



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Directors**
Environmental Management Bureau
Forest Management Bureau
Mines and Geosciences Bureau
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau

Climate Change Service
Legal Affairs Service

FROM : **The OIC Director**
Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT : **ESCAP: 79TH COMMISSION SESSION: INFORMAL WORKING GROUP ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS**

DATE : **04 APR 2023**

This has reference to the letter from the Office of United Nations and International Organizations–Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) requesting comments/inputs/amendments on the ESCAP: 79th Commission Session: Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions, particularly on the following resolutions:

1. Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Protecting our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific; and
2. Creating regional mechanisms to study, mitigate and minimize disasters in endorheic (inland) water basins and to prevent them, in particular considering modalities for the establishment of the United Nations special programme for the Aral Sea basin.

The seventy-ninth (79th) session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) will be held from 15 to 19 May 2023 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok. Guided by the theme “Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development”, the annual session will be an opportunity to strengthen regional cooperation on climate change.

The session will bring together Government leaders from across Asia and the Pacific and other key stakeholders to discuss policy options and areas of regional cooperation required to accelerate climate action in the region and beyond. With dedicated discussions on catalysing climate finance and investments, complemented by a climate solutions fair, the session will allow identifying opportunities, sharing solutions and facilitate engagement of a broad set of partners and stakeholders, to both reduce the risks and impacts of climate change and foster

ambitious climate action in Asia and the Pacific towards net-zero pathways and limit global temperature rise to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius.

In this regard, may we kindly request your 1) comments/inputs on the above-mentioned resolutions; 2) Nomination of a technical focal person. We would appreciate receiving your responses **until 05 April 2023** through e-mail at psddivision@gmail.com, copy furnished this e-mail address: policy@denr.gov.ph, so we can facilitate the Department's submission to DFA. Please be informed that the same was already forwarded to your email last 31 March 2023.

For your information and appropriate action, please.


CHERYL LOISE T. LEAL

Agenda item 4 (d): 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

Draft resolution

Creating regional mechanisms to study, mitigate and minimize disasters in endorheic (inland) water basins and to prevent them, in particular considering modalities for the establishment of the United Nations special programme for the Aral Sea basin

Sponsored by: Turkmenistan

Co-sponsored by:

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

PP1. *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 73/226 of 20 December 2018 on the midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, and recognizing that the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 contributes to the achievement of the objectives of the International Decade for Action,

PP2. *Reaffirming* the Sustainable Development Goals and targets related to ensuring the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services and to achieving a land degradation-neutral world,¹ and determined to achieve the goal of ensuring the availability and sustainable management of

¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

water and sanitation for all and other related goals and targets,

PP3. *Acknowledging* that the negative humanitarian, environmental and socioeconomic consequences of disasters in endorheic (inland) water basins such as the Aral Sea tragedy go well beyond the region and represent a global concern,

PP4. *Taking note* of General Assembly resolutions 72/273 of 12 April 2018, 73/297 of 28 May 2019 and 75/266 of 3 March 2021 on cooperation between the United Nations and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, in which the Assembly emphasized the importance of the development and effective implementation of regional environmental protection programmes for sustainable development in Central Asia, including assistance programmes for the countries of the Aral Sea basin, and taking note also of Assembly resolution 75/278 of 18 May 2021 on declaring the Aral Sea region a zone of ecological innovations and technologies,

PP5. *Taking note* of the findings in the reports of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific entitled “The Aral Sea, Central Asian countries and climate change in the twenty-first century”² and “Managing inland water disasters in the Aral Sea: sub-regional pathways for adaptation and resilience”,³ which provide information on

² Marat Narbayev and Vera Pavlova, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP Working Paper Series (Bangkok, ESCAP, 2022).

³ Sanjay Srivastava and others, Information and Communications Technology

a multisectoral and multidisciplinary disaster risk reduction approach to devising a regional mechanism involving all Aral Sea countries concerned,

PP6. *Recalling* with appreciation the joint communiqué adopted by the Heads of State of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan during a meeting of the Council of Heads of the Founding States of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, held in the Avaza national tourist area in Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan, on 24 August 2018,⁴ and the creation of the multi-partner human security trust fund for the Aral Sea region under the auspices of the United Nations,

PP7. *Welcoming* the outcomes of the multilateral consultations on the development of the United Nations special programme for the Aral Sea basin⁵ held in Ashgabat on 18 December 2019 with the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, Member States and relevant United Nations agencies,

OP1. *Invites* members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, donor countries, multilateral financial institutions, relevant agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and regional organizations to continue their efforts within their respective mandates

and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP Working Paper Series (Bangkok, ESCAP, 2022).

⁴ A/73/444, annex.

⁵ A/74/644.

to support joint projects and programmes on the sustainable management of water resources in Asia and the Pacific;

OP2. *Recognizes* the need to create regional and international cooperation and coordination mechanisms to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of natural disasters in endorheic (inland) water basins and to prevent them;

OP3. *Proposes* that a study be carried out, in consultation with relevant regional and international entities, on the viability and modalities of establishing the United Nations special programme for the Aral Sea basin to enhance support for members in natural disaster prevention and mitigation;

OP4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To commission a study on the feasibility of and the modalities for strengthening regional coordination and cooperation with a view to mitigating and minimizing the consequences of natural disasters in endorheic (inland) water basins of the Aral Sea;

(b) To facilitate the organization of a workshop on preventing and mitigating natural disasters in endorheic (inland) water basins;

(c) To report to the Commission at its eighty-first session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

Agenda item 4 (c): 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: Environment and development

Draft resolution

Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Protecting Our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific

Sponsored by: Mongolia

Co-sponsored by:

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

PP.1 *Recalling* its resolution 74/4 of 16 May 2018 on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development for Asia and the Pacific, 2017,

PP.2 *Welcoming* the successful outcome of the seventh session of the Committee on Environment and Development, held at the ministerial level in Bangkok and online from 29 November to 1 December 2022,

OP1. *Endorses* the Ministerial Declaration on Protecting Our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution annexed thereto;¹

¹ ESCAP/CED/2022/4/Add.1.

OP2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To accord priority to the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Protecting Our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) To support members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in the implementation of the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution;

(c) To report to the Commission at its eighty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Agenda item 4 (c): 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: Environment and development

Draft resolution

Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Protecting Our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific

Sponsored by: Mongolia

Co-sponsored by:

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

PP.1 *Recalling* its resolution 74/4 of 16 May 2018 on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development for Asia and the Pacific, 2017,

PP.2 *Welcoming* the successful outcome of the seventh session of the Committee on Environment and Development, held at the ministerial level in Bangkok and online from 29 November to 1 December 2022,

OP1. *Endorses* the Ministerial Declaration on Protecting Our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution annexed thereto;¹

¹ ESCAP/CED/2022/4/Add.1.

OP2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To accord priority to the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Protecting Our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) To support members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in the implementation of the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution, **with a view to, inter alia, combat sand and dust storms (Iran; UK, Japan, India, Mongolia, Fiji);**

(c) To report to the Commission at its eighty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.
