

**34th Meeting of the**

**ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC)**

**Working Paper on Human Resources and Sustainable Development (HRSD)**

Prepared by the ECO Secretariat

18-21 December 2023

ECO Secretariat, Tehran

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**Titles Pages**

[Executive Summary 7](#_Toc149840793)

[I. Priority Areas: 7](#_Toc149840794)

[A. Sustainable Development 8](#_Toc149840795)

[1. ECO Vision 2025 Approach and Target 8](#_Toc149840796)

[2. Background 8](#_Toc149840797)

[3. Progress Achieved since 33th RPC Meeting 8](#_Toc149840798)

[4. Expected Outcomes and Focused Issues/Events for 2024 9](#_Toc149840799)

[5. Secretariat's Recommendations 10](#_Toc149840800)

[6. Area Conclusion 10](#_Toc149840801)

[B. Disaster Risk Reduction 11](#_Toc149840802)

[1. ECO Vision 2025 Approach and Target 11](#_Toc149840803)

[2. Background 11](#_Toc149840804)

[3. Progress Achieved since 33th RPC Meeting 13](#_Toc149840805)

[4. Expected Outcomes and Focused Issues/Events for 2024 14](#_Toc149840806)

[5. Secretariat's Recommendations 14](#_Toc149840807)

[6. Area Conclusion 14](#_Toc149840808)

[C. Health 15](#_Toc149840809)

[1. ECO Vision 2025 Approach and Target 15](#_Toc149840810)

[2. Background 15](#_Toc149840811)

[3. Progress achieved since 33th RPC Meeting 16](#_Toc149840812)

[4. Expected Outcomes and Focused Issues/Events for 2024 16](#_Toc149840813)

[5. Secretariat's Recommendations 17](#_Toc149840814)

[6. Area Conclusion 17](#_Toc149840815)

[D. Education 18](#_Toc149840816)

[1. ECO Vision 2025 Approach and Target 18](#_Toc149840817)

[2. Background 18](#_Toc149840818)

[3. Progress Achieved since 33st RPC Meeting 19](#_Toc149840819)

[4. Expected Outcomes and Focused Issues/Events for 2024 20](#_Toc149840820)

[5. Secretariat's recommendations 20](#_Toc149840821)

[6. Area Conclusion 20](#_Toc149840822)

[Calendar of Events (2024) 21](#_Toc149840823)

[I. Review of the Calendar of Events for 2023………………… …………. 21](#_Toc149840824)

[II. Projected Events by HRSD for 2024……………………………………. 23](#_Toc149840825)

[III. ECO Events for 2024……………………………………………………….23](#_Toc149840826)

[IV. Non- ECO Events for 2024….……………………………………………..25](#_Toc149840827)

[Ongoing Projects: 25](#_Toc149840828)

# Executive Summary

ECO is striving to formulate coherent, equitable and sustainable frameworks to achieve the long-term regional sustainable development. The ECO Vision 2025 shares the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as Agenda 2030 of the United Nation and sets out in clear terms the long and mid-term regional objectives and expected outcomes in the human resources and sustainable development. It identifies four main priority areas under “human resources and sustainable development” namely sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, health and education as covered under *“Sector F: Social Welfare and Environment”*. The Human Resources and Sustainable Development Directorate (HRSD) in ECO has been assigned the task for the above mentioned priority areas of the ECO Vision 2025.

The implementation framework of ECO Vision 2025 identifies the required action, timeframes, result areas and accountabilities. Furthermore, the ECO Regional Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (ECO-RFDRR) and the ECO-RFDRR Implementation Road Map and adopted “Regional Plan of Action of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management for Cascading Risks” and ‘ECO Action Plan on Health” have long served as the policy framework documents.

HRSD is also entrusted to establish an effective interaction with relevant regional and international organizations as well as development partners, including UN organizations, regional and international regional bodies inter-alia the UNESCAP to shape a longer-term, holistic, coordinated and more strategic approach for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this regard, in 2023, the Secretariat has organized several ECO events including 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Health and 4th Expert Group Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction. Furthermore, it has remained part of number of regional and international important non-ECO events in the area of HRSD.

Since the upcoming version of ECO Vision document will be revised in 2024, the role of HRSD, as the main directorate which is responsible for sustainable development issues in the Secretariat, in updating process of the vision document is highly substantial. Accordingly, organizing the ECO events and taking part of non-ECO events listed in the attachment are the main priorities of the HRSD in 2024.

# Priority Areas:

In line with the ECO Vision 2025, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) has four main priorities under “human resources and sustainable development”. These are: sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, health and education respectively.

In the following sections, firstly, it is going to be referenced on the basis of the relevant priority area in the ECO Vision 2025. Then, it will be given brief background information and mentioned recent developments since the 33th RPC Meeting in 2022 on the subject matter. Then, after addressing the expected outcomes to be obtained and focused issues/events for 2024 regarding the priority area, it is going to be concluded with Secretariat's recommendations to achieve the goals in the relevant priority area.

# Sustainable Development

# ECO Vision 2025 Approach and Target

1. Sharing the SDGs by United Nations (UN), ECO has determined “sustainability” as one of the main principles of ECO Vision 2025 to increase standard of living, quality of life, economic welfare and well being of people in the region. (Core Principles, a. Sustainability, p.1)

# Background

1. The First High Level Experts Group Meeting (December 2006, Ankara, Turkiye) identified the cooperation areas in the field of “human and sustainable development” for ECO. The meeting encouraged Member States to contribute towards regional efforts to reduce poverty and promote human development in the region.
2. In the 31th RPC Meeting in 2021, the Secretariat has been instructed to request from Member Countries to provide respective data/documents regarding SDGs along with their updated implementation status in order to prepare a consolidated regional SDGs report along with SDG performance index for the Region in this regard.
3. Thereupon, the Secretariat, via Note Verbal in 2021, requested from Member States to provide their respective data/documents regarding SDGs.
4. In the 33th RPC Meeting in 2023, the Council requested from the Secretariat to establish a “High Level Sustainable Development Working Group (HLSDWG)/ad-hoc Coordinating Group” as to prepare an “Action Plan” for enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) in the Region.

# Progress Achieved since 33th RPC Meeting

1. During year 2023, the HRSD Directorate remained part of number of important events and took several initiatives:
2. The “2nd Baku Forum on Sustainable Development on Sustainable Finance and Investment” (15-16 November 2023).
3. The “Seventh North and Central Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals” in Almaty (1-2 November 2023) by UNESCAP.
4. Opening Ceremony of Sustainable City, Arkadag, Turkmenistan.
5. SDG Summit in New York (19-23 September 2023)
6. The HRSD Directorate has been working to establish a High Level Sustainable Development Working Group (HLSDWG)/ad-hoc Coordinating Group in order to prepare an Action Plan for enhancing Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) to assist the Member States in policy planning and capacity building of the relevant national institutions. The Directorate has requested focal points from relevant institutions of Member States to establish abovementioned HLSDWG. Response from Member States is awaited.
7. The Directorate has sought for willingness of Member States for holding the “1stECO Forum on Sustainable Development” in 2023. Response is awaited.
8. Meetings were held with the representatives of relevant international institutions and UN Specialized Agencies including UNDP to exchange views on achieving UN SDGs in ECO region.

# Expected Outcomes and Focused Issues/Events for 2024

1. In year 2024, the Secretariat is expected to remain involved in numerous SDGs related events and activities at regional and international level including the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), HLPF on Sustainable Development and SDG Summit in 2024. Moreover, 2024 is also the year to revise ECO Vision Document for the upcoming period.
2. Accordingly, the main focus will remain on achieving SDGs in areas of disaster risk reduction, health, and education in collaboration with relevant international organizations such as UNDP, UNESCAP, UNDRR, WHO, IOM.
3. Attaining policy coherence for sustainable development remains crucial to meet the challenges faced by the Member Countries to achieve SDGs and to enhance mutual cooperation while capitalizing on policies and actions already in place at the local, regional and international levels.
4. The establishment of a “High Level Stainable Development Working Group (HLSDWG)” is; therefore, key in order to prepare an action plan for enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) over a defined period, compatible with available resources.
5. Hence, the establishment of HLSDWG, as an integral part of the means of implementation for SGDs across the region will be the first expected outcome under this priority area.
6. The second expected outcome in this connection is preparation by ECO of “Sustainable Development Performance Index” following the receipt of required data/documents from the Member States.
7. Organizing “1st ECO Forum on Sustainable Development” for sharing of experiences, best practices and challenges by the respective Member States and development of a framework for policy coherence for ECO Region is the third expected outcome.
8. Organizing a joint workshop with International Organization for Migration (IOM) on “Trafficking in Persons and Human Smuggling in the ECO Region” is another expected outcome in 2024.

# Secretariat's Recommendations

1. The Council may highlight achievement of SDGs as an investment agenda both in physical infrastructure and human resource capital (in Health, Education and Disaster Risk Reduction) and emphasize upon identification of projects for mutual economic development and enhanced integration of the region.
2. The Council may consider the importance of interactions of ECO with regional and international organizations such as UNDP, UNDDR, IFCR, IOM, UNESCAP, ADB and IsDB to attract potential technical and financial support in realizing SDGs.
3. The Council may call upon the Member States for ECO Secretariat’s participation in meetings on SDGs to improve mutual cooperation between the Secretariat and the Member States.
4. The Council may request Member States to nominate focal points for establishment of High Level Sustainable Development Working Group (HSDWG) in order to prepare the Action Plan for enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) in the Region.
5. The Council may instruct the Secretariat to complete the project on “SDG Performance Index for the ECO Region” by the end of 2024.

# Area Conclusion

1. It is believed that regional action plan that is considered to be prepared with the cooperation of Member States and international organizations for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in ECO Region will support and complement the effectiveness of national mechanisms upon which the ultimate success of the global Agenda for 2030.
2. For this reason, a new framework for policy coherence for sustainable development in the Region should be introduced as a strategic response to improve social economic environment in both regional and international level.
3. Since the preparatory works on the new vision document of ECO for the upcoming period will be initiated in 2024, improving interactions of ECO with both Member States and international organizations on SDGs is highly substantial in terms of reflecting and including the experiences and best practices on SDGs to the new vision document for ultimate success of the global Agenda for 2030.
4. In this scope, it is considered that the works of HLSDWG to prepare a regional action plan for policy coherence for sustainable development will be very important in terms of achieving SDGs in the Region.

# Disaster Risk Reduction

##

# ECO Vision 2025 Approach and Target

1. The ECO Vision 2025 envisages that “a regional integrated disaster risk reduction system/network will be established with the ultimate aim of preventing and reducing disaster losses in lives, and in social, economic, and environmental assets of people of ECO Member Countries"(Section F, Expected Outcome (vii), p. 9)

# Background

1. The 9th ECO Summit in 2006 highlighted the importance of regional cooperation on the issues of disaster risk reduction and recommended consideration of regional programmes and projects for early warning, preparedness and management of natural disasters and the need for strengthening collaboration within and beyond the region in this regard.
2. The Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters (RCRM) was established in Mashhad, Iran in March 2007 for the purpose of conducting the functions and discharging the responsibilities in weather-related disasters.
3. The ECO Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015 explored to enhance regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction and discussed the imperative of implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the ECO Region.
4. ECO Vision 2025 envisages the establishment of regional; (1) Disaster Information System and (2) Disaster Insurance System.
5. In the 1th Experts Group Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, October 26-28, 2016 in Tehran, the draft ECO Regional Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was prepared with support from Member States, IDB and UNESCAP to formulate a draft ECO Regional Framework for DRR that serves as a roadmap for the implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
6. The 2nd Experts Group Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, October 11-12, 2017, Ankara, Türkiye, finalized the text of “ECO Regional Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction”.
7. The 28th RPC adopted the ECO Regional Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and its related programs in 2017.
8. The 8th ECO Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, in 2021, adopted the "ECO Regional Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction" and the Roadmap of Implementing ECORFDRR (2021-2025).
9. The 1st Meeting of the Senior Officials/Heads of the Disaster Insurance Authorities under the Chairmanship of the Islamic Republic of Iran was held virtually on December 14, 2021. The aim of the meeting was to analyze the spread of insurance for the coverage of damages deriving from natural disasters and the variables that may affect the decisional process of underwriting or not an insurance contract
10. The Secretariat and UNESCAP subsidiary, the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) have conducted negotiations on a joint project on the “Strategic Action Plan for Managing Cascading Risks from Natural and Biological Hazards and Guideline for Implementation”. A consultant has been hired by APDIM for production of the appropriate documents and a training/workshop organized virtually for the ECO Member States, in February 2022.
11. The Council requested Member States to provide the Secretariat with the implementation status of the "ECO Regional Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction" and the Roadmap of Implementing ECORFDRR in 2022 and it is still progressing.
12. The 2nd Meeting of the Senior Officials/Heads of the Disaster Insurance held in July 2022 and the report of this event was circulated among Member States.
13. “Strategic Action Plan for Managing Cascading Risks from Natural and Biological Hazards” was prepared by cooperation of APDIM and it was finalized in July 2022.

# Progress Achieved since 33th RPC Meeting

1. The project on “Providing Landslide Hazard Zonation (LHZ) Map of ECO Member States” handed over to HRSD Directorate in 2023.
2. Draft Statute of the ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters (ECO-RCRM) was finalized in 26th COM Meeting in Tashkent.
3. The Council requested Member States to consider hosting the 9th ECO Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. It is pending.
4. “4th ECO Experts Group Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction and Implementation of the ECO Regional Framework for DRR” is scheduled to be held in Iran on 26-29 November. Meeting will review implementation status of ECORFDRR and take up priority areas for reinvigoration of potential partnership frameworks and key actions for further engagement of regional and global disaster disk reduction.
5. Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disaster (RCRM) has proposed to held the virtual distance training course/workshop with title “Natural Disaster Early Warning and Loss Estimation System” in Mashhad. Details are being finalized.
6. The Secretariat sent invitation for online training program on “Safe Schools, Resilient Communities” to Member States in line with the implementation of ECORFDRR. The training is being conducted in collaboration with Risk Research Center International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES) and UNESCO.
7. Bilateral meetings held with relevant national and international organizations including UNESCAP, UNDRR, ASEAN, APDIM, IFRC, GIS, and IRIMO to enhance the mutual level of cooperation.
8. The Secretariat also took part in the following non-ECO events:
9. “First Crisis Management Event for the Powerful Iran” (Tehran, February 14, 2023)
10. “13th Governing Board Meeting organized by the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (RCUWM) under the auspices of UNESCO (Tehran, February 23, 2023)
11. “International Sand and Dust Storm Conference” (Tehran, 9-10 September 2023). The Final Declaration appreciates ECORFDRR.
12. “ASEAN Interregional Dialogue on Disaster Resilience” (Singapore, 21-24 August 2023)
13. “Preparatory Meeting for Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in October 2024 in Manila” (20 September 2023)

# Expected Outcomes and Focused Issues/Events for 2024

1. Receipt of reports/feedback from Member States on implementation status of the ECORFDRR.
2. Organizing “9th Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction” to discuss the aforementioned reports/feedback.
3. Organizing workshop/training course on “Natural Disaster Early Warning and Loss Estimation” in collaboration with RCRM.
4. Maintaining interactions and collaborations with national and international institutions on DRR by attending relevant national and international events including Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on DRR in Manila.
5. Participation in the activities and the events listed in the draft calendar of events.

# Secretariat's Recommendations

1. The Counsel may highlight the significance of 9th Ministerial Meeting on DRR for the implementation of ECORFDRR and request Member States to consider hosting the meeting in 2024.
2. The Council may again request Member States to provide the implementation status of the “ECO Regional Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction” and the “Roadmap of Implementing ECORFDRR” to the Secretariat.
3. The Council may instruct the ECO Secretariat to enhance collaboration with international organizations such as UNDRR, IFRC and especially ESCAP (as envisioned in MoU).
4. The Council may instruct the ECO Secretariat to coordinate with the Member States for hosting the“3rd Senior Officials Meeting/ Heads Meeting for Disaster Insurance Authorities” in 2024.
5. The Council may appreciate the approval of the Status of ECO-RCRM by 27th COM in Tashkent in 2023 and invite Member States to join the protocol.
6. The council may encourage the Secretariat to engage the process of establishment of “loss and damage fund” by UN for compensating losses occurred in natural disasters.

# Area Conclusion

1. The adoption of the (i) Ankara Declaration, (ii) ECO Regional Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, and (iii) the Roadmap of Implementing ECORFDRR (2021-2025) has paved the way for the establishment of the regional systems of Disaster Information System and Disaster Insurance.
2. The implementation of related projects and programs will be closely coordinated with respective sub-regional UN offices and other international organizations such as IFRC , UNDRR as well as directly with ECO Member States to ensure that the scaling up and the implementation strategies align with the existing framework.
3. Engaging in establishment process of “loss and damage fund” may be considered as the global and regional goals in future.
4. Finally, developing training materials organizing and facilitating training workshop on the pathways to scale up the Regional Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction to address in this region with relevant institutions including RCRM and IIEES may highlight in this agenda.

# Health

##

# ECO Vision 2025 Approach and Target

1. ECO Vision 2025 encourages “Cooperation, focusing on non-communicable diseases as well as universal health coverage system.” "(Section F, Expected Outcome (iii), p. 9)

# Background

1. The 1th ECO Health Ministerial Meeting was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in 2010. The meeting finalized the report by Tehran University of Medical Science on "Regional Report on Millennium Development Health Related Goals in ECO Countries". Meeting also underlined the importance and the necessity of a Plan of Action to promote health cooperation among Member States through harmonized policies.

1. The 3rd Meeting of the "ECO High Level Experts Group Meeting on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as Post MDGs era" (January 21-22, 2015 –Tehran, Iran) discussed the draft outline for the ECO Plan of Action on Health.
2. The 2nd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Health (May 19, 2015 - Geneva, Switzerland) adopted the outline for ECO Plan of Action on Health Cooperation to be developed in line with the emerging SDGs, taking into account the immediate needs and requirements of our countries and ECO Region as a whole.
3. The final draft was submitted to the 3rd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Heath, convened on the sidelines of the 69th session of the World Health Assembly on May 24, 2016 in Geneva.
4. The 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Health was held virtually on June 2, 2021. The Meeting adopted the ECO Action Plan on Health for ECO Region and mandated the Secretariat to ensure effective implementation of the ECO Action Plan on Health.
5. The Secretariat circulated the report of the small sized project of “Regional Capacity on Intra-Trade of Pharmaceuticals” and requested from Member States to provide their views and feedbacks on the report in 2021 and nominated relevant person for the establishment of a Task Force dedicated to scrutinizing the report and developing a Plan of Action on the trade of pharmaceuticals within the region.

# Progress achieved since 33th RPC Meeting

1. The Virtual High Level Working Group Meeting on Health chaired by Republic of Azerbaijan was held on 17 May 2023. The meeting revised the action plan on health and the draft declaration of 5th Ministerial Meeting on Health.
2. The 5th Ministerial Meeting on Health was held on May 24, 2023 on the sidelines of the 76th Meeting of World Health Assembly in Geneva under the Chairmanship of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Member States adapted the revised “ECO Action Plan on Health”. The effective implementation of the Action Plan through active participation of Member States is the next step in ensuring health cooperation especially on non-communicable diseases as well as universal health coverage system.
3. The Secretariat circulated the revised and adopted “ECO Action Plan on Health” by 5th Ministerial Meeting on Health to the Member States.
4. Secretariat approached relevant international institutions including WHO and IsDB to improve mutual collaboration and for their supports in preparing and implementing regional project proposals in health.
5. The Secretariat attended following national and international non-ECO events during the period:
	1. 26th G5 High Level Experts Meeting on Health Cooperation (6-10 May 2023)
	2. Bilateral meeting with WHO country representative for Islamic Republic of Iran (13 March 2023)

# Expected Outcomes and Focused Issues/Events for 2024

1. Organizing “5th Expert Group Meeting on Health” to discuss the implementation status of “ECO Action Plan on Health”
2. Organizing “6th Health Ministerial Meeting on Health”. The meeting to discuss the implementation status of “ECO Action Plan on Health” and challenges faced.
3. Attending national and international non-ECO events on health with international organizations, including WHO and other stakeholders to enhance existing level of collaboration and technical support.
4. Enhancing visibility of ECO in this priority area.

# Secretariat's Recommendations

1. The Council may recommend the Member States for hosting 6th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Health as well as Expert Group Meeting and High Level Working Group Meeting (HLWG) on the implementation of the ECO Action Plan on Health in 2024.
2. The Council may request the Member States (except for the Republic of Azerbaijan) to provide their views and feedback to the Secretariat on the Feasibility Study of the project on ““Regional Capacity on Intra-Trade of Pharmaceuticals” and provide their nominations for a Task Force dedicated to discuss this project.
3. The Council may advise the Member States to consider hosting the “Workshop on Promoting Universal Health Coverage” within their territories in 2024.
4. The Council may request Member States to provide the implementation status of “the ECO Action Plan on Health” to the Secretariat.

# Area Conclusion

1. Implementation of the “ECO Action Plan on Health” after more than a decade was a big step forward in harmonizing policies on health within the region. The effective implementation of the ECO Action Plan on Health, through the active participation of Member States is the next step in ensuring health cooperation especially on non-communicable diseases as well as universal health coverage system.
2. Creation of Regional Consultation Mechanism for enhancement of technical cooperation on communicable diseases in close collaboration with WHO and other relevant international organizations is substantial for ECO region.
3. Accordingly, implementation of ECO Action Plan on Health has a critical role for enhancing collaboration on health in the ECO region.

# Education

##

# ECO Vision 2025 Approach and Target

1. ECO Vision 2025 calls for “Regional mechanisms/frameworks to support education, training, vocational needs and other capacity enhancement”. (Section F, Expected Outcome (i), p.9). It also calls for regional networks on higher education, regional exchange and scholarship programmes/ mechanisms; and also training/vocational programmes in the ECO region, to be developed with international institutions. (Implementation Framework, Section F(i), p. 29)

# Background

1. The Secretariat has facilitated various training programs and workshops on the priority areas:
	1. The “ECO School Earthquake Safety Review” in June 1-2, 2006 - Istanbul, Turkey.
	2. The Workshop on Prevention of HIV/AIDS related to Drugs on May 21-23, 2007 - Tehran, Iran.
	3. The First ECO Regional Workshop on Irregular Migration and Human Trafficking in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in March 9–11, 2008 in Kish Island, Iran.
	4. ECO-ISDR workshop: Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction in July 1-2, 2008, Tehran, Iran.
	5. “Voluntary Blood Donor Recruitment” and “Quality System in Blood Transfusion” in May 10-12, 2010-Tehran, Iran.
	6. Workshop on “Pharmacovigilance”  and  “Drug Quality Control” in July 19-21, 2010, Tehran, Iran.
	7. The Workshop on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) in May 10-11, 2017- Tehran, Iran.
	8. The ECO-UNESCO Workshop on “School Safety” in October 22-24, 2017-Tehran, Iran.
	9. The ECO-UN Habitat workshop on “Urban Resilience, Habitat Improvement, Disaster Risk Management and Built Environment” in November 11-14, 2018, Tehran, Iran.
	10. The Workshop on Disaster Risk Transfer through Insurance in the ECO region was held virtually on December 13, 2021.
	11. The Second Workshop on Disaster Risk Transfer through Insurance in the ECO region was held virtually in July, 2022.
2. The 27th RPC called on the Member States to inform the Secretariat on the availability of the academic scholarships. The Secretariat has also strived to encourage Member States to extend scholarships to other Member States in the priority areas.
3. The Secretariat via Note Verbal HRSD/2021/692 dated July 01, 2021, HRSD/2021/934 dated August 26, 2021 and HRSD/2021/1061 dated October 4, 2021 has requested Member States to provide the pertinent needs and requirements related to their education sectors enabling the Secretariat to coordinate the development of a Plan of Action on Education. However it is pending.
4. The Secretariat via Note Verbal HRSD/2021/1061 dated October 4, 2021 has requested the ECO Educational Institute to provide a draft Plan of Action on Education regarding the promotion of regional collaborative engagements for the acceleration of activities on education and related trainings.

# Progress Achieved since 33st RPC Meeting

* 1. The Secretariat has presented ECO project proposals for the inclusion into “ECO-EI Work Program” to be discussed at the ECO-EI Board of Trustees Meeting. It is pending.
1. Holding “2nd ECO Forum on Higher Education in ECO Region” with the collaboration of ECO- EI in December 2023 in progress.
2. The Secretariat sent a Note Verbal to Member States for providing contact details of the participants for online training program on "Safe Schools, Resilient Communities" by Regional Education and Research Center on Earthquake Risk Management and Resilience for West and Central Asia (RCECWA) and UNESCO. Only Tajikistan has responded so far.
3. Proactive collaboration with UNDRR, ESCAP, WHO, IFRC,UNDP, UNESCO, IOM, UNICEF with a view to identify possible strategic partnership frameworks, to secure financial/technical support for ECO projects and enhance organization’s visibility and outreach.

# Expected Outcomes and Focused Issues/Events for 2024

1. Preparing scholarships programs and courses for students in collaboration with the Member States and ECO-EI could be a new opportunity to improve the scientific and educational activities in the Region in 2024.
2. Collaboration with the new established UNESCO Center, Resilience for West and Central Asia (RCECWA) for joint projects as to implement ECORFDRR will be another step for the training activities on DRR in priority area of education.
3. For public information in DRR, HRSD presents a project proposal for making a movie or animation with children for implementing a regional initiative named “Preparedness for Resilient Recovery” for children to strengthen capacity for resilient prevention in ECO countries with cooperation of UN agency such *as* UNICEF, UNDRR.

# Secretariat's recommendations

1. The Council may request the ECO-EI to coordinate with the ECO Secretariat and announce the scholarship programs/training courses in Sustainable Development, Disaster Risk Reduction and Health for the students of the ECO Member States.
2. The Council may welcome the proposal regarding the joint workshop on “Trafficking in Persons and Human Smuggling” with cooperation of IOM.

# Area Conclusion

1. Workshops and training programs regarding the ECO mandates including sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and health in the ECO region may pave the way for a common understanding on these issues.
2. It is considered that regional collaborative engagements for acceleration of activities on education and related training activities, especially with ECO-EI, as well as preparing an “Action Plan on Education” will promote the quality of education in the region.
3. Engaging with the international organizations, including UNESCO and initiating collaboration in the areas of technical as well as vocational education and training would be an asset for both the Secretariat and region in the upcoming period.

# Calendar of Events (2024)

**HRSD**

## Review of the Calendar of Events for 2023

Throughout 2023, HRSD Directorate projected to hold 13 ECO events. While 5 out of 13 events conducted majority of the events planned could not be conducted due to the reasons shown in the graph above.

On the other hand, even though HRSD could not attend any of the non-ECO events projected in the calendar of events of 2023, it has participated 8 international non-ECO events which has not projected in the calendar of events of 2023 as well as numerous bilateral meeting with international institutions.

**Table: Report of ECO-Events for 2023 (HRSD)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Event/Activity** | **Venue** | **Date** | **Held/not held** |
|  | 9th ECO Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction  |  |  | Not Held |
|  | 5th ECO Health Ministerial Meeting  | Geneva(Hosted by Azerbaijan) | 24 May 2023 | Held |
|  | High Level Working Group (HLWG) Meeting to Discuss the Implementation of the Plan of Action | Secretariat/ (Virtually) | 17 May 2023 | Held |
|  | 4th ECO Experts Group Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction and Implementation of the ECO Regional Framework for DRR  | Secretariat, Tehran (Hosted by Islamic Republic of Iran) | 26-29 November 2023 | Held |
|  | 1th ECO- IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Crescent Societies) Senior Official Meeting  |  |  | Not Held |
|  | 1th ECO Forum on Sustainable Development  |  |  | Not Held |
|  | 2th ECO Forum on Higher Education in ECO Region | Secretariat-ECO-EI Virtually | December 2023 | Held |
|  | 3nd Senior Officials Meeting/ Heads Meeting for Disaster Insurance Authorities  |  |  | Not Held |
|  | 3nd Training workshop on “Disaster Risk Transfer through Insurance” |  |  | Not Held |
|  | ECO- (IFRC, APDIM, ESCAP , UNDP, UNFPA) Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals |  |  | Not Held |
|  | First meeting of the Task Force on Regional Capacity on Intra-Trade of Pharmaceuticals  |  |  | Not Held |
|  | Workshop on Promoting Universal Health Coverage in ECO Region |  |  | Not Held |
|  | Workshop on Empowering Vulnerable Households in ECO Region  |  |  | Not Held |

## Projected Events by HRSD for 2024

## ECO Events for 2024

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Event/Activity** | **Venue** | **Date** |
| 1. | 9th ECO Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction  | Secretariat/ Member States | 2024 |
| 2. | 6th ECO Health Ministerial Meeting  | Secretariat/ Member States | 2024 |
| 3. | High Level Working Group (HLWG) Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction | Secretariat/ Member States | 2024 |
| 4. | High Level Working Group (HLWG) Meeting on Health | Secretariat/ Member States | 2024 |
| 5. | 5th ECO Experts Group Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction and Implementation of the ECO Regional Framework for DRR  | Secretariat/ Member States | 2024 |
| 6. | 1st ECO- IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Crescent Societies) Senior Official Meeting | Secretariat/ Member States | 2024 |
| 7. | 1st ECO Forum on Sustainable Development  | Secretariat/ Member States | 2024 |
| 8. | 3rd Senior Officials Meeting/ Heads Meeting for Disaster Insurance Authorities  | Secretariat/ Member States | 2024 |
| 9. | 3nd Training workshop on “Disaster Risk Transfer through Insurance” | Secretariat/ Member States/ EI/RCRM | 2024 |
| 10. | The joint workshop with International Organization for Migration (IOM) on “Trafficking in Persons and Human Smuggling in the ECO Region”  | Secretariat,Tehran | First Quarter of 2024 |
| 11. | 1st meeting of the Task Force on Regional Capacity on Intra-Trade of Pharmaceuticals (The meeting will be held as per the outcome/decision of the 5th HLEG meeting) | TBD(Hybrid Mode) | 2024 |
| 12. | Workshop on Promoting Universal Health Coverage | TBD(Hybrid Mode) | 2024 |

## Non- ECO Events for 2024

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Event/Activity** | **Venue** | **Date** |
| 1 | United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) | New York | 2024 |
| 2 | SDG Summit | New York | 2024 |
| 3 | ESCAP at the High-Level Political Forum  | Bangkok  | 2024 |
| 4 | 9th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) |  | 2024 |
| 5 | Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR)  | Manila, Philippine  | 2024 |
| 6 | 70th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean  | Egypt(likely) | 2024 |
| 7 | 8th North and Central Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on SDGs. |  | 2024 |
| 8 | 77th World Health Assembly  | Geneva | 2024 |

# Ongoing Projects:

# F. Sector:

#  HUMAN RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Summary:**

The Directorate of Human Resources and Sustainable Development (HRSD) has completed phase one (1) about the project on **“Feasibility Study on Regional capacity on Intra-trade of pharmaceuticals (RCIP)”**during year of 2021. The information about the project completion was reflected in the 15th Project Monitoring Group Meeting (PMG) held on June 14, 2021 at ECO Secretariat circulated via Note Verbal No. PMG/Report of the 15th Meeting/2021/674 dated June 27, 2021.

On the other hand, while the project on “Providing Landslide Hazard Zonation (LHZ) Map of ECO Member States” had been under the mandates of Directorate of Energy, Mineral and Environment, it was handed over the mandates of HRSD in 2023.

Moreover, in line with the instruction by 31th RPC on “Developing a SDGs Performance Index for ECO Region”, the draft project proposal included in this report. Furthermore, a new project proposal on “Short Animation Video for Children of ECO Region on Disaster Prevention and Preparedness” has been enclosed to this report as well.

The status of the three (4) ongoing projects and (1) proposed projects are reflected in the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Disaster Risk Reduction**  | **1. Project Category:** |
| **HRSD1/Info/SSP/2020** | **2. Project Code:** |
| **Feasibility Study for Developing Disaster Risk Information Management System** | **3. Project Title:** |
| To set up knowledge management tool on DRR for Member States. | **4. Project Objective(s):** |
| 10,000 USD | **5. Project Budget (US$)** |
| - ECO Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF).- Development Partners, APDIM | **6. Project Funding Source:** |
| International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology and or APDIM or any related agency from MSs | **7. Coordinating Country / Organization:** |
| APDIM (ESCAP), UNDRR, ECO-RCRM | **8. International / Regional Partner:** |
| 12 months | **9. Duration of Project (Months):** |
| 2023 | **10. Project Starting Time (M/Y):** |
| Quarterly | **11. Project Progress Ratio (%):** |
| 1 Year | **11. Expected Project Completion Time (M/Y):** |
| **12. Background**:ECO Vision 2025, Sector F serial (vii), contains the activity to establish an ECO regional disaster information system. The draft ECO Regional Framework, developed under the said Vision in October 2017, has reflected the priority for *Knowledge Management and Web Portal Development* under paragraph 35.HRSD has received **a proposal feasibility study for establishment of a Regional Disaster Information System** from Iranian International Institute for Earthquake Engineering and Seismology, which can be considered.The total cost of the Management Information project depends on the details, such as inclusion of GIS systems, data range and its sources, etc.  |
| **13. Expected Outcomes of the Project:*** Reviewing international mandates and frameworks relevant to disaster information management such as Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Addis Ababa Action Agenda (financial sustainability), and Agenda of Humanity,
* Carrying out research on the existing regional and international disaster data systems, types of data they collect and share, how they operate, and how disaster data is used to inform development decision-making in the partner countries,
* Reviewing the existing natural disaster risk profiles in the Member States within the ECO region, assessing general gaps in production, management and use of disaster data in each state, and determining how incorporating regional disaster information data into decision-making could prevent, control, or reduce risk associated with disasters,
* Estimating costs and time required for designing, implementing a regional disaster information system in the ECO territory.
 |
| **14. Current Status:**1. ECO Secretariat has requested Member States to consider establishing "ECO Regional Disaster Information System" as envisioned in the ECO Vision 2025. The 8th ECO Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (March 17, 2021) adopted the "ECO Regional Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction" and the Roadmap of Implementing ECORFDRR (2021-2025). 2- 4th Expert Group Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction will be held in 2023 and it may be discussed in consultant meeting.  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Health**  | **1. Project Category:** |
| **HRSD2/H/2020** | **2. Project Code:** |
| “**Regional Capacity on Intra-trade of Pharmaceuticals (RCIP)**” | **3. Project Title:** |
| To do a holistic study on prerequisites and conditions in ECO region for promoting intra-trade of medicines between ECO Member States,To outline how trade and transport agreement between Member States could facilitate the medicine and Pharmaceutical trade in our region,To propose practical solution for "one application, one assessment, one market authorization" for the whole of ECO region.  | **4. Project Objective(s):** |
| USD 60,000 | **5. Project Budget (US$):** |
| At least 20% from ECO Budget (in-kind), the rest (in-cash) from the partner/s, | **6. Project Funding Source:** |
| ECO Secretariat | **7.Coordinating Country/Organization:** |
| IsDB and WHO | **8. International/Regional Partner:** |
| 48  | **9. Duration of Project (Months):** |
| 2020 | **10. Project Starting Time (M/Y):** |
| Quarterly | **11. Project Progress Ratio (%):** |
| 2024 | **12. Expected Project Completion Time (M/Y):** |
| **13. Background**:Given the ECO commitment to SDGs and as specified in the founding documents of the Organization, uplifting the standards of living, quality of life, economic welfare and wellbeing of people of the region constitute the very aim of regional cooperation in this part of the world. Promotion of regional health and pharmaceutical cooperation can be considered as one of the key objectives of ECO for which the Member States attach high importance. However, pharmaceutical cooperation can't be sustainable unless the member states move toward establishment of ECO Medicines Agency to contribute to facilitation of regional medicine regulatory. Further to decision of 24th COM reflected in its report (paragraph 28) following small sized project phase one (1) about **feasibility of Regional capacity on Intra-trade of pharmaceuticals (RCIP)**” (costs US$ 8,500) has been completed on March 3, 2021.  |
| The report of the small sized project was circulated 16 June 2021 No.641 note verbal amongst the Member States for their consideration. Member States have been requested to nominate their relevant representatives for the establishment of a Task Force dedicated to scrutinizing the report and developing a Plan of Action on pharmaceuticals’ trade within the region.  |
| **14. Expected Outcomes of the Project:*** Analysis of the current situation of ECO Members in Pharmaceuticals;
* Identification of (1) non-trade challenges and barriers (regulatory, marketing, policies and practices) to market expansion; and (2) trade related challenges and obstacles (pricing, localization, tariffs);
* Assessment of existing ECO agreements which can ease or rebate pharmaceutical trade along with new suggestions to facilitate the case;
* The feasibility of establishing an ECO regional Medicines Agency.
 |
| **15. Current status:**1. Small sized project feasibility study RCIP was completed mid-2021 whereupon final report circulated to MS. Member States were requested to provide their nominations for the establishment of a Task Force dedicated to scrutinizing the report and developing a Plan of Action on the trade of pharmaceuticals within the region. Only the Republic of Azerbaijan responded to the request.
2. The 33th RPC decided that the first meeting of the Task Force on Regional Capacity on Intra-Trade of Pharmaceuticals will be held as per the outcome/decision of the 5th HLEG meeting.
3. In the 5th ECO Health Ministerial Meeting in 24 May 2023 in Geneva, Turkish delegation proposed for more discussion on this project at the expert level.
4. The feasibility of establishing an ECO regional Medicines Agency will be the next phase.
 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Disaster Risk Reduction**  | **1. Project Category:** |
| **HRSD3/H/2020** | **2. Project Code:** |
| **Providing Landslide Hazard Zonation (LHZ) Map of ECO Member States** | **3. Project Title:** |
| Comprehensive studies and researches have been conducted on understanding the vulnerability factors of landslides and consolidation, stabilization and zonation of landslide masses hazard in Iran and manycountries of the world; such as Canada, USA, Italy, Nepal, India and Brazil. All these measured fall in three categories: a. Methods of engineering judgment and weighting to effectivefactors maps, b. Two and partial variable statistical methods c. Certain methods of geotechnical modelsChoosing any of the above methods depends on the spread of the studyarea, availability of data, etc. According to the study area dimension andgeotechnical data accessibility, specific methods of engineering judgmentand weighting to maps of vulnerability factors will apply. This method hasbeen utilized in some parts of Iran and has had significant identity withoccurred landslides according to the field study. | **4. Project Objective(s):** |
| USD 290,000 | **5. Project Budget (US$):** |
| At least 17% from ECO Budget, the rest from the partner/s, | **6. Project Funding Source:** |
| ECO Secretariat/Geological Survey of Iran (GIS) | **7.Coordinating Country/Organization:** |
| --- | **8. International/Regional Partner:** |
| 48  | **9. Duration of Project (Months):** |
| 2020 | **10. Project Starting Time (M/Y):** |
| Quarterly | **11. Project Progress Ratio (%):** |
| 2024  | **12. Expected Project Completion Time (M/Y):** |
| **13. Background**:Natural hazards as the greatest natural enemy of human, every year causes death and injuries thousands of people and leaves millions of people homelessness across the world. Landslide which is the falling down massive and often rapid movement of the sediments along the slopes, is being one of the worldwide problems threats the humankind. Most of the landslides cause the long-term economic and financial damages, population displacement and will have negative impacts on natural environment which undoubtedly their dimensions will be increased in the future. Landslides cause severe physical damages by making farmlands and forests useless, and also by destructing roads, bridges and other infrastructures. Landslides also resulted in a severe damage to the environment and different species of plants and animals.Although landslide is often considered as a local problem it could affect the adjacent areas and turn to a state, province and even national scale disaster and impose financial crisis.Increasing population growth alongside the geopolitical boundaries and limitation,have caused the occupation of unstable slopes and faraway regions. The stabilization of the landslide-affected areas is often very costly measure and on the other hand some of high risk zones’ inhabitants, do not have any other places to movement.Regarding the fact that landslides are more manageable and predictable thanother natural hazards such as floods, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, etc.recognition the phenomena and spotting the high risk area are of the keyimportance to prevent its damages. |
|  |
| **14. Expected Outcomes of the Project:****a. Preparing digital basic database:**Parameters used in this project include lithology, active fault, slop and its orientation, climate and rainfall, land use, landslides and seismic zones. The collected data are evaluated and processed. (Collected data and maps will be digitized and stored as database in ArcGIS.)**b. Preparing basic thematic maps:**In this level, basic data (vulnerability factors) will be extracted as the basic maps and as a layer with an appropriate scale for using in the GIS.**c. Calculation of Score Factor:**The score factor will be calculated by determining weight of each factor and sub factors regarding of their effect on landslide susceptibility.**d. Integration and modeling:**All the influencing factors of different variables will be added simply together to find out the probable areas of landslide occurrence.**e. Zonation & Classification:**The whole range of variation was classified into different groups of a Landslide Hazard Zonation map of the study area. |
| **15. Current status:**The project will be completed in 24 month since signing the contract. The ECO Secretariat and the project team will ensure the fulfillment of the envisaged activities within the timetable.HRSD had a meeting with GIS about the current status of the project in October 2023. The updated version of the project will be provided by GIS. Moreover, this project will be discussed in the 4th Expert Group Meeting in November 2023.  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sustainable Development**  | **1. Project Category:** |
| **HRSD1/Info/SSP/2023** | **2. Project Code:** |
| **“Developing an SDGs Performance Index for ECO Member Countries to Measure Multidimensional Development** | **3. Project Title:** |
| Regional development indexes offer a holistic and standardized approach to assess and promote regional development. They support evidence-based decision making, resource allocation, and policy planning, leading to more equitable and sustainable development outcomes. Therefore, this index is expected to estimate multidimensional development of the ECO Member Countries in terms of SDGs performance.  | **4. Project Objective(s):** |
| Up to 10,000 USD | **5. Project Budget (US$)** |
| ECO Budget, and any regional or international partner | **6. Project Funding Source:** |
| ECO Secretariat | **7. Coordinating Country / Organization:** |
| ---- | **8. International / Regional Partner:** |
| 12 months | **9. Duration of Project (Months):** |
| 2024 | **10. Project Starting Time (M/Y):** |
| Quarterly | **11. Project Progress Ratio (%):** |
| December 2024 | **11. Expected Project Completion Time (M/Y):** |
| **12. Background**: ECO Vision 2025, Sharing the SDGs by United Nations (UN), ECO has determined “sustainability” as one of the main principles of ECO Vision 2025 to increase standard of living, quality of life, economic welfare and well being of people in the region. (Core Principles, a. Sustainability, All ECO Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015. The First High Level Experts Group Meeting (HLEG) (December 2006, Ankara, Turkiye) identified areas for ECO cooperation in the field of “human and sustainable development”. The meeting encouraged Member States to contribute towards regional efforts to reduce poverty and promote human development in the region. In the 31th RPC Meeting in 2021, the Secretariat has been instructed to request from Member Countries to provide respective data/documents regarding SDGs along with their updated implementation status in order to prepare a consolidated regional SDGs report along with SDG performance index for the Region in this regard.In the 33th RPC Meeting in 2023, the Council requested the Secretariat to establish a “High Level Sustainable Development Working Group (HLSDWG)/ad-hoc Coordinating Group” as to prepare an “Action Plan” for enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) in the region. |
| **14. Necessary Actions and Assistance Needed:**An index should accurately reflect the current status of Member States in terms of achieving SDGs. This aspect pertains to the index's overall accuracy. Furthermore, an accurate index should be easy to compute, even when confronted with limited data availability. This facilitates the index's maintenance and reproducibility. However, several challenges need to be addressed.In this respect, firstly the HLSDWG with the representatives of relevant institutions from Member States should be established. Then, with the assistance and advises of this working group the necessary data could be requested/collected from Member States. Finally, specialist/economist could be hired by ECO Secretariat to develop the index.  |
| **15. Expected Outcomes of the Project:**Regional development indexes offer a holistic and standardized approach to assess and promote regional development. They support evidence-based decision making, resource allocation, and policy planning, leading to more equitable and sustainable development outcomes. Here are some key advantages of using regional development indexes:**A healthy comparison of ECO member states:** They allow for a systematic comparison of various regions based on their development levels. By using standardized indicators and methodologies, these indexes enable policymakers, researchers, and analysts to evaluate the relative strengths and weaknesses of different regions. This information can help identify best practices, target areas for improvement, and facilitate evidence-based decision-making.**Addressing disparities accurately:** They highlight disparities and inequalities across the countries. They reveal variations in economic, social, and infrastructure development, shedding light on regions that require targeted interventions and investments. This knowledge is crucial for governments and development agencies to allocate resources effectively and address regional imbalances.**Rapid action for ECO Member States:** They provide valuable insights for policy formulation and evaluation. Policymakers can use these indexes to identify policy gaps, set development targets, and design targeted policies to address specific regional needs. By monitoring changes in regional development over time, policymakers can assess the effectiveness of their policies and make informed adjustments or course corrections.**Helping ECO Member States for integration and designing a better common future:** They serve as benchmarks for setting goals and targets at regional, national, and international levels. They enable countries and regions to compare their development progress against others and set realistic aspirations. These benchmarks can motivate governments, organizations, and communities to work towards improving their regional development performance and narrowing disparities.**Better use of regional resources:** They assist in guiding investment decisions and resource allocation. They help businesses, investors, and development agencies identify regions with favourable development prospects and growth potential. By highlighting areas of high development need, these indexes can attract targeted investments, infrastructure development, and development initiatives to bridge the regional development gaps.**Capacity building:** They rely on robust data collection and analysis methodologies, ensuring a data-driven approach to decision making. They provide policymakers and stakeholders with reliable, comparable, and comprehensive data on multiple dimensions of regional development. This helps in identifying patterns, understanding trends, and making informed decisions based on evidence rather than assumptions. |
| **15. Current status:**The 34th Council also instructed the Secretariat to conclude the project on “SDG performance index for the region” until the end of 2024.  |

**Proposed Projects:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Disaster Risk Reduction**  | **1. Project Category:** |
| **HRSD2/H/2023** | **2. Project Code:** |
| **Short Animation Video for Children of ECO Region on Disaster Prevention and Preparedness**  | **3. Project Title:** |
| In line with the implementation of ECO Regional Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (ECORFDRR), the main objective of the project is to develop a three-minute animation movie to enhance awareness and interest of ECO society in disaster recovery and prevention to cover public information. The final objectives of the project are: a)reducing the additional social and economic consequences of disasters due to poorly managed prevention processes; b) avoiding increasing risk of future disasters; c) restoring the path to development with enhanced resilience by “building back better.”  | **4. Project Objective(s):** |
| USD 10,000  | **5. Project Budget (US$):** |
| ECO Budget, and any regional or international partner  | **6. Project Funding Source:** |
| ECO Secretariat | **7.Coordinating Country/Organization:** |
| --- | **8. International/Regional Partner:** |
| 12  | **9. Duration of Project (Months):** |
| Beginning of 2024 | **10. Project Starting Time (M/Y):** |
| Quarterly | **11. Project Progress Ratio (%):** |
| 1 Year  | **12.Expected Project Completion Time (M/Y):** |
| **13. Background and overview :** One of the main objectives of Regional Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (ECORFDRR) for 2017-2022 is to understand disaster risk to increase public awareness about the natural risks and hazards (hydro meteorological, geological, biological, and environmental); to enhance engagement of public participation at all levels of implementation to create disaster resilient communities through increased partnership and expanded risk reduction networks at all levels. Accordingly, “Promoting public awareness and preparedness by implementing Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) projects” is one of the actions in the ECORDRR to handle abovementioned issues. It seems that there is a general lack of understanding within national governments on how to implement prevention programmes.  In the urgency to respond to the needs of the people affected by disasters, prevention programmes are undertaken without a sound analysis of the impact of disasters on the affected communities, and with little reference to special needs for children. |
|  |
| **15. Expected Outcomes of the Project:**With respect to this project, a short generic animated video, making use of “illustrative storytelling” techniques will be produced for children. The objective is to create an understanding for ECO’s approach to disaster risk reduction by increasing the public averseness with this animation. The main target audience of the project is the children in ECO Member Countries. The partners of the project are national partners, UN Country Teams, development partners, donors etc…  |
| **16. Current status:**This is a newly proposed project. The project will be completed in 12 month since signing the contract. The ECO Secretariat and the project team will ensure the fulfillment of the envisaged activities within the timetable. |