



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**Seventy-fifth session**

Bangkok, 27–31 May 2019

Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific: social development**Report on the fifth session of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022****Note by the secretariat*****Summary*

The Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, held its fifth session in Bangkok on 21 and 22 February 2019.

The Working Group was established in 2013 to provide technical advice and support for the full and effective implementation of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. The membership of the Working Group for the period 2018–2022 was endorsed by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-fourth session.

The Working Group reviewed progress made on the implementation of the Incheon Strategy since its fourth session, with particular focus on goal 3 on accessibility, goal 4 on social protection and goal 8 on disability data. The Working Group adopted its rules of procedure for its second term (2018–2022) and its workplan for 2019, as well as a set of recommendations to support the implementation of the Incheon Strategy in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Commission may wish to consider the report of the Working Group with a view to providing guidance on the implementation of the Incheon Strategy.

* ESCAP/75/L.1.

** The present document was submitted late to allow time for members of the Working Group to complete the required review of the draft report following the meeting.

I. Decisions

1. At its fifth session, held in Bangkok on 21 and 22 February 2019, the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, adopted its rules of procedure for its second term (2018–2022), as contained in annex I of the present document, and its 2019 workplan, as contained in annex II.
2. The Working Group also decided that the thematic focus of its next session will be on three of the goals of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific: goal 1 on poverty reduction; goal 6 on gender equality; and goal 7 on disaster risk reduction.

II. Recommendations

3. During discussions at its fifth session, the Working Group made the following recommendations.

Evidence-based monitoring and implementation of the Incheon Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals

4. The Working Group encouraged members and associate members to map the status of disability statistics across ministries and develop and implement national action plans to improve disability data, using templates provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).
5. The Working Group encouraged members and associate members to disaggregate data by disability across the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, leveraging data collected for the Incheon Strategy core indicators.
6. The Working Group encouraged members and associate members to synergize the implementation of the Incheon Strategy, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
7. The Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability Foundation and the Shuchona Foundation were requested to share with the Working Group their data collection templates and strategies on persons with autism.

Improving communication for the deaf community

8. The Working Group encouraged members and associate members to promote legal recognition of sign languages.

Accessibility of information and communications technology

9. Working Group members should explore possible ways to address gaps in information and communications technology (ICT) accessibility.

Strengthening social protection for persons with disabilities

10. The Working Group requested the ESCAP secretariat to present the progress of the work of the Group of Experts for Strengthening Regional Cooperation on Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific at the next session of the Working Group.

Disability inclusion in voluntary national reviews of the 2030 Agenda

11. Working Group members should coordinate with the Sustainable Development Goals focal points in their Governments to leverage data collected for the Incheon Strategy indicators in their reporting on Sustainable Development Goals progress, paying due attention to issues concerning children, women and girls, older persons and persons with disabilities.

12. Working Group members should include representative organizations of persons with disabilities in the preparation of the voluntary national review reports.

13. The secretariat and the South Asian Disability Forum were requested to inform the voluntary national review consultation workshop during the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, to be held in Bangkok from 27 to 29 March 2019, of the urgent need to mainstream disability perspectives in the voluntary national review.

14. The Government of Pakistan was requested to share its experience on disability-inclusive voluntary national review with Working Group members.

Working paper on public procurement policy to advance universal design-based accessibility

15. Working Group members should disseminate the final version of the working paper within their respective countries and constituencies.

16. The Government of India was requested to update the Working Group on the development of its disability-inclusive procurement policies.

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility: Campaign for the Good Treatment of Girls, Boys, and Adolescents with Disabilities in the World

17. The Governments of Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea and Thailand expressed their commitment to translate the campaign materials on the “10 principles for my protection, well-being and development as a girl, boy or adolescent with disabilities” into their national languages.

18. The above-mentioned Governments and Disabled Peoples’ International Asia-Pacific, Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability Foundation and Asia-Pacific Women with Disabilities United planned to disseminate materials and videos related to the 10 principles within their respective countries and communities.

19. The Digital Accessible Information System (DAISY) Consortium planned to create accessible formats of the materials related to the 10 principles.

20. The Government of Bhutan planned to report on its efforts to harmonize national policies and programmes with the 10 principles at the next session of the Working Group.

Resource mobilization for the Asia-Pacific Multi-donor Trust Fund

21. The secretariat should strengthen outreach to its members and associate members as well as other donors to mobilize more resources for the Asia-Pacific Multi-donor Trust Fund.

Twenty-first session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Geneva, 11 March–5 April 2019

22. The secretariat was requested to inform the Working Group at its next session on the outcome of its virtual participation in the twenty-first session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Modality-related issues

23. Working Group members should inform subregional intergovernmental organizations of decisions and recommendations of the Working Group.

24. Working Group members should use appropriate terms when referring to persons with disabilities. Disabled Peoples' International Asia-Pacific was requested to share a list of recommended terminology with the Working Group.

III. Proceedings**A. Review of recent progress in the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022**

(Agenda item 4)

25. The Working Group had before it information documents on evidence-based monitoring and implementation of the Incheon Strategy (SDD/APDPD(3)/WG(5)/INF/8); enhancing access to the physical environment, public transportation, knowledge, information and communication (SDD/APDPD(3)/WG(5)/INF/9); and strengthening social protection for persons with disabilities (SDD/APDPD(3)/WG(5)/INF/10).

26. Under this agenda item, the Working Group considered evidence-based monitoring and implementation of the Incheon Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals and held an in-depth discussion on goal 3 and goal 4 of the Incheon Strategy.

1. Evidence-based monitoring and implementation of the Incheon Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals

27. Representatives of the following Governments made interventions: Bangladesh; Bhutan; China; India; and Russian Federation. Representatives of the following civil society organizations made interventions: Asia-Pacific Women with Disabilities United; Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Autism Network; DAISY Consortium; Disabled Peoples' International Asia-Pacific; Shuchona Foundation; South Asian Disability Forum; and World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry.

28. The secretariat provided an overview of the midpoint review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, with highlights on the availability of baseline data for the Incheon Strategy indicators. It also briefed the Working Group on the substantive focus of its capacity-building project, implemented from 2014 to 2018 with support of the Government of the Republic of Korea, to collect reliable and comparable statistics on persons with disabilities. It highlighted key policy actions of the Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy, with regard to strengthening data collection and disability-inclusive implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The secretariat concluded by presenting the design of two forthcoming projects to support the implementation of the Incheon Strategy and the Beijing Declaration and Action Plan, to be funded by China and the Republic of Korea.

29. The Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability Foundation presented on the ASEAN Autism Mapping Project, to be implemented in the coming two years with the following key outputs: development of an ASEAN profile on persons with autism spectrum disorder; provision of policy recommendations to enhance data collection on persons with autism and to promote their social and economic participation; and organization of national and regional autism awareness events.

30. The Statistics Division of ESCAP briefed the Working Group on the availability of data for the Sustainable Development Goals. An ESCAP analysis indicated that while data availability was uneven across the 17 Goals, disaggregated data by disability was sparse or not available at all. While introducing its new initiative, “Every policy is connected”, a tool that facilitates cooperative, principle-based policy-data integration, it emphasized the importance of disaggregated data for evidence-based development and monitoring of policies to leave no one behind.

31. The Working Group was informed of country-level initiatives to collect disability data on indicators of the Incheon Strategy and to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals, and challenges faced in the effort to accurately enumerate persons with disabilities. The complexity of identifying persons with autism and psychosocial disabilities was highlighted, due to persistent discrimination and inconsistent methodologies.

2. In-depth discussion on goal 3 and goal 4 of the Incheon Strategy

(a) Goal 3 on ensuring access to the physical environment, public transportation, knowledge, information and communication

32. Representatives of the following Governments made interventions: Bhutan; and India. Representatives of the following civil society organizations made interventions: Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability Foundation; Asia-Pacific Disabled Peoples’ Organizations United; Asia-Pacific Women with Disabilities United; DAISY Consortium; Disabled Peoples’ International Asia-Pacific; Shuchona Foundation; South Asian Disability Forum; World Blind Union – Asia Pacific; World Federation of the Deaf, Regional Secretariat for Asia; and World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry.

33. The secretariat highlighted key issues that arose in promoting universal-design based accessibility in Asia and the Pacific, its ongoing work on the subject as well as the way forward. The past and upcoming initiatives of the secretariat included the following: (a) an expert meeting on creating universal design-based accessible societies in Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok on 13 and 14 December 2018; (b) a forthcoming publication on disability at a glance 2019, with a thematic focus on accessibility; (c) a working paper on public procurement policies to advance universal design-based accessibility; (d) participation in the ongoing development the United Nations system-wide accountability framework on disability mainstreaming; and (e) a proposal to establish a Working Group task force on accessibility. While noting the lack of a cost-benefit analysis in government implementation of universal design-based accessibility and highlighting the importance of cross-ministerial and multisectoral partnerships, the secretariat welcomed the feedback of the Working Group and encouraged members of the Working Group to formulate disability-inclusive procurement policies and translate working papers into local languages.

34. The Korea Disabled People's Development Institute shared the history of legal development on accessibility and universal design in the Republic of Korea. The barrier-free certification was highlighted as a good practice, and other examples of universal design practice in the country were provided. The Korea Disabled People's Development Institute emphasized that universal design should cover not only the physical environment but also information, communications and services.

35. The World Federation of the Deaf, Regional Secretariat for Asia and the Nippon Foundation made a joint presentation on the importance of legal recognition of sign languages. The World Federation of the Deaf, Regional Secretariat for Asia described inaccessible environments for the deaf community, namely barriers in language acquisition and socio-emotional development. The Nippon Foundation project in Dong Nai University, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, illustrated that integrating sign language into classroom instruction could help deaf students have more sustainable access to education. The presentation emphasized that sign language should be legally recognized as a language to enable its wider use in society and enhance social and economic participation of persons who are deaf. The Working Group was informed that the International Day of Sign Languages was celebrated for the first time in 2018.

36. World Enabled gave a presentation on its efforts with the Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs to promote accessible and inclusive smart cities, including the Smart Cities for All Toolkit, and its work in South-East Asia to promote disability-inclusive cities. The ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities, adopted at the thirty-third ASEAN Summit, includes 27 action points that combine international and regional disability and human rights mandates and frameworks. World Enabled also shared information about the launch of the Global Compact on Inclusive and Accessible Cities and invited members of the Working Group to contribute to the dialogue on the ASEAN Smart Cities Network.

37. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations presented the preparations for the *United Nations e-Government Survey 2020*, including the questionnaire for member States that had just been issued. Chapters 2, 4 and 8 of the forthcoming survey report would be relevant for disability-inclusive development. It shared the key disability or accessibility-specific findings from the 2016 and 2018 editions of the *e-Government Survey*, and recommended that the Working Group engage with the Internet Governance Forum, including the dynamic coalition on accessibility and disability.

38. The Working Group members shared their experiences in promoting accessibility and discussed challenges facing persons with disabilities in accessing public buildings, transportation, information and services. Such challenges are linked to attitudinal barriers, the lack of accessibility standards to cover the specific needs of persons with various types of disabilities, and the lack of public or private investments to enhance accessibility.

39. DAISY Consortium suggested that a gap analysis survey of ICT accessibility would be necessary. There was significant variation in accessibility standards adopted by each country, thus the concept of ICT accessibility standards needed to be clarified and adapted in the Asia-Pacific region.

40. Disabled Peoples' International Asia-Pacific described a recent defeat in a legal case filed by a wheelchair user against a domestic airline in Thailand that did not allow her to travel alone using their aircraft. This case illustrated the difficulties in achieving accessibility.

(b) Goal 4 on strengthening social protection

41. Representatives of the following Governments made interventions: Bangladesh; Bhutan; China; and India. Representatives of the following civil society organizations made interventions: Disabled Peoples' International Asia-Pacific; Shuchona Foundation; and World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry.

42. The secretariat provided an overview of the fifth session of the Committee on Social Development, held in Bangkok from 28 to 30 November 2018; the workshop on the right to social protection, held in Bangkok on 30 November 2018; and the forthcoming ESCAP policy guide on social protection and persons with disabilities.

43. The secretariat noted that many developing countries in the region were spending only one third of the global average of social protection expenditures as a percentage of gross domestic product. Social protection coverage was often limited to a small portion of population, including individuals with regular employment contracts in the formal sector, leaving the vast majority of the population, especially persons with disabilities, without sufficient social protection. By increasing government spending on social protection, poverty could be significantly reduced in Asia and the Pacific. Governments could start with developing a scheme for a social protection floor to cover a basic set of human rights-based needs, including health care, education and income security, using universal or targeted coverage approaches as appropriate.

44. The Working Group was informed that a group of experts on strengthening regional cooperation on social protection in Asia and the Pacific would be established, and Government members of the Working Group were called on to nominate their representatives. As part of its series of policy guides to strengthen political commitment and build the knowledge base for policymakers and stakeholders, ESCAP was developing a guide on social protection policies for persons with disabilities. The Working Group was invited to contribute country examples and good practices to the guide, as well as to the ESCAP Social Protection Toolbox.

45. The Working Group members shared their experiences in developing and implementing disability-specific or inclusive social protection schemes. Although universal coverage would be the best option, due to resource constraints, many Governments were using a targeted coverage approach which required a viable information system to ensure that those who need support are covered. The Working Group felt that there was a need to develop non-contributory and rights-based social protection programmes for persons with disabilities and expand the coverage of existing schemes not only to ensure their equal and effective access to basic social services, such as food, health care, education and support, but also to contribute to fostering social inclusion and participation.

B. Consideration of the strategic direction and adoption of the workplan of the Working Group, 2019–2022

(Agenda item 5)

46. The Working Group had before it the draft workplan for 2019 (SDD/APDPD(3)/WG(5)/2).

47. The Working Group considered three issues under this agenda item: strategic opportunities; resource mobilization for implementing the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities; and working modalities and the 2019 workplan.

1. Strategic opportunities

48. The secretariat briefed the Working Group about the global “Campaign for the Good Treatment of Girls, Boys and Adolescents with Disabilities in the World” of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility. The campaign was launched in the Asia-Pacific region with the “10 principles for my protection, well-being and development as a girl, boy or adolescent with disabilities”, in Bangkok on 25 September 2018.

49. A number of Working Group members expressed interest in the campaign and committed to promoting its messages in their countries, including the translation of the 10 principles into their national languages.

50. The Working Group was informed by the Environment and Development Division of ESCAP about the ongoing voluntary national reviews of the 2030 Agenda in conjunction with the high-level political forum on sustainable development, to be held in New York from 9 to 18 July 2019. There was a strategic opportunity to mainstream the disability perspective into the 2030 Agenda, and the Sixth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, held in Bangkok from 27 to 29 March 2019, would provide an opportunity to do so. As consultations on voluntary national reviews often did not have representation of persons with disabilities, members of the Working Group were invited to include persons with disabilities in the completion of voluntary national reviews.

51. The Working Group took note of the forthcoming twenty-first session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to be held in Geneva from 11 March to 4 April 2019. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities informed the meeting that it was increasingly interested in the Asia-Pacific region due to the complementarities between the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Incheon Strategy, and suggested that the Working Group share the reports on its sessions.

52. The Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability Foundation provided a presentation on the Fourth Asia-Pacific Community-Based Inclusive Development Congress, jointly organized by the Government of Mongolia and the Community-based Rehabilitation Asia-Pacific Network, to be held on 2 and 3 July 2019 in Ulaanbaatar, on the theme of sustainable social development and economic growth through community-based inclusive development. All Working Group members were invited to participate in the Congress and to register by 30 May 2019.

2. Resource mobilization for implementing the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities

53. Interventions were made by the representative of the Government of India and the following civil society organization members: Asia-Pacific

Disabled Peoples' Organizations United; Asia-Pacific Women with Disabilities United; Disabled Peoples' International Asia-Pacific; and Shuchona Foundation.

54. The Working Group took note of the status of the Asia-Pacific Multi-donor Trust Fund and the Make the Right Real Fund of the Republic of Korea to support the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022. The limited resources of the Multi-donor Trust Fund were used mainly for the provision of reasonable accommodation services to participants with disabilities in ESCAP meetings, and there was a need to increase contributions to the Fund through diversification of donors. The Make the Right Real Fund was supporting various programmes in the Republic of Korea and other Asian countries for policy research, capacity-building in disability statistics, advocacy, rehabilitation and promotion of accessibility.

55. The Working Group emphasized that the Multi-donor Trust Fund should continue to support participation of persons with disabilities in ESCAP meetings, including Working Group sessions, and discussed ways for mobilizing more resources by reaching out to ESCAP members and associate members as well as donors outside the Asia-Pacific region.

3. Working modalities and the 2019 workplan

56. The secretariat brought to the attention of the Working Group key working modalities and the timeline of milestone activities in the remaining years of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities.

57. The Working Group considered and adopted its 2019 workplan.

C. Review of the rules of procedure of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, for its second term (2018–2022)

(Agenda item 6)

58. The Working Group had before it the document on the proposed amendments to the rules of procedure of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022 (SDD/APDPD(3)/WG(5)/1).

59. The Working Group considered and adopted the above-mentioned document.

D. Discussion on the date and venue of the next regular session

(Agenda item 7)

60. There was no offer received from the Working Group members to host the next regular session. It was agreed that the sixth session of the Working Group would be held at ESCAP in Bangkok, with the tentative dates set in early February 2020, if there were no offers to host the next session in the coming months.

E. Any other matters

(Agenda item 8)

61. The Working Group adopted the decisions and recommendations emanating from its fifth session.

IV. Organization

62. The Working Group held its fifth session at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok on 21 and 22 February 2019.

63. The secretariat supported sign language interpretation service for participants with hearing disabilities.

A. Opening of the fifth session of the Working Group

64. The fifth session was opened by the Acting Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP.

65. Statements were also delivered by: Ms. Saowalak Thongkuay, Disabled Peoples' International Asia-Pacific; Mr. Hitoshi Kozaki, First Secretary and Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Japan; Mr. You Liang, Director General, China Disabled Persons' Federation, China; and Ms. Choi Kyung-suk, President, Korea Disabled People's Development Institute, Republic of Korea.

B. Closing of the session

66. Closing statements were delivered by the Chief, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division, ESCAP; and Ms. Dolly Chakrabarty, Joint Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, India.

C. Attendance

67. Representatives of the following government members of the Working Group attended the fifth session: Bangladesh; Bhutan; China; India; Japan; Kiribati; Malaysia; Pakistan; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; and Thailand. Representatives of the following civil society organization members also attended: ASEAN Autism Network; Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability Foundation; Asia-Pacific Disabled Peoples' Organizations United; Asia-Pacific Women with Disabilities United; DAISY Consortium; Disabled Peoples' International Asia-Pacific; Shuchona Foundation; South Asian Disability Forum; World Blind Union - Asia Pacific; World Federation of the Deaf, Regional Secretariat for Asia; and World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry.

68. Regrets were sent by the Governments of Indonesia, Myanmar, Samoa and Timor-Leste and by organizations including the Asia-Pacific Disability Forum, Inclusion International Asia-Pacific, the Pacific Disability Forum and Rehabilitation International Asia-Pacific Region.

69. The following special guests attended the fifth session: Korea Disabled People's Development Institute and Nippon Foundation.

70. Following guest speakers contributed to the session: Senator Monthian Buntan, Member, National Legislative Assembly, Thai Parliament, and Member, Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Mr. Pong Cruz, Regional Director for Asia Pacific, World Enabled; Mr. Wai-Min Kwok, Senior Governance and Public Administration Officer, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; Mr. Arman Bidarbakht Nia, Chief, Statistical Data Management Unit, Statistics Division, ESCAP; and Ms. Hitomi Rankine, Environmental Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP.

D. Election of officers

71. The Working Group elected the following as Bureau officers:

- Chair: Ms. Dolly Chakrabarty (India)
Vice-Chairs: Ms. Rosmahwati binti Ishak (Malaysia)
Mr. Yasunori Shimamoto (World Federation
of the Deaf, Regional Secretariat for Asia)

E. Agenda

72. The Working Group adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Review of recent progress in the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022.
5. Consideration of the strategic direction and adoption of the workplan of the Working Group, 2019–2022.
6. Review of the rules of procedure of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, for its second term (2018–2022).
7. Discussion on the date and venue of the next regular session.
8. Any other matters.
9. Closing.

Annex I

Rules of procedure of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, for its second term (2018–2022)

The original text was drawn up and adopted by the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, at its first session held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, on 25 and 26 February 2014. The proposed amendments were adopted by the Working Group at its fifth session held in Bangkok on 21 and 22 February 2019.

Rule 1 Sessions

The following principles shall apply as regards the convening of sessions of the Working Group:

- 1.1 Regular sessions of the Working Group shall be held annually.
- 1.2 Sessions shall be convened by the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).
- 1.3 The ESCAP secretariat may also convene ad hoc sessions of the Working Group, if requested by more than half of the members of the Working Group in consultation with the Chairperson.
- 1.4 The ESCAP secretariat shall transmit a written invitation to each regular session of the Working Group, together with a provisional agenda, at least 60 work days in advance of the start of the session, and, whenever practicable, a written invitation to each ad hoc session, together with a provisional agenda, at least 30 work days before the start of each session.
- 1.5 An invitation to a session shall be sent to the senior official designated to represent the member of the Working Group at the correspondence address conveyed to the ESCAP secretariat for official correspondence. Responses to invitations shall be sent via electronic mail to the ESCAP secretariat within the requested time frame, that is, no later than 30 work days before a regular session and 15 work days before an ad hoc session.
- 1.6 All formal correspondence addressed to government members of the Working Group shall be copied to the permanent representatives of member States that are members of the Working Group, in accordance with existing rules and procedures of ESCAP, through official channels of communication. Furthermore, formal correspondence shall be addressed to the functional titles, and not to the personal names, of those designated to serve as standing members of the Working Group.

Rule 2 Venue

- 2.1 Working Group sessions shall ordinarily be held at ESCAP in Bangkok.
- 2.2 Members of the Working Group may make known at a session their offers to host subsequent sessions at an alternate venue.
- 2.3 A session may be held away from ESCAP in Bangkok, provided that the Working Group member representing a member State or civil society

organization that proposes to host the session covers the additional costs to be incurred as a result of the change in venue, in accordance with a cost estimate prepared by the ESCAP secretariat.

Rule 3
Secretariat

The ESCAP secretariat shall serve as the secretariat of the Working Group.

Rule 4
Participation

4.1 Members of the Working Group shall participate in its sessions on a self-financing basis.

4.2 For meetings held away from ESCAP, the host Government or host organization may consider defraying the cost of travel, accommodation and subsistence of Working Group members.

4.3 If members of the Working Group are not able to travel to the venue of a session, they may be allowed to participate in the session remotely using available technologies. In this case, the formal request for remote participation shall be submitted to the ESCAP secretariat no later than 30 work days before a regular session and 15 work days before an ad hoc session.

4.4 In the event that a member does not attend two consecutive sessions (regular or ad hoc), that member shall relinquish its seat on the Working Group.

Rule 5
Reasonable accommodation

Every effort shall be made to provide reasonable accommodation to representatives of Working Group members.

Rule 6
Conduct of business

6.1 The Working Group shall at each session elect a Chairperson, as well as two Vice-Chairpersons, one from a Government and one from a civil society organization, who would serve until the next regular session.

6.2 The Chairperson may, if required, appoint a task force composed of interested Working Group members to undertake in-depth review of specific issues for consideration by the Working Group.

6.3 Before a proposal is agreed upon, the Chairperson shall call on the ESCAP secretariat to provide a statement on the financial implications of the proposal.

6.4 Decisions and recommendations of the Working Group shall, in principle, be made by consensus. In the event that consensus cannot be reached, decisions shall be made by a majority of the Working Group members present at a session and voting.

Rule 7
Voting

7.1 Each Working Group member shall have one vote.

7.2 The Working Group shall normally vote by a show of hands. If the Chairperson requests a roll call, it shall be taken in the English language alphabetical order of the names of Working Group members, that is, the names of the member States followed by the names of the civil society organizations.

Rule 8
Agenda

8.1 The provisional agenda for each regular session of the Working Group shall be drawn up by the ESCAP secretariat. Working Group members may suggest amendments to the agenda in writing in advance of the session or orally and in writing at the start of the session itself.

8.2 In each regular session, the Working Group shall include the following items in the provisional agenda:

- (a) Adoption of the agenda;
- (b) Election of the Chairperson and two Vice Chairpersons;
- (c) Review of the implementation of decisions emanating from the previous session of the Working Group;
- (d) Review of recent progress in the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022;¹
- (e) Review of resource mobilization for progress on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022;
- (f) Date and venue of the next regular session.

8.3 In addition, the Working Group shall discuss the progress of the implementation of select Incheon Strategy goals, and of relevant actions in the Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy, and consider other emerging issues in the context of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

8.4 The provisional agenda for ad hoc sessions of the Working Group shall be drawn up by the ESCAP secretariat, as required.

Rule 9
Language

The sessions of the Working Group shall be conducted in English and documentation shall be issued in English.

Rule 10
Report on the sessions of the Working Group

10.1 The draft report on each session of the Working Group shall be prepared by the ESCAP secretariat and transmitted to Working Group members within

¹ Paragraph 2 of the terms of reference of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022.

15 work days of the end of a session. Working Group members shall transmit any comments on the draft report to the ESCAP secretariat in 10 to 15 work days of receiving the draft report. The ESCAP secretariat shall transmit the final report to Working Group members and observers as soon as possible, and in no event later than 35 work days after the session.

10.2 The report on each session of the Working Group shall, among others, include its decisions and/or recommendations. These decisions and/or recommendations shall be discussed and agreed upon during the respective session of the Working Group.

10.3 Unless otherwise mandated, the reports of the Working Group on each of its sessions held until the end of the Decade shall be submitted to the Commission for its consideration.

10.4 The outcomes of the sessions of the Working Group shall be incorporated in the reports to the Commission at its seventy-sixth, seventy-eighth and seventy-ninth sessions on progress in the implementation of Commission resolution 69/13 entitled “Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, and the Incheon Strategy to ‘Make the Right Real’ for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific”, and of Commission resolution 74/7 entitled “Towards disability-inclusive sustainable development: implementation of the Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy”.

10.5 Official documents for the sessions of the Working Group shall be made available in accessible formats, as required. A digital version of the official documents for the sessions of the Working Group shall be made available in universally accessible formats, such as EPUB3 or Digital Accessible Information System (DAISY) Consortium.

Rule 11

Representation and tenure

11.1 The tenure of Working Group members, namely member States and civil society organizations, shall be five years spanning the period 2018–2022, bearing in mind rule 4.4.

11.2 Each member State and civil society organization represented on the Working Group² shall inform the ESCAP secretariat in writing of the name of its senior representative, and confirm the address, including email address, to which official correspondence concerning the Working Group should be sent.

11.3 In the event that the designated representative of a Working Group member, whether a member State or a civil society organization, is unable to continue her/his duty on the Working Group, that member State or civil society organization shall designate another senior official to represent it in the Working Group.

11.4 Any member or associate member of ESCAP interested in attending a session in an observer capacity and on a self-financing basis shall express such interest in writing to the ESCAP secretariat well in advance of the convening of a session.

² The composition of the Working Group, 2018–2022, is available at www.maketherightreal.net/working-group.

11.5 A civil society organization of an ESCAP member or associate member that is interested in attending a session of the Working Group, in an observer capacity and on a self-financing basis, must meet the eligibility criteria specified in paragraph 7 of the terms of reference of the Working Group. Such a civil society organization shall express its interest in writing to the ESCAP secretariat well in advance of the convening of a session.

11.6 Subregional intergovernmental agencies, United Nations agencies, development cooperation agencies and development banks may be invited to attend Working Group sessions in an observer capacity and on a self-financing basis.

11.7 Any member of the Working Group may contribute the technical inputs of subject specialists to facilitate consideration of a matter on which a decision or recommendation would be required of the Working Group. The ESCAP secretariat may also invite such specialists to facilitate recommendations by the Working Group. An invitation to a specialist to provide technical inputs to a session in an observer capacity shall be limited to that specific session and such an observer shall not participate in decision-making by the Working Group.

Rule 12

Entry into force and amendments to these rules of procedure

12.1 These rules of procedure shall enter into force on the date of their adoption by the Working Group.

12.2 Any aspect of these rules of procedure may be amended or overridden during a Working Group session, provided the amendment or exception is consistent with the spirit and intent of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, and agreed to by the Working Group.

Annex II

2019 workplan of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022

The present document contains proposed actions to be taken by members of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, between its fifth session, held in Bangkok from 21 to 22 February 2019, and its sixth session, to be held in early 2020.

A. Prepare the report on the fifth session of the Working Group for submission to the Commission at its seventy-fifth session, to be held in Bangkok from 27 to 31 May 2019

Review the draft report and provide comments and inputs by 22 March 2019

B. ESCAP publication on disability at a glance 2019, with a thematic focus on accessibility

Review the draft ESCAP publication and provide comments and inputs by 15 August 2019

C. ESCAP draft working paper on public procurement policy to advance universal design-based accessibility

Review the draft working paper, and provide comments and inputs by 31 March 2019

D. ESCAP policy guide on social protection

Provide good practices on disability-inclusive social protection policies and programmes by 25 March 2019

E. Disability mainstreaming into the 2030 Agenda and voluntary national reviews

Take action in accordance with the recommendations made by the Working Group at its fifth session to promote disability inclusion in voluntary national reviews of the 2030 Agenda and to share good practices on disability-inclusive implementation through regional platforms such as the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

F. United Nations e-Government Survey 2020

Provide inputs to the draft questionnaire for the United Nations e-Government Survey 2020 by 25 March 2019

G. Global campaign of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility for the good treatment of girls, boys and adolescents with disabilities: Asia-Pacific launch with the 10 principles

Take action, in accordance with the recommendations made by the Working Group at its fifth session, to promote the 10 principles in the national context, including the translation of the 10 principles into national languages

H. Preparation for the sixth session of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022

1. Finalize the venue and dates for the sixth session of the Working Group by mid-October 2019
2. Respond to invitation issued by the ESCAP secretariat within the requested time frame, no later than 30 work days before the session
3. Include in the agenda consideration of a draft road map for the regional preparatory process leading up to 2022 and progress in implementation of the Incheon Strategy and the Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy, to be reported to the Commission at its seventy-sixth session in 2020
4. Inform the ESCAP secretariat of the intent to present good practices or provide a briefing on the past or upcoming disability events at the sixth session, no later than 30 work days before the session
5. Inform the ESCAP secretariat of the intent to present inputs from other stakeholders, as appropriate, no later than 30 work days before the session

Annex III

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>General series</i>		
SDD/APDPD(3)/WG(5)/1	Proposed amendments to the rules of procedure of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022	6
SDD/APDPD(3)/WG(5)/2	Draft workplan of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities for 2019	5
SDD/APDPD(3)/WG(5)/3	Report on the fifth session of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022	
<i>Limited series</i>		
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<i>Information series</i>		
SDD/APDPD(3)/WG(5)/INF/1	Concept note	
SDD/APDPD(3)/WG(5)/INF/2	Information for participants	
SDD/APDPD(3)/WG(5)/INF/3	Provisional list of participants	
SDD/APDPD(3)/WG(5)/INF/4	Tentative programme	
SDD/APDPD(3)/WG(5)/INF/5	Report on the fourth session of the Working Group	
SDD/APDPD(3)/WG(5)/INF/6	Report on the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022	
SDD/APDPD(3)/WG(5)/INF/7	Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy	
SDD/APDPD(3)/WG(5)/INF/8	Evidence-based monitoring and implementation of the Incheon Strategy	4
SDD/APDPD(3)/WG(5)/INF/9	Enhancing access to the physical environment, public transportation, knowledge, information and communication	4
SDD/APDPD(3)/WG(5)/INF/10	Strengthening social protection for persons with disabilities	4