to Sustainable Energy: Meeting Growing Energy Demands
- III. Information and Communications Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
ESCAP/1/1	Promoting Climate Resilience	29 in Favor, 2 Against, 2 Abstentions
ESCAP/1/2	Promoting Climate Resilience	31 in Favor, 2 Against, 0 Abstentions
ESCAP/1/3	Promoting Climate Resilience	29 in Favor, 3 Against, 1 Abstention
ESCAP/1/4	Promoting Climate Resilience	Adopted by Acclamation

Summary Report

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Transitioning to Sustainable Energy: Meeting Growing Energy Demands
- II. Information and Communications Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction
- III. Promoting Climate Resilience

The session was attended by representatives of 33 Member States and no Observers.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of III, I, II beginning discussion on the topic of "Promoting Climate Resilience." By Tuesday, the dais received a total of 6 proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics such as disaster information databases, accessible sustainable energy, climate resilient infrastructure, climate resilient mitigation and adaptation, education and empowerment of women for climate resilience, and resilient agricultural practices. The atmosphere of debate was respectful and collaborative. Delegates split into 6 groups on Monday and continued their progression on working papers in a timely manner through Tuesday. By the end of Tuesday's last session there were a total of 6 working papers being edited and a merge between 2 working groups. The committee skillfully demonstrated their diplomacy, negotiation, and knowledge of this topic through well-developed formal speeches, and collaborative working sessions.

On Wednesday, 4 draft resolutions had been approved by the dais. The committee adopted 4 resolutions following voting procedure, 1 of which received unanimous support by the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including agricultural reform and advancements, investment incentives, physical infrastructure reform, database and data collection improvements, sustainable and renewable energy. Delegates' passion for the committee was demonstrated following voting procedure, when multiple new working groups formed to address the second topic on the agenda.



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Code: ESCAP/1/1

Committee: Economic and Social Council on Asia and the Pacific

Topic: Promoting Climate Resilience

- 1 *The Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific,*
2
3 *Conscious* of the need to promote climate resilience by beginning a slow transition to clean, sustainable
4 energy, while also recognizing the costs affiliated, as specified in General Assembly resolution 69/225 on
5 “Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy”, especially among the global south,
6
7 *Fully aware* of the goals stated in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the United
8 Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), which works to reduce the loss of life, create
9 international collaboration efforts for disaster risk reduction, create and maintain resilient infrastructure,
10 and supports economic development,
11
12 *Cognizant* of the detrimental impact of weather-related disasters in congruence with General Assembly
13 resolution 69/283 on “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030” and acknowledging the
14 work of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and their regional reports to analyze weather
15 patterns in affected areas that seek to outline at-risk Member States, degree of impact of storms, and
16 impact to energy infrastructure,
17
18 *Reaffirms* the work of the International Water Management Institute’s work with the Consultative Group
19 for International Agriculture Research (CGIAR) in using geospatial data mapping using the State’s own
20 satellites to effectively locate regions at risk for natural disasters,
21
22 *Noting* that sustainable energy resources are more susceptible to infrastructure damage within the region
23 from natural disasters and recognizing the need for these energy sources to serve a strong foundation for
24 communities at risk of sustaining damage from natural disasters to promote climate resilience,
25
26 *Recalling* the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Forum on Coal, including discussion of clean coal
27 technologies which encourages Member States to actively ensure safe coal practices by advancing
28 towards sustainable energy transitions,
29
30 *Bearing in mind* the need to ensure the access of electricity in remote areas exposed to extreme weather
31 patterns and socio-economic disruption, and that those areas are more susceptible to natural disasters as
32 they don’t have reliable access to communication systems,
33
34 1. *Encourages* Member States to create incentives for private sectors which foster partnerships with
35 relevant non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to invest in wind, solar, hydroelectric, and other
36 clean energy practices by offering:
37 a. Tax incentives to be implemented for businesses with guidance from NGOs to determine
38 whether private organizations will be eligible which will be subjected to each Member States’
39 approval;
40 b. Tax exemption for projects reducing greenhouse gas emissions to be determined by
41 individual Member States;

- 42 2. *Proposes* that Member States begin promoting climate resilience by researching and implementing
43 clean, renewable energy as soon as they are financially capable, as determined by the
44 Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing through:
- 45 a. Promoting solar, wind, and hydroelectric power as alternative energy sources;
- 46 b. Encouraging further research on recycling methane gas produced by livestock as a clean,
47 renewable energy source;
- 48 c. Endorsing research of exploitation of existing natural resources, including the testing and
49 production of sea barriers with electricity-generated turbines and linked cylindrical generators
50 to harness power from ocean tides;
- 51 3. *Suggests* that Member States to incorporate UNISDR into the Inter-Agency Standing Committee
52 (IASC), to incorporate a disaster management framework and collaborate directly with its Reference
53 Group on Risk, Early Warning, and Preparedness by developing:
- 54 a. A voluntary inter-agency monitoring program which will allow for a more integrated strategy to
55 through the coordination of UNISDR and IASC to analyze and predict disasters;
- 56 b. Initiatives, such as community feedback, for affected Member States to work alongside the
57 WMO in working towards improving access to prevention services;
- 58 4. *Expresses* the hope that Member States will work in collaboration with the CGIAR and local and
59 regional financial institutions to use geospatial data mapping to locate regions where there are
60 clustered power grids and develop financial risk assessment frameworks to:
- 61 a. Assist emerging markets in the financing of sustainable energy production;
- 62 b. Create regional financial modeling frameworks to assist regional and local financial
63 institutions in assessing risk;
- 64 5. *Urges* Member States to create resilient infrastructure for sustainable energy resources and as
65 Member States implement their transitional initiatives for sustainable energy, this technology must
66 withstand natural disasters within the region in order to:
- 67 a. Ensure that Information Communication Technology (ICT) as well as sustainable energy
68 resources are equitably distributed and accessible within at-risk communities among Member
69 States;
- 70 b. Apply preventative initiatives using sustainable energy to power ICTs that warn communities
71 as these resources become more developed in the promotion of climate resilience;
- 72 6. *Invites* Member States to encourage the use of these energy sources in a clean and efficient way by:
- 73 a. Using cost-effective energy sources, such as High Efficiency Low Emission coal technology,
74 as a precursor to sustainable energy practices to benefit all communities;
- 75 b. Encouraging Asian-Pacific Member States who are engaged in coal production, beginning in
76 2020, to participate and share their progress towards transitioning to sustainable energy with
77 the hope that every Member State engaged in coal production is able to reduce regional coal
78 output 10% per decade by the year 2060;
- 79 7. *Emphasizes* the need to make electricity widely available in remote areas by:
- 80 a. Utilizing sustainable energy sources such as windmills and diesel solar hybrid power systems
81 to be set up in remote areas that are not dependent on larger electricity grids;

82

b. Fostering research into improving the effectiveness of electricity infrastructure;

83

c. Improving electric infrastructure by the expansion of the overhead and underground power lines.

84



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Code: ESCAP/1/2

Committee: The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Topic: Promoting Climate Resilience

1 *The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,*
2
3 *Reaffirming the Paris Agreement* that urges action on changing weather patterns which further serves to
4 underline the negative aspects of greenhouse gas emissions, encourages mitigation, adaptation,
5 financing, and reiterates the purpose of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action,
6
7 *Noting* that climate resilience, including reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, is an important element
8 that contributes to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 3, 6, 7, and 13 mentioned in
9 General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015), "Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
10 Development,"
11
12 *Recalling* the importance of collaboration between countries as highlighted in the 2015 *Sendai*
13 *Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction,*
14
15 *Acknowledging* the need for renewable energy throughout Asia and the Pacific, as put forth in the 2015
16 *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,* to seek
17 continued use of hydroelectric, solar, wind, and geothermal resources, and purport the improvement and
18 sustainability of hydroelectric energy amongst Member States while recognizing these innovative energy
19 sources as viable ways of providing electricity to rural communities,
20
21 *Deeply concerned* by the ongoing threat posed by changing weather patterns to vulnerable economic
22 sectors such as agriculture, while emphasizing the need for an increased focus on promoting and funding
23 of sustainable economic initiatives,
24
25 *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 71/222 (2016) "International Decade for Action, "Water for
26 Sustainable Development, 2018 – 2028," in which Member States agreed on committing to implement the
27 framework of the International Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable Development (2018- 2028), to
28 address rising sea levels and salinization of aquifers,
29
30 *Further recalling* Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) resolution 72/6
31 (2016) "Fostering Regional Cooperation and Partnerships to Respond to the Climate Change Challenge
32 in the Asia-Pacific Region,"
33
34 *Affirming* ESCAP resolution 74/16 (2018) "Technology Outlook for Sustainable Development"
35 incorporates information and communication for climate resilience initiatives,
36
37 *Realizing* the detrimental effects extreme weather patterns and the effects it has on nations with
38 approximately 160 million people affected by disasters every year world-wide,
39
40 *Iterating* General Assembly resolution 61/46 (2006) "Cooperation Between the United Nations and the
41 Association of Southeast Asian Nations,"
42
43 *Emphasizing* the importance of Sustainable Development Goal 13, target 1, in strengthening resilience
44 and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in every country,
45

46 *Further emphasizing* the importance of inclusivity involving indigenous peoples in information sharing
47 techniques such as finding and creating ways to build climate resilience as outlined in General Assembly
48 resolution 61/321 (2007) United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,
49

50 *Keeping in mind* the World Health Assembly resolution A63/27 (2010) "Climate Change and Health" to
51 advocate and raise awareness of the health sectors impact on the environment,
52

53 *Recognizing* the lives of people that small islands and rural areas are more vulnerable to the devastating
54 effects of changes in weather patterns, such as rising sea levels, we call for Member States to enact
55 databases to promote climate resiliency,
56

- 57 1. *Invites* Member States to prepare and revise a self-managed national climate action plan consisting
58 of possible areas of interventions to be taken via the government, private corporations, non-
59 governmental organizations (NGOs) such as The Green Climate Fund, and the citizens;
60
- 61 2. *Expresses its hope* that Member States will work towards promoting the improvement of abundant
62 and thriving renewable energy sources such as hydropower, solar power, wind power, and
63 geothermal power by:
64
 - 65 a. Investing in renewable energy projects in developing Member States;
 - 66 b. Encouraging small businesses and households to install solar power systems through a feed-
67 in tariff system;
 - 68 c. Sharing information and technological expertise by implementing exchange programs to
69 educate and train personnel on setting up and maintaining sustainable plants;
 - 70
 - 71
 - 72
- 73 3. *Supports* Member States investment to enact small scale biogas and biofuel programs that
74 encourage rural populations to process organic waste into biogas to provide electricity to the local
75 communities and advocate for self-sufficiency in working towards climate resilience;
76
- 77 4. *Calls upon* Member States to encourage outside private investment at local and national levels in
78 renewable energy by:
79
 - 80 a. Providing tax incentives and financial subsidies to private companies for importing machinery
81 capable or renewable energy production;
 - 82
 - 83 b. Establishing community centered facilities that foster future financial investments into
84 renewable alternatives;
 - 85
- 86 5. *Recommends* the sharing of information referencing all past and active water management projects
87 between Member States with the aim of:
88
 - 89 a. Facilitating the proliferation of water desalination projects;
 - 90
 - 91 b. Sharing research findings to disseminate the best possible practices across the region;
 - 92
 - 93 c. Identifying sources of funding for said projects;
 - 94
 - 95 d. Assisting local farmers to implement efficient practices that encourage self-sufficiency and
96 financial stability when faced with the issue of farmland (subsidies, relocation of farms, and
97 restoration of salinized farmlands);
98
- 99 6. *Encourages* multilateral support between Member States and private entities involved in the
100 management of drinkable water in order to achieve efficient management of infrastructure to support
101 water security;

- 102
103 7. *Urges* developed Member States to aid in the technological advancements of developing Member
104 States by assisting them with more modernized equipment such as forecasting systems and
105 advanced meteorology to prepare effectively for potentially catastrophic events;
106
107 8. *Endorses* providing internet access to small-island developing states (SIDS) in order to further their
108 access to climate resilience practices:
109
110 a. Utilizes energy with the expansion of the fiber optic cable system through the funding of the
111 Asia-Pacific Superhighway Project;
112
113 b. Encourage expansion of the already utilized fiber optic system will assists in connecting SIDS
114 with the needed internet and technology to their climate resilience through the increase of
115 awareness with information sharing;
116
117 c. Affirms funding needs will be low cost, as there are already 420 Fiber Optic cables
118 established and the extensions required to reach SIDS is limited where:
119
120 i. Utilizing internet allows for essential disaster information to be spread;
121 ii. Connecting SIDS to larger developed states allowing SIDS to utilize developed states
122 meteorological systems;
123 iii. Allowing for the spreading of information such as climate resilience techniques and
124 education;
125
126 9. *Requests* ESCAP collaborate with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Nationally
127 Determined Contributions Support Program, guided by the UN Institution for Training and Research's
128 Green Development and Climate Change Programme to enhance availability of climate resilience
129 information by:
130
131 a. Implementing the existing National Action Plan (NAP) in Asia-Pacific Member States;
132
133 b. Suggest the Committee on Statistics improve data availability for Member States and enact
134 effective evidence-based decisions on the matter of climate resilience;
135
136 10. *Recommends* that Member States enhance cooperation with the United Nations Institute for Training
137 and Researching, in order to:
138
139 a. Increase human capacity and experts in states, especially in innovative space applications
140 that strengthen the use of geospatial data for multi-hazard early warning systems in order to
141 create an efficient climate resilient system;
142
143 b. Strengthen access to and use of space-based data to promote climate resilience initiatives in
144 the most vulnerable locations such as coastal cities and rural communities;
145
146 11. *Iterates* that the utilization of internet allows for essential disaster information to be spread due to:
147
148 a. Allowing for the spreading of information such as climate resilience techniques and
149 education;
150
151 b. Connecting SIDS to larger developed states allowing SIDS to utilize developed states
152 meteorological systems;
153
154 c. The ability to transmit varying educational information such as agriculture, clean energy
155 practice, and weather warning systems;
156

- 157 12. *Encourages* the strengthening of regional databases to encourage disaster information gathering and
158 sharing to provide Member States and respective citizens with climate resilience data in order to allow
159 for the implementation of Early Warning Systems facilitating strategies for climate resilience;
160
- 161 13. *Strongly supports* implementing framework based off existing policies of the Association of
162 Southeastern Asian Nations for the cooperation of private sectors in promoting innovation and
163 technology with particular consideration for opportunities given to women working towards climate
164 resilience;
165
- 166 14. *Endorses* Member States to enact respective national climate resilience policies that pertain to their
167 own national interests in response to disasters, based on the NAP database, collaborating with actors
168 such as United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the
169 Environmental Emergencies Centre which uses external support to help aid environmental
170 emergencies;
171
- 172 15. *Intends to facilitate* already existing Information and Communication Technologies and platforms for
173 information sharing in indigenous native languages to promote inclusivity by utilizing existing
174 community infrastructure in order to provide them the tools, technology, and information to build
175 resilience;
176
- 177 16. *Encourages* ESCAP to collaborate with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social
178 Affairs to create a workshop for indigenous people that:
179
- 180 a. Will promote the gathering and sharing of ideas, experiences, and access to information;
 - 181
 - 182 b. Takes place every two years in order to provide timely accurate information;
 - 183
 - 184 c. Transmits information that builds awareness and provides protection from changing climate;
 - 185
 - 186 d. Will consult with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs Permanent Forum on
187 Indigenous Issues;
 - 188
- 189 17. *Encourages* the development of a database focusing on best practice sharing methods and strategies
190 for the protection of human health risks that come along with changes in weather patterns headed by
191 the UNDP Nationally Determined Contribution Support Programme in collaboration with World Health
192 Organization, to improve the adaptation capacity of healthcare systems in Asia and the Pacific that
193 are vulnerable to weather change induced diseases by:
194
- 195 a. Reducing negative impacts of changes in weather patterns by equipping healthcare
196 personnel and the wider population with any necessary medical supplies, courses, or
197 personnel to prevent detrimental effects of climate of Human Health;
 - 198
 - 199 b. Cooperating with OCHA to utilize grassroots connections between local communities and
200 NGOs of Member States that act as channels to assist in the distribution of information and
201 further strengthen the efficiency of this developing database;
 - 202
 - 203 c. Requesting the Asian Infrastructure Bank (AIIB) and Asian Development Bank to fund this
204 operation.



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Code: ESCAP/1/3

Committee: The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Topic: Promoting Climate Resilience

1 *The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,*
2
3 *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015) entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for
4 Sustainable Development”, emphasizing its focuses on climate action, sustainable cities and
5 communities, and life on land,
6
7 *Noting with satisfaction* the success that the *Paris Agreement* (2015) has had with combating climate
8 change and the role that Nationally Determined Contributions have on promoting climate resilience within
9 the Asia-Pacific region,
10
11 *Recognizing* the increasing demand for agriculture to feed a larger and more urbanized population over
12 the next 40 years, as noted by the United Nations Environment Programme’s report on *Smallholders,*
13 *Food Security, and the Environment,*
14
15 *Acknowledging* with deep gratitude the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948), notably Articles 2
16 and 7, which call attention to promoting equal opportunity before the law combating any form of
17 discrimination, and has been extended upon as in such resolutions as General Assembly resolution
18 72/207 (2017), “Improvement of the Situation of Women and Girls in Rural Areas,”
19
20 *Cognizant* of the centuries-long contributions indigenous peoples have made to their communities
21 through the care of the land as well as the valuable knowledge indigenous peoples possess in regards to
22 regional agriculture,
23
24 *Observing* the important role of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
25 resolution 73/6 (2017) entitled “Implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative
26 through Regional Cooperation” which has furthered the process of regional connectivity and cooperation,
27 with the goal of continuing the empowerment of ESCAP Member States through greater access to the
28 internet and other informational tools,
29
30 *Emphasizing* the need for communication and readily available technology, such as internet-based
31 databases and radio transmissions, in small, rural, and/or isolated regions, as well as offering tailored
32 assistance to Small Island Developing States (SIDS), as relates to concerns with farming and agriculture
33 in Pacific regions,
34
35 *Encouraged* by the success of initiative programs such as the World Food Program’s (WFP) R4-Rural
36 Resilience Initiative and the International Finance Corporation’s Global Agricultural and Food Security
37 Program in harnessing the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,*
38
39 *Noting* that investment in female-owned agriculture enterprise has the potential to reduce global hunger
40 by up to 150 million people, as per the Food and Agriculture Association of the United Nations (FAO)
41 report on the *State of Food and Agriculture* (2015),
42
43 *Affirming* the declaration of the 2019-2028 United Nations Decade of Family Farming and its recognition
44 of the need to support smallholder farms,
45

46 *Noting* the significance of microfinance in reducing poverty and promoting financial inclusion, as outlined
47 in ESCAP Development Paper No. 27 entitled *Microfinance for Poverty Reduction: Building Inclusive*
48 *Financial Sectors in Asia and the Pacific*,

49
50 *Reiterating* the principles of respect for cultural identity and traditional knowledge, as well as the need for
51 gender equality in agriculture outlined in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and*
52 *Other People Working in Rural Areas* (2018), which promotes sustainable practices such as crop rotation
53 and equal access to land without discrimination,

54
55 *Taking note* of the United Nation Development Programme's (UNDP) Green Commodities Programme
56 undertaking sustainable agricultural production and practices in less developed regions,

57
58 *Recognizing* the importance of gender and differing cultural perspectives in all aspects of climate
59 resilience including the preparation and implementation of climate resilience policies, as outlined in the
60 report published by UNDP on *Ensuring Gender-Responsive Climate Change Adaptation* (2016),

61
62 *Noting appreciation* of the WFP's Food Assistance for Assets initiative, and its positive impact on 10
63 million people in 52 countries, rehabilitation of 137,000 hectares of land, and the planting of 5,220
64 hectares of forest,

65
66 *Alarmed* by the fact that two-thirds of the population of the Asia and the Pacific region lack access to
67 enough food and the linkage between climatic shocks or disasters and food security and nutrition as
68 noted in *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World* as published by the Food and Agriculture
69 Organization of the United Nations (FAO),

- 70
71 1. *Calls upon* Member States to overcome the disunion that exists between governmental bodies at the
72 local, provincial, and national levels through streamlined communications and greater policy dialogue
73 in order to promote increased coordination in the creation and implementation of climate resilience
74 policies;
- 75
76 2. *Commends* the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as a framework for managing and
77 analyzing climate-related data for the purposes of hazard-mapping, urban and rural planning, and
78 enhancing National Action Plans, to be achieved through:
- 79
80 a. Utilizing high-resolution satellite imagery collected by Member States to be distributed to
81 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and SIDS to be managed through the ESCAP Regional
82 Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development;
- 83
84 b. Encouraging financial assistance from Member States in the establishment of climate-
85 management systems that employ GIS technology;
- 86
87 c. Technical assistance and training workshops for operational staff in SIDS and LDCs, such as
88 those working in National Weather Services and local governments, through collaboration
89 with UN bodies such as the Institute for Training and Research;
- 90
91 3. *Encourages* Member States to maximize agricultural yield, preserve geographical terrain, and
92 maintain optimum biodiversity through conservation farming and Sustainable Land Management to be
93 achieved by:
- 94
95 a. Developing plans for crop rotation in collaboration with farm owners, taking into account the
96 indigenous crops and bio-culture of each region;
- 97
98 b. Working with farmers to implement strategies to reduce soil erosion and disruption, including:
- 99
100 i. Reducing unnecessary soil disruption due to tillage;
- 101 ii. Maintaining prior crop residue;

- 102 iii. Growing cover crops;
103
- 104 4. *Suggests* Member States look to create a dialogue with indigenous groups for the sharing and
105 implementation of indigenous knowledge and practices on sustainable farming through:
106
- 107 a. Acknowledging Member States' regional environmental differences, and as such, those
108 different practices are best adapted for each specific ecosystem;
109
- 110 b. Cooperation with indigenous groups to implement green solutions and practices through
111 greater consultation with indigenous groups to facilitate the exchange of knowledge;
112
- 113 5. *Supports* the facilitation of the R4-Rural Resilience Initiative and related programs which work
114 towards the development of rural regions both sustainably and economically in:
115
- 116 a. Incentivizing the use of sustainable farming methods through monetary aid to rural farmers
117 from WFP and regional non-governmental organizations (NGOs);
118
- 119 b. Expanding local and domestic markets by providing financial opportunities to farmers through
120 increased risk management, access to insurance, and investment programs;
121
- 122 c. The shortening of supply chains through the development of rural markets and localizing the
123 transportation of goods to further decrease greenhouse gas emissions;
124
- 125 6. *Invites* Member States to establish Plans of Action, consistent with the work of FAO, to support
126 smallholding farmers by the means of:
127
- 128 a. Entrepreneurial training and investment programs directed by FAO in collaboration with local
129 governments, enabling smallholding farmers to expand from subsistence agriculture to
130 economically profitable agro-businesses;
131
- 132 b. Informational forums in partnership with ESCAP's Centre for Sustainable Agricultural
133 Mechanization for farm owners regarding economically sustainable practices in a community
134 setting;
135
- 136 7. *Urges* Member States to address the recognized correlation between food security and climate
137 shocks by providing food assistance policies, such as food stamps or subsidies to farmers with the
138 aim of increasing food and land preservation and to further actions towards building climate-resilient
139 communities;
140
- 141 8. *Further supports* the expansion of microfinance loans provided by the United Nations Framework
142 Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)'s Green Climate Fund (GCF) within Member States to
143 promote financial inclusion and ensure that communities with livelihoods dependent on agricultural
144 economies are protected, to be achieved by:
145
- 146 a. Utilizing the operational and technical expertise of Member States to reduce administrative
147 obstacles within domestic microfinance institutions in order to increase the outreach of these
148 institutions;
149
- 150 b. Integrating climate monitoring and forecasting technologies, including the use of GIS, to the
151 operational planning of microfinance institutions to account for the impact of climate change-
152 related hazards on the financial needs of rural communities;
153
- 154 9. *Urges* the sharing and publication of new developing technologies related to farming and agriculture
155 processes to increase the accessibility and efficiency of farming practices through the spread of
156 knowledge by:
157

- 158 a. Publishing development processes related to farming and agriculture practices under the MIT
159 public domain license which would allow for other Member States and individuals to use
160 these advancements with only the permission of the inventor;
161
- 162 b. Lowering the cost of agricultural equipment and technology by removing patents and
163 copyright obstructions using the previously mentioned MIT license, notably aiding
164 agriculturally reliant developing Member States;
165
- 166 c. Promoting the dissemination of agricultural information and accelerating the rate of
167 communications to rural communities through extant radio telecommunications and internet
168 efforts, either in conjunction or separately, particularly to the benefit of smallholder farmers;
169
- 170 d. Continued support of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway in order to strengthen lines
171 of communication to rural communities into the future;
172
- 173 10. *Recommends* Member States work to create Positive Investment Environments within their domestic
174 economies, whereby policy recommendations can be implemented to incentivize investment in the
175 field of climate-resilient infrastructure and green technology, to be achieved by encouraging:
176
- 177 a. Collaboration with the GCF to help with infrastructure and programs financed through grants,
178 loans, guarantees and equity in order to reach goals of both mitigation and adaptation;
179
- 180 b. Use of Public-Private Partnerships;
181
- 182 c. Implementation of tax incentives, such as subsidies, for investors funding climate-resilient
183 infrastructure and green technologies;
184
- 185 d. Cooperation with multilateral development banks and climate funds to assist with funding of
186 climate-resilient infrastructure and green technologies;
187
- 188 e. Strengthening local, provincial, and national regulation to facilitate the implementation of
189 climate resilience projects, such as better enforcement of existing climate change legislation
190 or by embedding climate change considerations into multiple existing sectoral policies;
191
- 192 f. Budgeting for climate adaptation as part of capital improvement projects such as through
193 including the UNDP's Climate Budget Tagging tool, used for monitoring and tracking of
194 climate-related expenditures in the national budget system;
195
- 196 g. Continuing to support the collection by Member States of current economic data such as risk,
197 cost, and rate of return to be provided to green investors, in order to facilitate better financial
198 forecasting and decrease investment risks;
199
- 200 h. Collaboration with the ESCAP Regional Climate Action Agenda to assist in the development
201 of climate resilience projects, involving government and business leadership, including
202 funding mechanisms to guide, incentivize, protect, and promote public and private
203 investments while maintaining regional economic integrity;
204
- 205 11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to provide a report on the implementation of rural involvement
206 programs and on the implementation of sustainable agriculture to promote climate resilience.



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Code: ESCAP/1/4

Committee: Economic and Social Commission for the Asia and the Pacific

Topic: Promoting Climate Resilience

1 *The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,*
2
3 *Taking into account the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Article 4, as*
4 *well as Article 4 of the 2015 Paris Agreement, which focuses on promoting and co-operating in the*
5 *development and process of control in regards to forestry, agriculture, and the threat of climate change in*
6 *the terms of sustainable development and climate resilience,*
7
8 *Reaffirming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially targets 13.2, 13.3, 13.A, and 13B,*
9 *which advocate for climate resilience through climate change education programs, nationwide policies,*
10 *funding for climate adaptation, and the inclusion of minority groups in climate planning,*
11
12 *Cognizant of the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda, calling for stronger focus on Sustainable*
13 *Development Goals, like SDG 4 and SDG 5 which focus on the right to education and empowerment of*
14 *women worldwide, while also bearing in mind the commitment to consistent international financing,*
15
16 *Underlining ESCAP resolution 71/12 on “Strengthening regional mechanisms for the implementation of*
17 *the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Asia and the Pacific” and the 2018*
18 *Report of the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific,*
19 *which seek to strengthen regional mechanisms in order to implement the 2015 Sendai Declaration*
20 *Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for the purposes of promoting technical assistance and capacity*
21 *building in less developed sub-regions of Asia and the Pacific,*
22
23 *Bearing in mind the 2018 Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Energy Transition Toward*
24 *Sustainable and Resilient Societies in Asia and the Pacific to overcome potential challenges in pursuit of*
25 *Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific,*
26
27 *Recalling the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for*
28 *Development, which addresses infrastructure gaps to ensure environmentally, socially, and economically*
29 *sustainable infrastructure development,*
30
31 *Noting with approval the 2014 G20 Brisbane Summit on the Global Infrastructure Project Pipeline, which*
32 *highlights ensuring an open-source project pipeline database in order to connect national and multilateral*
33 *development bank databases with potential investors for projects,*
34
35 *Recalling further the United Smart Cities program, which was initiated by Economic Commission for*
36 *Europe and other industrial partners, focusing on urban mobility, sustainable housing, clean energy,*
37 *waste management, and information and communication technologies,*
38
39 *Fully supporting Momentum for Change: Women for Results program, which enables greater agency to*
40 *women in leadership and strengthens the role of women in climate change decision-making processes,*
41
42 *Recognizing the necessity of climate resilience, or the capacity of social and economic Geospatial*
43 *Information Systems (GIS) development and institutions when dealing with impacts of climate change and*
44 *observing the essential role of educating women to transition to climate resilience, as women in*
45 *developing areas are more likely to exercise unhealthy cooking practices according to SDG 1.4.1.,*
46

47 *Noting further* that the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) Index, an index that
48 summarizes a country's vulnerability to climate change, and other global challenges, is an applicable
49 measure to calculate a Member State's vulnerability to climate change in regard to climate resilience,
50

51 *Emphasizing* the necessity of comprehensive Early Warning Systems (EWS) such as GIS and the Asia-
52 Pacific Information Superhighway in gathering, managing and analyzing data which promote climate
53 resilience, particularly in strengthening their application for Small Island Developing States (SIDS),
54

55 *Reiterating* the necessity of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education as the
56 sentiments put forth by the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*
57 (1979), which adopts policies that promote gender equality, which will inherently promote climate
58 resilience through knowledge that is useful to women,
59

60 *Acknowledging* that a Population-Health-Environment, which aims to improve environmental health
61 through a consideration of several populace factors, is an integrated community-based approach to
62 development that can be applied in the context of climate resilience to analyze the interconnections
63 between familial, health, and environmental factors,
64

65 *Taking into consideration* the fundamental role women have in a wide range of activities including
66 responsibility of food production, processing, distribution and water supplying, as well as their work in the
67 informal sector such as domestic servants, particularly in rural or developing areas, and the importance of
68 women's education in building climate resilience,
69

70 *Recognizing* the social status of women in many communities is related to access to water supply,
71 agriculture, and food processing, while acknowledging that women tend to be in the role of educating their
72 children is evidence of the need for their education in terms of climate resilience,
73

74 *Emphasizing* that 10 out of 16 countries in the Asia-Pacific area, 80% of students reach the minimum
75 levels of proficiency in reading and mathematics, while in the remaining six states only between 31% and
76 49% reached the minimum standard in mathematics, while between 45% to 63% reached the minimum
77 standard in reading,
78

79 *Cognizant* of the fact that women-led micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) are growing
80 across the Asia-Pacific region and are successfully implemented in Member States such as Bangladesh,
81 Cambodia, Fiji, Myanmar, Nepal, Samoa, and Viet Nam,
82

- 83 1. *Fully supports* the utilization of the 2014 *SAMOA Pathway* in promoting climate resilience within the
84 Asia-Pacific Region, more specifically through:
 - 85 a. Strengthening the bonds of cooperation in identifying and addressing at-risk areas by
86 facilitating the creation of durable partnerships connecting the local population to subnational
87 levels of government, emphasizing the role of marginalized groups;
88
 - 89 b. Locally feasible coastal management practice projects, such as the United Nations
90 Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Sandwatch Vision Initiative, to combat the
91 consequences of climate change and uphold the livelihoods of those living in at-risk habitable
92 regions;
93
- 94 2. *Recommends* Member States enact comprehensive programs that economically incorporate women
95 into the process of transitioning to renewable energy, with a specific focus on sustainability, in order
96 to ensure access to economic opportunities, such as entrepreneurial pursuits or clean jobs, that will
97 lift women in rural areas out of poverty and grant them financial agency by:
 - 98 a. Educating women in rural communities on how to use sustainable and clean energy sources
99 such as affordable solar lights and water filters to reduce unhealthy cooking practices, to
100 improve air quality and health in their communities;
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- b. Encouraging women to share sustainable cooking technology through working with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that work to end poverty by empowering local communities;
 - c. Promoting Member States to create financial incentives such as tax-exempt statuses for companies to hire women in sustainable energy industries;
3. *Insists* ESCAP Member States create an educational framework demonstrating climate risks through engaging public dialogue with local communities to raise awareness about sustainable water practices in order to promote and allow local participation in decision-making processes concerning climate resilience measures, therefore:
- a. Granting greater agency to local populations, notably rural and indigenous, when developing programs and infrastructure in these territories;
 - b. Establishing constant consultation of scientific knowledge and local input of areas and populations in which these programs are to be implemented, as per Articles 7.5 and 7.6 of the 2015 *Paris Agreement*;
4. *Encourages* Member States to cooperate with NGOs to ensure access to education for vulnerable groups, like youth and women, on natural disaster preparation to ensure public safety for at-risk regions and disaster-prone areas through:
- a. Enacting programs in public schools, such as tsunami warning drills and after-school programs, that teach students and instructors how to act in hazardous situations, and to increase interest and sensibility from the future generation about climate change by gathering together multilateral approaches and traditional methods of teaching;
 - b. Allowing increased educational opportunities for girls and women through suggesting minimum female percentages in local schools to give them more independence and agency in areas where they can enact change toward climate resilience;
 - c. Working with NGOs to establish public databases that provide easily accessible information about disaster-prone area indexes and at-risk maps, designed to educate the population on the geography of natural disasters, and conduct training classes weekly on the community level about local EWS for natural disasters;
5. *Encourages* the expansion of the Asia-Pacific Super Highway Project in connecting ESCAP Member States which will enable greater information transfers regarding educational practices between Member States and vulnerable disconnected groups;
6. *Urges* Member States to recognize the importance of how investing in girls' education will influence climate change adaptation, resilience, and mitigation by noting that every year a girl is in school, her Member State's resilience to climate disasters is expected to increase by 3.2 points as per the ND-GAIN Index;
7. *Invites* governments to provide more training on how to access their local warning and EWS for upcoming climate-related disasters, in the ways of:
- a. Providing access to after-school programs, with external supervisors helping as volunteer teachers and additional materials, and divide after-school programs into two different sessions, one for students from ages 6 to 12 and the other for students from 12 to 18;

- 157 b. Such after-school programs will stimulate interest and sensitivity toward issues like climate
158 change, should focus on more traditional lessons, and increase involvement through a
159 multilateral approach;
160
- 161 c. Reaffirming the necessity of leadership and management courses to provide a safe space for
162 girls and women, and allow for increased educational opportunities that will give them more
163 independence;
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- 165 d. Reaching out for local NGOs' assistance for human resources, to conduct training classes
166 weekly at a community level about local EWS for natural disasters;
167
- 168 8. *Invites* local governments to suggest funding for applications on smartphones to disseminate
169 information about the importance and the need for disaster early warning applications and climate-
170 resilient data on smartphones such as Disaster Alert through:
171
- 172 a. Recommending the development of a portion of the app to disseminate information that uses
173 preventative measures in relation to disaster;
174
- 175 b. Reaching out for sharing of existing climate data and information through cooperation from
176 local governments and NGOs to guide people on how to better adapt to the changing climate
177 through alerts and articles;
178
- 179 c. Encouraging the creation of climate-resilient information that guide people through alerts and
180 articles on how to better adapt to the changing climate;
181
- 182 d. Recommending the use of two-way radio to relay the information for those without access to
183 smartphones;
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- 185 9. *Encourages* Member States to prioritize women and girls into STEM fields must also be correlated to
186 green-sector career pathways by:
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- 188 a. Utilizing the UN Girls' Education Initiatives UN Ivy STEM Connect Program to develop girls'
189 life skills for a sustainable green economy by promoting participation of women in STEM;
190
- 191 b. Learning how to maintain green technology at a local level in order to develop sustainable
192 climate-resilient mechanisms at a national and regional level;
193
- 194 c. Supplementary meetings and lessons in schools that raise awareness about the potential role
195 of women with the aim of guaranteeing women an effective and accurate response to climate
196 disasters, making them less affected by climate change while improving climate resilience,
197 and helping them to achieve a primary role when it comes dealing with and responding to
198 natural hazards;
199
- 200 10. *Calls* for the education of young women through localized NGO-operated programs that focus on
201 STEM education, and considering that some women are particularly effective in creating avenues for
202 climate resilience within their communities by:
203
- 204 a. Endorsing the use of local and regional NGOs in order to promote region specific education
205 that will lead to better understanding of climate change;
206
- 207 b. Adapting the use of pre-existing curriculum as suggested by General Assembly resolution
208 70/212 on "International Day of Women and Girls in Science" which was put in place to give
209 women a chance to be educated, in order to create an avenue to allow women to learn about
210 locally adapted crops that are more likely to withstand climate change;
211

- 212 11. *Recommends* Population-Health-Environment-based organizations, specialized agencies and funds
213 to recognize women's reproductive health as a method to develop, implement and achieve
214 population-based climate change adaptation and mitigation;
215
- 216 12. *Endorses* Member States to allow for the creation of banking institutions in rural areas to facilitate the
217 safekeeping and saving of money among women, which would enable more financial freedom and a
218 heightened status socially and economically by:
219
- 220 a. Encouraging the idea of micro-loans from these banks, to allow for women in rural areas to
221 have access to resources to realize their innovative ideas in finding new sustainable
222 opportunities detaching them from their traditional roles;
223
- 224 b. Strongly suggesting these previously mentioned banks to charge minimum fees in order to
225 foster new economic growth and climate resilience;
226
- 227 13. *Utilize* existing channels of finance, such as the women-led MSMEs, to increase the level of capital
228 available for women-specific projects for the purposes of:
229
- 230 a. Promoting empowerment and ownership within the Asia and Pacific region through increased
231 participation in civil society;
232
- 233 b. Incentivizing climate-resilient enterprises in order to achieve sustainable and equitable
234 climate-resilient solutions and policy frameworks;
235
- 236 c. Expanding the objectives and operations of the ESCAP and UN Capital Development Fund's
237 Women MSME Fintech Innovation Fund to facilitate technical assistance, mentorship and
238 early stage co-funding to begin and promote individual climate-resilient solutions;
239
- 240 d. Encouraging developed Member States to provide more direct capital investment in order to
241 facilitate women's empowerment;
242
- 243 14. *Directs attention* to the need for investment in girls' education in order to foster climate participation
244 and leadership, as it is urgently needed for Member States within the Asia and Pacific region, where
245 this can be achieved via:
246
- 247 a. Building networks at a national level to connect young girls with women in positions of
248 leadership;
249
- 250 b. Promoting the importance of women in leadership as an area of priority in rural areas of
251 Member States;
252
- 253 15. *Recommends* increasing cooperation between local public entities to seek out private partnerships
254 through the encouraged expansion of the Global Infrastructure Private Project Pipeline to include
255 Least Developed Countries from Asia and the Pacific;
256
- 257 16. *Encourages* Member States to welcome and incentivize private companies, and/or NGOs to invest in
258 urban infrastructure, sustainable housing, clean energy, waste management, gender-inclusive
259 education and information and communication technologies (ICTs) in city development toward smart
260 city technology, especially in coastal cities, offering opportunities, for all genders, to accelerate
261 energy efficiency in urban development;
262
- 263 17. *Further encourages* the funding of resilient infrastructure in developing states and vulnerable
264 populations, through the aid of developed states, as per indicated in Article 9.1 and 9.2 of the 2015
265 *Paris Agreement*;
266

- 267 18. *Encourages* ESCAP Member States to protect freshwater in SIDS, as rising sea levels, present a
268 significant threat of freshwater contamination and waste, through the implementation of granting
269 agency to women in freshwater management, especially in rural communities, and therefore directly
270 promoting SDG 6 by:
271
- 272 a. Conducting targeted research programs which will evaluate affected Member States' current
273 freshwater standards in order to - develop distinct educational programs with a focus on
274 women and girls with the goal to preserve and reduce the waste of freshwater, as well as
275 adjust urban development in reducing the pollution of freshwater supplies, and allocate
276 specific funding to maintain water management practices to either physical infrastructure or
277 education;
278
 - 279 b. Encouraging advancements in protecting Member States' existing water supplies with
280 freshwater lenses, protecting natural bodies of freshwater, pursuing preventative water
281 storage measures, advancing water recycling and upkeep of infrastructure;
282
- 283 19. *Urges* multilateral innovation to build and renew the man-made and natural sea and water barriers
284 pertaining to conservation practices that are compatible with maintaining biodiversity and availability
285 of water resources, while simultaneously protecting coastlines from deterioration and local
286 populations from flooding linked to rising sea levels by:
287
- 288 a. Reducing rates of deforestation, as trees anchor fertile soil and prevent extensive soil
289 erosion;
290
 - 291 b. Adapting to rising sea levels through climate-resilient infrastructure projects such as the
292 construction of coastal wall, the raising of soil beds along coastlines, and the implementation
293 of community-based soil-anchoring tree planting projects, such as the planting of mangrove
294 trees in coastal tropical and subtropical habitats;
295
- 296 20. *Encourages* collaboration and dialogue between associations and NGOs concerning agriculture and
297 those that work with women, in order to allow them to better cope with climate change and the new
298 challenges it poses, by means of:
299
- 300 a. Increasing women's expertise and technical expertise in the field;
301
 - 302 b. Encouraging the sharing of technical knowledge among rural communities;
303
 - 304 c. Training local populations with technical skills necessary, in conjunction with the
305 implementation of climate-resilient measures, to promote community climate resilience
306 especially in the rural agriculture sector;
307
- 308 21. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the
309 Commission.