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Item 8 of the provisional agenda*
Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission**

Summary

The present document is submitted to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for its consideration. It covers the activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission during the period from June 2024 to February 2025. The Commission may wish to take note of the report and provide comments on it.

I. Introduction

1. The present document covers the activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission during the period from June 2024 to February 2025. The Advisory Committee appointed Mr. Hun Saroeun (Cambodia) to serve as Rapporteur of the Advisory Committee, with the responsibility of presenting its report to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its eighty-first session.

II. Activities of the Advisory Committee

2. During the period under review, the Advisory Committee held six regular sessions.

3. The secretariat provided the Advisory Committee with briefings on the work of the Commission and the secretariat, as well as its role and work, including in relation to its position in the United Nations development system.

* ESCAP/81/1.

** The present document was submitted late owing to the need for the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission to consider the report at its 417th session, which was held on 20 February 2025.

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4. At its regular sessions, the Advisory Committee discussed, inter alia, the following subjects:

(a) Preparations for the eighty-first session of the Commission: the Advisory Committee was briefed by the secretariat on the preparations for the eighty-first session of the Commission and provided guidance, including in relation to the development of the provisional agenda and tentative programme;

(b) Outcome of the eightieth session of the Commission: in its review of the outcome of the eightieth session of the Commission, the Advisory Committee considered the major achievements of the session, such as the adoption of four resolutions by the Commission. The Advisory Committee provided guidance on the implementation by the secretariat of the resolutions adopted by the Commission;

(c) Proposed calendar of meetings of the Commission for 2025 and proposed calendar of intergovernmental meetings for 2026: the Advisory Committee took note of the proposed calendar of meetings for both years and advised the secretariat on scheduling and organizational aspects;

(d) Review of the preparations for and outcomes of the following meetings:

(i) Eleventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development;

(ii) Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation;

(iii) Eighth session of the Committee on Social Development;

(iv) Eighth session of the Committee on Environment and Development;

(v) Eighth session of the Committee on Transport;

(vi) Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review;

(vii) Ninth session of the Committee on Statistics;

(viii) High-level regional consultation on financing for development in Asia and the Pacific;

(e) Review of the preparations for the following meetings:

(i) Third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific;

(ii) Thirteenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development;

(iii) Second Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration;

(iv) Twelfth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development;

(v) Twenty-eighth session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development;

(vi) Second session of the Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation;

(f) Review of the outcomes of the following meetings of regional institutions:

(i) Nineteenth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development;

(ii) Twentieth session of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization;

(iii) Twentieth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology;

(iv) Ninth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management;

(v) Twentieth session of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;

(vi) Nineteenth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.

5. Members of the Advisory Committee actively contributed to the successful outcomes of the intergovernmental meetings held since the previous session of the Commission, with several representatives serving on the bureaux of the meetings and helping to steer discussions towards a successful conclusion.

6. While the present document covers the activities of the Advisory Committee during the period from June 2024 to February 2025, it should be noted that members of the Advisory Committee were also instrumental in facilitating consensus among member States on the outcomes of the eightieth session of the Commission in the context of the Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions. Similarly, members of the Advisory Committee are expected to play an important role in facilitating consensus ahead of the eighty-first session of the Commission.

7. The secretariat presented to the Advisory Committee the proposed programme plan for 2026.

8. The Executive Secretary regularly informed the Advisory Committee of: (a) activities relating to the work of the United Nations and of the Commission, as well as the outcome of her participation and engagements at major meetings; (b) cooperation between member States and the secretariat; and (c) administrative and programme matters concerning the Commission. Moreover, the Advisory Committee was briefed by the Executive Secretary on the achievements of the Commission in 2024. In that context, the Advisory Committee was invited to provide guidance to the secretariat on its future work and to bring to the attention of the secretariat other issues and potential expectations for 2025 that could help the Commission to strengthen its support to member States.

9. The Advisory Committee expressed its continued appreciation for the briefings of the Executive Secretary, noting that it found them useful and informative.

III. Conclusions

10. The secretariat regularly updated member States at Advisory Committee sessions on key issues related to the work of the United Nations and the Commission during the reporting period. The members of the Advisory Committee actively participated in the intergovernmental meetings held since the previous session of the Commission, including by serving in the bureaux, thereby contributing to their success. The Advisory Committee asked questions and provided guidance on important issues concerning the Commission and the secretariat, including the implementation of resolutions adopted by the Commission and the organization of various intergovernmental meetings and initiatives of the secretariat.

11. The Commission may wish to take note of the present document and provide comments on it.