

---

## Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

### Seventy-second session

Bangkok, 15-19 May 2016

Item 3 (f) of the provisional agenda\*

**Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure  
of the Commission, including the work of the regional  
institutions: disaster risk reduction**

## Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones\*\*

### I. Introduction

1. The WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC) is an inter-governmental regional body jointly established by World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific (UNESCAP) in 1972 and associated with the Tropical Cyclone Programme of WMO. Its first session was held in Bangkok, Thailand in 1973, while the 3rd Joint Session of Panel on PTC and ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee (TC) (WMO/ESCAP/PTC-42 Session | ESCAP/WMO/TC-47 Session) was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 9-13 February, 2015.

2. The main objective of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones is to promote measures to improve tropical cyclone warning systems in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea, including dissemination of technical information on tropical cyclone research and forecasting operations to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of tropical cyclone-related disasters. The Panel develops activities under five components: Meteorology, Hydrology, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Training and Research.

3. The PTC report is based on the summary of the PTC Secretariat activities during the intersessional period 2015-2016.

(a) In connection to the organization of the 3rd Joint Session of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones and the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee (WMO/ESCAP/PTC-42 Session|ESCAP/WMO/TC-47 Session) in Bangkok, Thailand, from 9 to 13 February 2015, PTC Secretariat extended invitations to PTC Member countries for their participation. Further, the PTC Secretariat collected input/feedback from PTC Member countries and prepared a summary based on their feedback/report(s) in relation to meteorology, hydrology, DRR, training/research component. The Secretary of the PTC presented it at the Joint Session. The session was attended by participants from five Members of the PTC, namely Maldives, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and

---

\* E/ESCAP/72/L.1.

\*\* The present report is being issued without formal editing.

Thailand. It was also attended by representatives of WMO and ESCAP, the, and observers from IOC-UNESCO, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHAHM), and the Tohoku University of Japan;

(b) In order to enhance the visibility of the of activities of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones beyond the Panel region and to increase its Membership, the PTC Secretariat extended invitations to UAE, Qatar and Yemen for their participation in the Joint Session. Yemen has shown interest in membership of the PTC, and the PTC Secretariat is now coordinating with Yemen to invite Yemen as an observer at the 43rd PTC session, which will be held in 2016;

(c) The PTC Secretariat collected contributions from Member countries for PTC Newsletters. It published the PTC Newsletter “Panel News” (Issue No.39) and distributed the e-version issue among the PTC Member countries;

(d) As per the decision of the 3rd Joint Session of the PTC and the TC, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) organized Attachment Training for three tropical cyclone forecasters, one each from PTC Member countries Bangladesh, Maldives, and Myanmar. The Attachment Training was held at Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC) in Tokyo, Japan on 22-31 July 2015. The PTC Secretariat extended invitations to the concerned PTC Member countries requesting suitable nominations for the training. The RSMC in New Delhi, India also provided training and services for PTC members;

(e) The Secretary of the PTC represented the Panel at the Seventy-first Session of ESCAP (Phase-II) in Bangkok, Thailand on 25-29 May 2015. The opportunity was used to share PTC programmes and activities, and to highlight the cooperation of the PTC with the TC. At the platform of ESCAP, the Secretary of the PTC made the following statement:

*“The WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC) is working to strengthen regional cooperation among countries affected by tropical cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. This year, a particular highlight of our work was the Joint Session held in cooperation with the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee (TC) and hosted by ESCAP here in Bangkok in February 2015. This was the first time in 18 years that such a joint session was held. In this session, the PTC and the TC agreed on mechanism for future cooperation, including joint projects and human capacity building trainings. We are now working to take this positive outcome forward, in cooperation with ESCAP, WMO and Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres”.*

(f) The Panel on Tropical Cyclones closely collaborated with the Typhoon Committee in the implementation of the joint project “Synergized Standard Operating Procedures (SSOP) for Coastal Multi-Hazards Early Warning System (SSOP)”, which was completed in 215 with funding from the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness. The beneficiary countries included Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. Under this project, a Manual on SSOP was developed and circulated to the Panel Member countries;

(g) Concerning to the updating of the Tropical Cyclone Operational Plan (TCP-21) for 2015, the PTC Secretariat collected feedback from PTC Member countries to assist the Rapporteur of the Operation Plan in the early issuance of the TCP-21 2015 version.