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# Economic and Social Council

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**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

**Eighty-first session**
Bangkok, 21–25 April 2025

## Account of proceedings

**Agenda item 1**
**Opening of the session**

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific elected Ms. Arzu Rana Deuba (Nepal) Chair of its eighty-first session on 21 April 2025, and she presided over the opening of the session. A statement was delivered by the Prime Minister of Thailand, Ms. Paetongtarn Shinawatra. Video messages were played from the President of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, Mr. Philemon Yang; the eightieth President of the Economic and Social Council, Mr. Bob Rae; and the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Executive Secretary of the Commission delivered her own welcoming remarks.

2. A video message was played from the Chief Adviser of Bangladesh, Mr. Muhammad Yunus. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Tuvalu, Mr. Panapasi Nelesone, delivered a statement.

**Agenda item 2**
**Current and emerging policy issues for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific**

**Sub-item (a)**
**General debate**

3. The Commission had before it the note by the secretariat on current and emerging policy issues for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/81/2).

4. The Executive Secretary made introductory remarks and delivered a policy statement.

5. Representatives of the following members of the Commission made statements or submitted video statements: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Türkiye, Turkmenistan,



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United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

6. Representatives of the following associate members of the Commission made statements: Cook Islands and Hong Kong, China.

7. A representative of Germany, a Permanent Observer to the Commission, made a statement.

8. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and funds made statements: International Atomic Energy Agency and International Organization for Migration.

9. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations also made statements: Eurasian Economic Commission and International Transport Forum.

10. Statements were also made by the Chair of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network and representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

11. The Commission recognized the complexity and interrelated nature of regional development challenges, including rapid urbanization, demographic transitions, rising inequalities, environmental challenges and natural disasters. In that context, several member States emphasized the value of the Commission as a regional platform for dialogue, noting that it facilitated peer learning, knowledge-sharing, technical assistance and South-South cooperation and supported the implementation of voluntary national and local reviews of the Sustainable Development Goals. They highlighted the importance of catalysing partnerships. Several member States underscored the importance of regional platforms, technical assistance and partnerships as enablers for the achievement of the Goals. Additional support in that regard was expressed by other member States, who recognized the role of the Commission in facilitating knowledge-sharing, joint initiatives and innovation-driven development.

12. Many representatives reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the Commission in its role as a regional think tank and convening platform for promoting cooperation and addressing shared challenges. They encouraged the secretariat to continue assisting member States through analytical work, capacity-building, technical assistance and intergovernmental dialogue. Several member States highlighted their financial and technical contributions to initiatives of the Commission.

13. Representatives also highlighted the work of the regional institutions, namely the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management, the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

14. Several member States reaffirmed the importance of multilateralism and collaboration to build inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

15. Several representatives also highlighted the importance of regional and subregional cooperation, including through participation in regional organizations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation.

16. Several representatives noted that tighter fiscal conditions and high sovereign debt levels presented critical barriers to economic growth, public investments in infrastructure and social services, and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Some representatives underscored the need to reduce the risk of public debt distress, including through debt forgiveness initiatives.

17. Several representatives noted that high levels of economic uncertainty and instability posed a risk for development. One representative expressed concern that the improper use of tariffs could adversely influence the trade interests of countries, affect the rules-based multilateral trading system and introduce uncertainty into the global economic landscape. The representative called for openness and cooperation to advance inclusive and sustainable development. One representative highlighted surging inflation and public debt as posing risks and obstacles to development.

18. Several representatives emphasized the need to develop sustainable industrial economies, raise productivity and prioritize green growth and regional climate partnerships as key national goals.

19. The Commission acknowledged the theme of regional cooperation for resilient and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific as timely and highly relevant, in particular in the context of increasing urbanization, demographic transitions and climate vulnerability in the region. It acknowledged urbanization as a key driver of economic growth and transformation across the region but noted that it also presented substantial challenges related to housing, infrastructure, the delivery of basic services and environmental sustainability.

20. Several member States highlighted the role of cities both in contributing to and solving climate challenges. They identified urban areas as central to climate resilience and advocated for the integration of climate-related goals into urban development strategies. Several representatives noted the importance of voluntary national and local reviews in strengthening Sustainable Development Goal monitoring and fostering inclusive implementation.

21. Several representatives highlighted the importance of building resilience among all communities, including vulnerable urban communities. They noted the importance of ensuring that no one would be left behind in access to basic services and opportunities, especially in the context of cascading global challenges such as climate change; demographic shifts, including ageing; and the widening digital divide.

22. Smart cities and digital transformation were noted by several member States as enablers of inclusive and sustainable urban development. Many representatives shared national strategies and pilot initiatives that leveraged digital infrastructure to improve urban management and service delivery. Other representatives highlighted: (a) the use of data-driven policies and digital platforms to support planning and decision-making; and (b) the

implementation of digital or e-governance systems to increase transparency and efficiency in urban services.

23. The Commission was informed of actions taken at the national level to expand access to adequate and affordable housing, with a specific focus on low-income groups, informal settlements and populations vulnerable to natural disasters and the impacts of climate change. Initiatives highlighted included the revision of national housing policies; the establishment of large-scale public-private partnerships; and the integration of housing strategies into broader frameworks for climate adaptation and resilience, disaster risk reduction and inclusive development. Housing was recognized not only as a critical element of urban infrastructure but also as a key strategic area for enhancing social protection, reducing urban poverty and strengthening disaster resilience. In the pursuit of liveable, inclusive and sustainable cities, several member States emphasized the importance of integrated urban planning and policy, adequate and affordable housing, and the improved delivery of basic services to meet the growing demands of urban populations.

24. Several members of the Commission noted with concern that the rapid pace of urbanization in Asia and the Pacific posed risks for deepening socioeconomic inequalities, disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups such as women, persons with disabilities and older persons. Several representatives noted that ensuring equitable access to education, digital technologies and economic resources was essential to advancing inclusive urban development.

25. Some representatives highlighted concerns about the lack of sufficient financing for development, including access to concessional financing. Innovative financing tools, such as blended finance, green and sustainability bonds, improved access to affordable financing and the development of carbon markets, were identified as drivers of sustainable development. Several member States also underscored the need for equitable, timely and predictable access to concessional climate finance, in particular for countries in special situations (i.e. least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States).

26. Several representatives noted the significant demographic shifts and population changes occurring across the region and highlighted programmes and initiatives to address them, including: (a) engaging youth representatives in government initiatives; (b) providing alternative learning opportunities for out-of-school youth; (c) investing in education, including continuing professional education and lifelong learning; (d) providing socialized and community-centred housing and preferential loans for young people to buy homes; and (e) providing free public transport for older persons.

27. Several representatives emphasized the importance of social inclusion for resilient and sustainable urban development. Several member States shared national policies and initiatives focused on youth empowerment, disability, gender equality and access to essential services for marginalized communities. Several representatives reaffirmed that inclusive urbanization and climate-resilient development must be rooted in human rights and community engagement, with particular attention to vulnerable groups such as informal workers, persons with disabilities, older persons, children and Indigenous Peoples.

28. Persistent barriers such as limited access to finance, the digital divide and a lack of affordable, climate-resilient housing were noted as disproportionately affecting women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable population groups.

29. Some representatives stressed the need to strengthen women's leadership and participation in urban planning and utilize gender-responsive budgeting as a tool to address structural inequalities.

30. Several representatives shared examples of efforts to advance gender equality and social inclusion in urban settings. These included targeted health and social protection programmes for women, older persons, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable population groups. Additional measures highlighted prioritizing women's ownership of housing and providing financial resources to support women-led businesses in urban areas.

31. Several members of the Commission reaffirmed their commitment to leaving no one behind in the process of resilient and sustainable urban development. Several representatives emphasized the need for people-centred urbanization that was inclusive and resilient to climate change.

32. Many representatives highlighted the need for the establishment and expansion of social protection systems, including social security and social assistance, pensions and inclusive health insurance.

33. Multilateral and regional cooperation, partnerships and the sharing of experiences were highlighted as valuable in addressing issues, including migration. The Commission was acknowledged as a valuable platform in that regard, including for promoting measures that addressed vulnerabilities and inclusiveness.

34. Several representatives identified climate change as a significant and escalating challenge for the region, with some calling it an existential threat.

35. One representative highlighted the vulnerability of ecosystems to climate change and environmental disasters, including unprecedented massive floods, as well as the need to devise sectoral adaptation plans and address both the economic and non-economic losses caused by climate change, such as biodiversity loss.

36. Some member States highlighted national commitments and legislative frameworks for climate action, placing climate goals at the centre of their development strategies and affirming support for the Paris Agreement. Several countries stressed the importance of increasing investments in nature-based solutions and expanding disaster preparedness and early warning systems. Some member States emphasized the importance of community-based approaches.

37. Several representatives of Pacific small island developing States recognized that climate change remained the most pressing threat to sustainable development, jeopardizing infrastructure, livelihoods and human life, while economic growth and development in cities across the region continued to be uneven, with financing gaps further deepening disparities. The representatives stated that, given the geographical isolation and resource constraints of small island developing States, technical assistance, funding and knowledge-sharing from the international community were considered essential. The role of the Commission as a platform for regional cooperation continued to be invaluable, they noted, in fostering collaboration across the

region and beyond, with the adoption of best practices and peer learning strongly encouraged.

38. To foster climate resilience and sustainable development, several member States highlighted the need to strengthen integrated approaches across sectors, including water, food, agriculture, land and the oceans. Efforts to improve sustainable water resource management, including in shared river basins, were emphasized as critical components of climate adaptation and in response to environmental challenges. Reforestation and urban nature-based solutions, including urban wetlands and green corridors, were some of the examples given by member States to enhance biodiversity, food and water security, human and ecosystem health, carbon sequestration, livelihoods and overall climate resilience. The importance of ocean protection was reaffirmed by some representatives, who highlighted that initiatives supporting the blue economy, sustainable fisheries, mangrove restoration, and sustainable and climate-resilient coastal cities were integral to resilient development strategies.

39. Some member States highlighted challenges related to air pollution and waste management, while others reported progress in implementing circular economy strategies and improving urban waste systems through enhanced data collection and recycling initiatives. Some representatives detailed national and subregional efforts to improve air quality through strengthened air pollution control frameworks, the tightening of national standards and regulations, the installation of monitoring infrastructure and cooperation on transboundary haze pollution.

40. With regard to the need to redesign urban infrastructure and planning in response to natural disasters and energy and climate risks, some representatives highlighted national efforts to promote energy-efficient urban planning and construction practices; national initiatives to promote green technologies and materials; and disaster-resilient, energy-efficient building designs.

41. Several member States informed the Commission of national efforts to increase investments in green initiatives and clean energy as part of broader strategies to promote low-carbon and sustainable development. Many member States reported on their progress in achieving national climate change strategies and goals, including in terms of climate neutrality and renewable energy.

42. Some representatives emphasized the role of climate-smart investments in supporting sustainable development and resilience, in particular in vulnerable areas. Several member States also reported on initiatives to enhance energy efficiency and disaster resilience in buildings and the construction sector, including through updated building codes; the integration of renewable energy; and improved materials and technologies.

43. One representative emphasized the urgency of accelerating the energy transition, with fair and tailored support for countries dependent on fossil fuels. Another representative advocated for a balanced approach to the provision of affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern sources of energy for all and remarked that moving to low-carbon sources of energy should not occur at the expense of other elements of socioeconomic development.

44. A few representatives emphasized the importance of regional energy cooperation, including through transboundary power grid integration projects and regional energy dialogues, and reported on national initiatives in that regard.

45. Several representatives noted that digital transformation could serve as one of the enablers of inclusive and sustainable development, including through the harnessing of the transformative potential of digital technologies such as artificial intelligence and big data, which could drive economic growth and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of public service delivery.

46. One member State highlighted that engaging in regional cooperation for the development of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, was important to advancing resilient and sustainable development.

47. Several representatives noted the need for accelerated investment in information and communications technology infrastructure, in particular in rural and underserved areas. They also noted the need to expand access to digital technologies, which could strengthen business competitiveness and broaden economic and social opportunities for all.

48. Several representatives also noted that national digitalization policies and strategies could address the growing digital divide and improve public service delivery for all, including through cross-sectoral reforms in the domains of labour, education, health and financing.

49. The Commission was informed of national initiatives to enhance transport connectivity through the construction, rehabilitation and operation of roads, railways, dry ports and seaports. Several representatives highlighted the role of regional and subregional cooperation and the importance of improving transport efficiency through transport digitalization and other means.

50. Some representatives noted initiatives aimed at promoting rail transport to enhance transport sustainability and the connectivity of landlocked developing countries, including through the expansion of rail infrastructure and the electrification of rail as a means of reducing carbon emissions.

51. Several members of the Commission emphasized the important role of technology and digital transformation in the transport sector and smart mobility infrastructure. In that regard, the Commission was informed of national initiatives aimed at enhancing urban mobility through projects such as the development of intelligent transport systems.

52. Several members of the Commission highlighted efforts to promote the accessibility, sustainability and resilience of urban transport systems, including urban public transport systems. In that context, the Commission was made aware of national initiatives such as: (a) the promotion of sustainable mobility; (b) the implementation of policies on green mobility, including energy efficiency in transport, the electrification of transport and low-emission urban transport systems; and (c) the implementation of measures to promote the accessibility and affordability of transport, including through pricing measures, and people-centred urban development. Despite various efforts made, several representatives highlighted that challenges in improving the sustainability and efficiency of urban public transport systems remained.

53. Several representatives of landlocked developing countries emphasized the development of transport, trade, state-of-the-art information and communications technology, and energy connectivity as priorities for their countries' sustainable and inclusive development.

54. Several representatives highlighted the promotion of international transport corridors and intraregional transport connectivity projects; the integration of the national transport system into international infrastructure;

and the creation of large logistics centres that ensured regional coordination of multimodal transport.

55. Several representatives emphasized that engaging in regional cooperation, including in the areas of connectivity, transit-oriented development, regional trade and supply chain integration for sustainable development, was important for addressing shared challenges and promoting sustainable development.

56. Some representatives specifically emphasized the importance of trade and regional integration, including through trade agreements, digital trade, trade facilitation, trade corridors and the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific.

57. Some representatives expressed concern over the rise of unilateral measures and coercive actions, emphasizing the importance of adhering to international law and market principles.

58. Several representatives acknowledged the Commission's role in supporting member States to advance digital trade policy and integration efforts, as well as the secretariat's support in the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific.

59. Several representatives emphasized the role of private sector investment, including foreign direct investment and public-private partnerships, in striving towards sustainable development. Some representatives highlighted initiatives to support micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and inclusive and sustainable businesses.

60. Several representatives noted the importance of science, technology and innovation as drivers of progress and sustainable development and, in particular, the need to focus on advancing digital technologies through knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, policy coordination, increased investment and regional cooperation.

61. Several member States noted the importance of robust, agile statistical systems for effective monitoring and reporting of progress on sustainable development. Several member States also noted the importance of capacity-building, including through the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

62. The Commission heard statements from intergovernmental and international organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and other entities, in which they reaffirmed the importance of multilateral and multi-stakeholder engagement in advancing resilient and sustainable urban development. Interventions highlighted the critical role of sustainable infrastructure in supporting inclusive and climate-resilient cities, alongside the need to strengthen regional cooperation frameworks to enhance connectivity and coordinated action.

63. Several organizations shared experiences in leveraging innovative technologies to support urban resilience and environmental sustainability, while humanitarian actors emphasized the urgent need for stronger collaboration in crisis-affected urban areas to respond effectively to the needs of vulnerable populations.

64. Representatives underscored the role of the private sector in accelerating the transition towards sustainable urban development through innovation and circular economy principles, with a focus on achieving inclusive, community-centred outcomes.

65. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Commission adopted resolution 81/1 on advancing the sustainable development of middle-income countries in Asia and the Pacific, without a vote.

66. Armenia, Fiji, India, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste and Türkiye joined the Philippines in sponsoring the resolution.

67. The representative of the United States of America made a statement indicating that, while his delegation joined the consensus in adopting the resolution, it disassociated itself from the resolution because it believed that the Commission should focus not on climate policy but on practical efforts beneficial to all member States. He added that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals impinged on State sovereignty as a soft form of global governance and that his Government would no longer reaffirm them as a matter of course in United Nations resolutions or other documents.

68. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted decision 81/1, by which it took note of the note by the secretariat on current and emerging policy issues for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/81/2), without a vote.

**Sub-item (b)**
**Subregional perspectives**

69. The Commission had before it the note by the secretariat on subregional perspectives on current and emerging policy issues for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/81/3).

70. Representatives of the following members of the Commission made statements: Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Philippines, Tajikistan and Thailand.

71. The Executive Secretary made introductory remarks before a dialogue among the following representatives of subregional organizations and groupings: Secretary-General of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, Mr. Indra Mani Pandey; Secretary-General of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, Mr. Golam Sarwar; Secretary-General of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat, Mr. Lee Hee-sup; Secretary-General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia, Mr. Kairat Sarybay; Deputy Secretary-General of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue, Mr. Mohammad Taghi Hosseini; Deputy Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Mr. Sohail Khan; Deputy Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Mr. Esala Nayasi; and Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, Mr. San Lwin.

72. The Secretary-General of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation emphasized the importance of leveraging regional cooperation to address shared development challenges in South and South-East Asia. He noted that in the region progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals had slowed down due to climate change and economic losses resulting from the

coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The widening digital divide, the existence of underdeveloped digital infrastructure and the decline in international development assistance were identified as major obstacles. He highlighted documents recently adopted by his organization such as the Bangkok Vision 2030, an agreement on maritime transport cooperation and a report on the future direction of the organization, which underscored the organization's commitment to regional cooperation.

73. The Secretary-General of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation noted that rapid urbanization and digital expansion offered transformative prospects, while climate change, inequality and environmental degradation remained pressing concerns. He highlighted the organization's efforts to improve regional integration, respond to the climate crisis, invest in human capital and promote digital inclusion. He also mentioned key efforts in education and public health support. He emphasized the importance of inclusive development, calling for gender equality, youth participation and the empowerment of marginalized groups. Furthermore, he highlighted that sustainability required foresight and intergenerational responsibility and called for deeper cooperation across subregions to address cross-border challenges, such as trade shocks and migration.

74. The Secretary-General of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat expressed appreciation for the close collaboration with the Commission, which remained critical to fostering regional partnership through various initiatives in the areas of political, economic and sociocultural cooperation. For example, the fourth Forum on Carbon Neutrality Goals had brought together experts and policymakers to share insights on innovative technologies for building sustainable cities. Furthermore, he highlighted the organization's contribution to the 2024 International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation, which featured a session dedicated to the impact of digital transformation on social perceptions in which experiences of the Commission were showcased, fostering an inclusive and forward-looking dialogue on digital tools for community-building. Moving forward, the organization aimed to deepen its focus on sustainable development, including by hosting the fifth Forum on Carbon Neutrality Goals, to be held in Japan in 2026, and prioritizing efforts to improve air quality.

75. The Secretary-General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia highlighted that three pillars had been established by Azerbaijan in its role as Chair of the organization for the period from 2024 to 2026, namely: (a) the transformation of the Conference into a fully fledged international organization; (b) the effective implementation of confidence-building measures; and (c) an increase in synergy and interaction with other international and regional platforms. He underscored the organization's readiness to further enhance partnerships and cooperation with regional institutions across the region, while preserving the core value of confidence-building as a prerequisite for practical and institutionalized cooperation. He outlined future cross-sectoral areas of cooperation such as youth engagement; transport connectivity; digitalization; climate change; agriculture; heritage preservation and cultural exchanges; and cybersecurity. He proposed aligning the organization's sectoral work with the Commission's expertise in policy and capacity-building to further strengthen regional cooperation. Finally, he shared examples of proposed joint initiatives, including on leveraging digital innovation.

76. The Deputy Secretary-General of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue discussed the region's most pressing challenges, including its heightened vulnerability to climate-related risks. In recognition of those challenges, he

noted that the organization had placed environmental sustainability at the centre of its agenda. In the recently adopted Tehran Declaration, key issues of importance for the region had been recognized and the importance of sustainable water management and the introduction of energy-efficient, resource-saving technologies had been emphasized. The Deputy Secretary-General noted the importance of deepening regional integration as a means of reducing economic disparities and promoting sustainable development. In terms of digital transformation, he highlighted the demand for greater openness to enhance digital infrastructure and broadband connectivity, as well as the need to promote digital literacy and inclusive digital economies through education schemes, including in rural and underdeveloped areas.

77. The Deputy Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization underscored that the organization served as an effective mechanism for promoting interaction on issues related to sustainable development. He emphasized that, under the presidency of China, the organization had declared 2025 as the year of sustainable development and shared information on the upcoming forum on poverty reduction and sustainable development to be held in May 2025. He highlighted the joint action plans for the organization's Green Belt Programme, the agreement and joint approaches on environmental protection and the statement on effective waste management. He highlighted the organization's active cooperation with international organizations, including the Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme. He noted the significant results achieved through the activities of the organization in the areas of political affairs and security, trade and economic relations, and cultural and humanitarian cooperation. He underscored that the geographical reach of the organization was instrumental to socioeconomically connecting South-East Asian countries with countries in the Middle East, Africa, South Asia and Eurasia.

78. The Deputy Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat expressed his appreciation for the strong partnership between his organization and the Commission, which had contributed to advancing inclusive and sustainable development across the Pacific. Examples of that partnership included the support provided by the secretariat for the establishment of the Pacific Resilience Facility and the technical support provided by the secretariat in the development of the Pacific Road Map for Economic Development and the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility. The landmark Regional Framework on Climate Mobility provided the first comprehensive regional approach to addressing the complex challenges of migration, displacement and planned relocation driven by climate change. Through the leadership of Fiji and Tuvalu, an implementation plan had started to take shape. He remarked that, with five years remaining, it was crucial to accelerate progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, while also looking beyond 2030 to assess whether existing development instruments and approaches would be adequate to effectively tackle future challenges. He reaffirmed his commitment to the continuation of existing partnerships, such as with ASEAN, and welcomed regional and subregional cooperation.

79. The Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community recognized the improvements in peace, stability and economic growth achieved in the subregion as a result of the organization's cooperation efforts. Nevertheless, he noted that the region continued to face significant challenges, including rapid urbanization, deforestation, climate change, unequal access to healthcare, food insecurity and the prevalence of informal employment. To address those barriers, regional cooperation was seen as having transformative potential to drive collective action towards equitable and sustainable development. ASEAN member States recognized the

2030 Agenda as a vital global compact, and the regional priorities of ASEAN had been aligned with it through the complementarities initiative. The unwavering focus of ASEAN on people-centred and inclusive strategies significantly contributed to the achievement of lasting and equitable sustainability. He concluded by stressing the necessity of robust regional leadership and collaboration to advance equitable and sustainable development across the Asia-Pacific region.

80. Several representatives emphasized that, while the region continued to face multiple challenges, including slow progress on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and mounting pressures driven by rapid urbanization, meaningful opportunities for cooperation remained.

81. Some representatives expressed their appreciation to the secretariat and to members for their engagement with subregional organizations. One representative reiterated the support of his Government for the efforts of the Commission to cooperate with regional and subregional organizations in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations to enhance human well-being, address regional challenges and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Another representative welcomed the presence of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue and encouraged long-term coordination among countries to address transboundary risks and promote inclusive development.

82. Several countries highlighted efforts to enhance subregional cooperation in relation to energy systems, maritime and digital infrastructure, and technology-driven integration, in particular in the context of broader economic development agendas. Several member States also expressed support for revitalizing subregional platforms, aligning national and regional policies and promoting shared frameworks for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

83. Several representatives expressed the need for stronger regional platforms and deeper collaboration between international organizations and regional organizations to align development goals and support implementation efforts. Some representatives also highlighted that advancing sustainable development across the region required regional strategies to be aligned with global agendas, with the support of relevant innovation and green financing mechanisms.

84. Some representatives noted the importance of national efforts to advance sustainability, including initiatives to address extreme weather events, as well as sand and dust storms. Such initiatives required integrated environmental approaches and progress in renewable energy and water management. Some representatives highlighted the importance of advancing the green energy transition by promoting renewable energy and regional energy connectivity, and they expressed support for enhanced collaboration in those areas to advance sustainability.

85. Some representatives highlighted key drivers of sustainability, namely the importance of connectivity across physical, digital and energy sectors; the need for improved infrastructure; and the use of digital technologies.

86. One representative highlighted the challenges faced by small island developing States in the Pacific, which included vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, economic disparities, debt vulnerabilities and digital exclusion, noting that they required tailored solutions, including climate finance.

87. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Commission adopted decision 81/2, by which it took note of the note by the secretariat on subregional perspectives on current and emerging policy issues for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/81/3), without a vote.

88. The representative of the United States made a statement indicating that his delegation wished to disassociate itself from decision 81/2 because, in its view, the document contained an unnecessary and distracting focus on climate change.

**Agenda item 3**
**Theme: "Regional cooperation for resilient and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific"**

89. The Commission had before it the note by the secretariat containing a summary of the theme study on regional cooperation for resilient and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/81/4).

90. The Executive Secretary made introductory remarks and presented the main findings related to the theme study. She also announced that Yokohama, Japan, had been selected as the host city of the ninth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, to be held in 2027. A video message was played by the mayor of Yokohama, Mr. Takeharu Yamanaka.

91. The Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) delivered a keynote statement. She echoed three key messages of the theme study: the adoption of integrated national urban policies; the promotion of evidence-based urban planning using local data; and innovative approaches to urban finance to ensure adequate housing for all. She emphasized the need to align housing policies with national urban policies, noting examples from countries in the region and highlighting the importance of policy coherence between sectors. She described the advisory efforts and collaborations of UN-Habitat in Asia and the Pacific, with a particular focus on climate mainstreaming and housing. She highlighted the outcomes of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly. She called for the support of member States and encouraged collaboration as a means of enhancing data, knowledge and resilience in urban development, with a view to reinforcing the commitment to leave no one and no place behind. Furthermore, she encouraged participation in upcoming forums, such as the World Urban Forum 2026, to be held in Baku.

92. The Minister of Housing and Local Government of Malaysia, Mr. Nga Kor Ming, delivered special remarks. He emphasized the need for strengthened collective action and regional cooperation to address challenges such as economic instability, climate change and social inequalities in Asia and the Pacific. He highlighted the role of urbanization in economic growth while acknowledging its environmental and social costs, arguing that cities must be empowered as hubs of equitable and sustainable development to realize the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities). He outlined the multifaceted approach of Malaysia and highlighted notable initiatives such as renewable energy targets, solar-powered housing, urban renewal legislation and the 2024 city climate action plan focused on flood mitigation. In conclusion, he urged regional stakeholders to adopt integrated urban planning approaches, invest in green infrastructure and digital innovation, foster robust governance models and prioritize people-centred development. He called for solidarity and collective action to create more resilient and inclusive communities across the region.

**High-level thematic round table on regional cooperation for sustainable and resilient urban development in Asia and the Pacific**

93. The thematic round table on regional cooperation for sustainable and resilient urban development in Asia and the Pacific was moderated by the Secretary-General of United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific, Ms. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi. Statements were made by the following speakers: Chairman of Suva City Council, Mr. Tevita Boseiwaqa; Chair of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network, Chief Executive Officer of Sintesa Group and Chair of the Indonesia Employers Association, Ms. Shinta Widjaja Kamdani; and Coordinator of the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights, Ms. Lajana Manandhar.

94. The speakers emphasized the importance of innovation, equity and community participation in advancing sustainable urban transformation. The local government representative emphasized the value of voluntary local reviews as tools for aligning local planning with global goals, rooted in cultural traditions and community consultation. The private sector representative stressed the critical role of small and medium-sized enterprises in green infrastructure, digital innovation and circular economy models and called for blended finance and public-private partnerships to drive scalable solutions. The civil society representative underscored the role of civil society and organizations such as hers in bridging the gap between governments and marginalized communities, advocating for collaboration in the planning and delivery of housing and basic services, especially for women, persons with disabilities and informal workers. Inclusive, context-driven solutions backed by regional collaboration were identified as key elements in building resilient and people-centred cities.

**Statements**

95. Representatives of the following members of the Commission made statements: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Marshall Islands, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Solomon Islands, Thailand and Viet Nam.

96. Representatives of the following associate members of the Commission made statements: Cook Islands and Macao, China.

97. A representative of the United Nations Environment Programme also made a statement.

98. A representative of the International Transport Forum, an intergovernmental organization, made a statement.

99. A representative of local authorities also made a statement.

100. Several member States acknowledged that, while urban growth presented significant opportunities for economic development, innovation and service delivery, it was also a source of mounting challenges, including persistent infrastructure deficits; increasing exposure to climate and disaster risks; and widening gaps in services such as water, sanitation, housing and transport.

101. Several representatives raised concerns about service delivery and planning shortfalls in both urban and rural areas and emphasized the need for improved access to safe, affordable housing; inclusive urban governance; and resilient urban planning and infrastructure.

102. Several representatives highlighted that demographic shifts such as youth migration from rural areas, population ageing and rapid urban population growth placed additional strains on cities, infrastructure and the provision of services. Several representatives emphasized the need to promote the inclusion of women, older persons and persons with disabilities in urban development policies. Unplanned urbanization was noted as contributing to environmental degradation and growing socioeconomic disparities.

103. Many member States reaffirmed the importance of integrated urban planning, localized action and multilevel governance frameworks to foster inclusive, resilient and sustainable urban environments.

104. Some member States expressed concern that progress on the Sustainable Development Goals was too slow. Delegations acknowledged that, despite advancements in areas such as poverty reduction, maternal and child health, and digital connectivity, the pace of change was insufficient to meet the targets of the 2030 Agenda, in particular those related to infrastructure, service delivery and climate resilience.

105. Several member States noted the importance of regional cooperation and of platforms such as the Commission in fostering integrated regional policy dialogue and supporting knowledge exchange and capacity development for inclusive, resilient and sustainable urban development. Several representatives reaffirmed the value of forums such as the Pacific Urban Forum, the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum and the World Urban Forum, as well as of voluntary local reviews and technical assistance in national policy planning and digital inclusion.

106. The Commission was informed of national efforts to promote people-centred, compact, inclusive and climate-resilient cities through urban planning, digital transformation and green infrastructure development. Several representatives highlighted the adoption of smart city frameworks and digital government services to improve urban management and service delivery. Several representatives cited ongoing housing and transport reforms, as well as the development of policies to address urban poverty and strengthen social protection.

107. Several member States highlighted the special challenges faced by least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, including climate change, rising sea levels, geographical isolation and infrastructure deficits. The Commission was informed of efforts to advance nature-based solutions, coastal protection and inclusive urban financing in response to some of those challenges. Some representatives noted the importance of linking national priorities with regional and global processes.

108. The Commission was also informed of national initiatives on transit-oriented development through public-private partnerships, sustainable housing and participatory decision-making. Representatives also reported on progress made on green mobility, including bus rapid transit and the use of electric buses and taxis, renewable energy integration and sustainable cooling solutions to reduce emissions and address the urban heat island effect.

109. Several representatives reported on the alignment of national urban policies with national socioeconomic development plans, as well as the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda. Member States called for strengthened regional partnerships to support the implementation and financing of these frameworks, especially in the context of rapid urbanization and vulnerabilities to natural disasters and environmental challenges such as climate change.

110. Some representatives presented digital innovation strategies aimed at advancing smart city development and enhancing e-governance platforms. Those strategies included the formulation and implementation of national artificial intelligence strategies; the development of open data and data governance policies; investments in broadband and digital infrastructure; and the use of smart governance tools for urban planning and monitoring.

111. Some member States expressed concern about the existential threat posed by climate change, in particular for small island developing States and disaster-prone countries. Several representatives argued that unplanned urbanization and vulnerable infrastructure exposed cities to natural hazards, including earthquakes; floods; heatwaves; and sand and dust storms. Several member States underscored the importance of building resilient infrastructure and human settlements, of developing climate-resilient urban policies, plans and community-based disaster risk reduction strategies and of increasing access to climate finance to safeguard vulnerable populations and infrastructure.

112. Representatives from international organizations, as well as local authorities, agreed that there was an urgent need for resilient, inclusive and sustainable urban planning and infrastructure in the face of rapid urbanization, climate risks and growing environmental pressures and for approaches that: (a) focused on collaborative, evidence-based transport and mobility solutions aligned with the Paris Agreement; (b) emphasized sustainable cooling, nature-based solutions; and (c) integrated urban climate actions into national frameworks such as the nationally determined contributions. It was noted that local and regional governments played a critical role in localizing global and regional urban transformation agendas and in advocating for multi-stakeholder partnerships, voluntary local and subnational reviews, peer learning and direct access to development and climate financing. Representatives underscored the need for innovative governance, integrated multilevel governance and the empowerment of local actors – including youth and marginalized groups – to co-create national urban policies, develop Sustainable Development Goal 11 road maps and accelerate action aimed at increasing resilience to climate change on the ground.

113. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Commission adopted resolution 81/2 on regional cooperation for resilient and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific by a roll-call vote of 35 to 1, with 2 abstentions.

114. The voting was as follows:

(a) In favour: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, Vanuatu and Viet Nam;

(b) Against: United States;

(c) Abstaining: Australia and Bhutan.

115. The representative of the United States stated that his delegation had requested a vote on resolution 81/2 because, in its view, the text pressed member States to integrate climate action into urban planning and because his Government opposed efforts to prescribe, rather than tailor, urban development strategies. He added that the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals impinged on State sovereignty as a soft form of global governance and that his Government would no longer reaffirm them as a matter of course in United Nations resolutions or other documents.

116. The representative of Australia made a statement in explanation of vote indicating that Australia had abstained because the delegation was operating under caretaker conventions in advance of the federal election.

117. Bangladesh, China, Fiji, Maldives, Pakistan, Timor-Leste and the United Kingdom joined Malaysia in sponsoring the resolution.

118. The representative of the Cook Islands expressed his delegation's support for the resolution.

119. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted decision 81/3, by which it took note of the note by the secretariat containing a summary of the theme study on regional cooperation for resilient and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/81/4), without a vote.

**Agenda item 4**
**Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States**

120. The Commission had before it the note by the secretariat containing a summary of the *Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2025: Harnessing a New Generation of Programmes of Action for Sustainable Development Ambitions* (ESCAP/81/5) and the note by the secretariat containing a summary of progress made in the implementation of various resolutions of the Commission, including resolution 79/3 on supporting the sustainable development of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/81/6).

121. Representatives of the following members of the Commission made statements: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Marshall Islands, Philippines, Russian Federation, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan, Thailand and Turkmenistan.

122. The Executive Secretary delivered an opening statement and introduced the findings contained in the publication entitled *Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2025: Harnessing a New Generation of Programmes of Action for Sustainable Development Ambitions*. The High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States also made a statement.

123. Various representatives noted the persistent and multidimensional challenges faced by the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, including geographical

constraints, infrastructure gaps and high vulnerability to external shocks. Those challenges, they said, were compounded by global uncertainties, natural disasters, climate change and constrained fiscal capacities. Several representatives noted the role of robust financing mechanisms, multi-stakeholder collaboration and inclusive partnerships, and strengthened institutional capacity in achieving sustainable development and ensuring that no one would be left behind.

124. One representative highlighted the volatility in food and energy markets as a major obstacle for least developed countries and landlocked developing countries. Another representative noted that high energy costs and limited access to sustainable energy constrained the resilience of small island developing States.

125. Several representatives acknowledged the relevance of the programmes of action for addressing the structural vulnerabilities of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. They underscored the importance of investing in human capital, in particular in education, health and vocational training, and of leveraging innovation, digital tools and connectivity. Some representatives noted that strong political commitment, the integration of the programmes of action with national development frameworks, and robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks were important for the effective implementation of the programmes of action.

126. The Commission was informed of the progress made by several least developed countries towards graduation from the category of least developed countries. Some representatives stressed that the continuation of international support measures, in particular granted trade preferences, flexibilities in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and access to climate finance and technical assistance were essential for ensuring a smooth transition. The need for targeted technical assistance in trade and digital governance was highlighted, and a call was made for the secretariat to enhance its graduation support and promote deeper regional cooperation.

127. The Commission was informed of the formulation of smooth transition strategies to support graduation, which included the modernization of logistics and customs procedures, urban planning for resilience and digital economy frameworks. Some representatives highlighted ongoing efforts to integrate the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries into their national development strategies.

128. Several representatives of landlocked developing countries and transit countries emphasized that enhanced connectivity in transport, information and communications technology and energy was fundamental to overcoming geographical constraints. They highlighted the importance of regional integration, connectivity, trade diversification, urban resilience, water security and access to advanced technologies as enablers of inclusive and resilient growth and for enhancing prosperity. Digital transformation and inclusive planning, including for enhancing the efficiency of international railway transport, were noted. The important role played by climate finance in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals was also highlighted.

129. Some representatives noted that the Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2024–2034 was a timely framework to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

130. Several representatives acknowledged the distinctive vulnerabilities of small island developing States, including exposure to climate shocks, limited energy security and dependence on tourism and fisheries. Some representatives underlined the importance of integrating the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity into national development frameworks and aligning the outcomes of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development with it. They noted the importance of robust national ownership for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the central role of local and traditional knowledge in climate adaptation and ecosystem management.

131. Representatives of small island developing States underscored the need for more predictable and concessional finance that was easier to access. In that regard, they underscored the need for a wider use of the multidimensional vulnerability index to guide resource allocation and highlighted the role of regional funds and facilities, such as the Pacific Resilience Facility and a debt sustainability support service for small island developing States proposed in the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States.

132. Some representatives of other developing countries stressed the importance of strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation to support countries in special situations. They also emphasized the need for continued technical assistance and policy advice on digital trade integration, disaster risk reduction, infrastructure financing and sustainable urban development, as provided by the secretariat.

133. Several representatives of developing countries reaffirmed their solidarity with and support for countries in special situations. Highlighting the important role of the international community, including the United Nations system, in supporting national development efforts, they emphasized that international support must be aligned with the priorities of recipient countries. While developed countries were encouraged to fulfil their official development assistance commitments, debt relief, including debt-for-development swaps, was also highlighted as an important instrument of support.

134. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Commission adopted decision 81/4, by which it took note of the note by the secretariat containing a summary of the *Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2025: Harnessing a New Generation of Programmes of Action for Sustainable Development Ambitions* (ESCAP/81/5), without a vote.

135. The representative of the United States made a statement indicating that his delegation wished to disassociate itself from decision 81/4 because his Government was no longer reaffirming the Sustainable Development Goals as a matter of course in United Nations resolutions or other documents.

**Agenda item 5**
**Review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

136. The Commission had before it the notes by the secretariat on the decisions taken by the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia at its nineteenth session (ESCAP/81/7) and on the annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission (ESCAP/81/8).

137. The Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme of the Commission delivered an introductory presentation on the agenda item.

138. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Commission adopted decision 81/5, by which it took note of the note by the secretariat transmitting the decisions taken by the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia at its nineteenth session (ESCAP/81/7), without a vote.

139. The representative of the United States made a statement indicating that his delegation disassociated itself from decision 81/5 because, in its view, the document contained an unnecessary focus on climate change and because his Government believed that the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals impinged on State sovereignty as a soft form of global governance. He reiterated that his Government would no longer reaffirm them as a matter of course in United Nations resolutions or other documents.

140. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted decision 81/19, by which it took note of various documents, including the note by the secretariat on summary of progress made in the implementation of the resolutions of the Commission (ESCAP/81/6) and the note by the secretariat on the annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission (ESCAP/81/8), by a vote of 36 to 1.

141. The representative of the United States requested a vote on the decision, explaining that his delegation objected to the content of a number of the reports referred to in decision 81/19, including language pertaining to gender, climate, the Sustainable Development Goals and the proposed digital solutions centre for sustainable development.

**Sub-item (a)**
**Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development**

142. In addition to the documents for consideration common to agenda item 5, the Commission had before it a note by the secretariat containing a summary of progress made in the implementation of various resolutions of the Commission, including resolution 79/4 on accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for a better future for all in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/81/6), the report on the Twelfth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (ESCAP/RFSD/2025/6) and the note by the secretariat containing a summary of round-table discussions (ESCAP/RFSD/2025/6/Add.1).

143. The Chair of the Twelfth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development presented the report on the Twelfth Forum.

144. Representatives of the following members of the Commission made statements: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Nepal, Russian Federation and Thailand.

145. A youth representative made a statement.

146. Many representatives highlighted that the Twelfth Forum was an inclusive, multi-stakeholder regional platform that contributed to the enhancement of regional cooperation, the forging of stronger partnerships and the building of coherence within the international community. They also noted that the Twelfth Forum had helped to facilitate the sharing of experiences, which was beneficial in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Pact

for the Future and in the preparations for the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

147. Several representatives underscored that the Asia-Pacific region was off track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, with many targets unlikely to be achieved by 2030. Some representatives highlighted the importance of multilateralism, poverty reduction and global partnerships in accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. They underscored the need to mobilize resources by: leveraging initiatives and frameworks such as integrated national financing frameworks and the Sustainable Development Goal investor map; ensuring that official development assistance commitments are fulfilled; and promoting technology transfers, funding models adapted to the capacities of different countries and fair access to climate finance.

148. Several representatives shared their experiences with regard to the alignment of the Sustainable Development Goals with national priorities, development plans and budgeting processes. Several representatives reiterated the importance of ensuring that no country or person was left behind and highlighted the importance of bridging the digital divide and harnessing the opportunity of digital technologies and innovation in that regard. The Commission was informed of efforts taken and progress made by various member States, including in the areas of social protection; poverty reduction; women's labour force participation; energy; education; social entrepreneurship; ocean-based climate action; connectivity; climate action and finance; and enhanced data collection and monitoring systems.

149. Several representatives highlighted the role of international and regional cooperation in achieving sustainable development. Some representatives highlighted the impacts that regional projects had had in narrowing inequality within and between countries; the close ties between national economic stability and predictable and cooperative international relations; and the relevance of developing transport and energy connectivity at the regional, interregional and global levels. Some representatives also highlighted the importance of the inclusive engagement of civil society, youth, the private sector and international partners in sustainable development efforts, including voluntary national reviews.

150. Some representatives highlighted peer learning, technical assistance and the support provided by the secretariat for the voluntary national review twinning programme as examples of cross-regional cooperation. They encouraged the secretariat to continue to provide support, including for the sharing of experiences through peer learning and for the provision of methodologies and tools for evidence-based and inclusive voluntary national reviews.

151. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Commission adopted decision 81/6, by which it endorsed the report on the Twelfth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (ESCAP/RFSD/2025/6) and took note of the note by the secretariat containing a summary of round-table discussions (ESCAP/RFSD/2025/6/Add.1), without a vote.

152. The representative of the United States made a statement indicating that his delegation disassociated itself from decision 81/6 because his Government believed that the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals impinged on State sovereignty as a soft form of global governance. He reiterated that his Government would no longer reaffirm them as a matter of course in United Nations resolutions or other documents.

**Sub-item (b)**
**Social development**

153. In addition to the documents for consideration common to agenda item 5, the Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Social Development on its eighth session (ESCAP/CSD(8)/6), the report on the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review (ESCAP/MCBR/2024/5) and the related Chair's summary (ESCAP/MCBR/2024/5/Add.1), the report on the Second Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (ESCAP/GCM/2025/5) and the note by the secretariat on key social development priorities for Asia and the Pacific in the context of the Second World Summit for Social Development (ESCAP/81/9).

154. The Chair of the eighth session of the Committee on Social Development presented the outcomes of the session.

155. The Chair of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review presented the outcomes of the Ministerial Conference.

156. The Chair of the Second Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration presented the outcomes of the meeting.

157. Representatives of the following members of the Commission made statements: Bangladesh, China, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Thailand and Viet Nam.

158. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and funds made statements: International Labour Organization, International Organization for Migration, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and United Nations Population Fund.

159. The Commission noted persistent challenges, such as poverty, widening inequalities, demographic shifts and rapid urbanization, which continued to strain social protection systems and public services. Various representatives expressed that, despite policy advancements, gender disparities persisted, limiting economic participation and leadership roles for women. Furthermore, climate-induced displacement and migration required strengthened governance, as well as expanded financial support for policies and programmes that could address infrastructure gaps. The digital divide had exacerbated disparities in education and employment, affecting youth and ageing populations in particular.

160. The Commission was informed of strategies and initiatives to strengthen resilience to social development challenges. These included digital public infrastructure for efficient benefit delivery; the launch of a cashless healthcare system; expanded social and health insurance coverage; community-level access to universal healthcare and reproductive healthcare; and targeted vocational training and livelihood loans for vulnerable populations. Strengthening local social service delivery and leveraging real-time data to identify household vulnerabilities were also emphasized. Some representatives noted the role that social protection systems played in fostering inclusive growth, thereby contributing to increased per capita disposable income.

161. Some representatives highlighted multidimensional approaches to poverty, including schemes designed to address multiple deprivations. Social development strategies for vulnerable communities focused on education, housing and ageing populations were reported by various representatives. Some representatives noted efforts focused on family and youth development that were delivered through specialized agencies and community-based caregiving initiatives. A few representatives noted the importance of people-centred and community-based development, which contributed to fostering intergenerational social cohesion and strengthening pension systems, while also strengthening disability inclusion and the empowerment of persons with disabilities, including through the use of inclusion indicators in government performance assessments.

162. Various representatives mentioned gender equality initiatives that were focused on skills development and livelihood support for women and girls; strengthened legislation and survivor-centred services to address gender-based violence and workplace safety; and enhanced laws for women's representation in governance. Persistent social stigma and inadequate resources were identified as barriers faced by survivors seeking assistance.

163. Representatives noted the importance of regional platforms for knowledge exchange and reaffirmed their commitment to cooperation in advancing social development. The upcoming Second World Summit for Social Development in November 2025 was noted as an opportunity for deeper discussions on effective solutions in that regard.

164. Several representatives called for technical support and cooperation on gender equality and women's empowerment, including on gender-responsive urban planning and policy development, while one representative expressed support for the continued engagement of the secretariat on population development issues with a focus on intergenerational relations. One representative called for support on migration issues, while stressing the non-binding nature of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Another representative reaffirmed her delegation's commitment to the women and peace and security agenda. The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review was acknowledged as a platform for assessing progress and setting priorities.

165. Representatives of international organizations reaffirmed the need for sustained regional cooperation, South-South collaboration and policy integration and advocated human-centred urban development, emphasizing the need for investment in decent work and climate-resilient infrastructure. Gender equality challenges were highlighted and calls were made for strengthened implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The importance of gender-responsive migration policies and the need for coordinated action on the protection of migrant women were also noted. Several representatives noted the long-standing partnerships between their organizations and the secretariat, including on the Global Compact for Migration regional review and the Second World Summit for Social Development.

166. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Commission adopted decision 81/7, by which it endorsed the report of the Committee on Social Development on its eighth session (ESCAP/CSD(8)/6), without a vote.

167. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted decision 81/8, by which it endorsed the report on the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review (ESCAP/MCBR/2024/5) and took note of the Chair's summary of the Ministerial Conference (ESCAP/MCBR/2024/5/Add.1), without a vote.

168. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted decision 81/9, by which it endorsed the report on the Second Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (ESCAP/GCM/2025/5), by a vote of 33 to 1.

169. The representative of the United States stated that his delegation had requested a vote on the decision because his Government was reviewing the policies set out in the Global Compact for Migration and therefore could not endorse the recommendations contained in the report on the Second Asia-Pacific Regional Review.

170. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted decision 81/19, by which it took note of various documents, including the note by the secretariat on key social development priorities for Asia and the Pacific in the context of the Second World Summit for Social Development (ESCAP/81/9), by a vote of 36 to 1.

171. The representative of the United States stated that his delegation had requested a vote on the decision because his delegation objected to the content of a number of the reports referred to in decision 81/19, including language pertaining to gender, climate, the Sustainable Development Goals and the proposed digital solutions centre for sustainable development.

**Sub-item (c)**
**Environment and development**

172. In addition to the documents for consideration common to agenda item 5, the Commission had before it the note by the secretariat containing a summary of progress made in the implementation of various resolutions of the Commission, including resolution 79/1 on accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development, resolution 79/2 on regional cooperation to accelerate climate action on oceans in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development and resolution 79/7 on advancing regional cooperation for sustainable urban development and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/81/6); the note by the secretariat on the annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission, including the reports of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and South-East Asia and of the Mekong River Commission (ESCAP/81/8); the report of the Committee on Environment and Development on its eighth session (ESCAP/CED(8)/6); the report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its twentieth session (ESCAP/81/10); and the note by the secretariat on regional cooperation to enhance multilevel action and raise climate ambitions (ESCAP/81/11).

173. The secretariat presented the report of the Committee on Environment and Development on its eighth session on behalf of the Chair of the Committee.

174. The Chair of the twentieth session of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization presented the report of the Governing Council.

175. Representatives of the following members of the Commission made statements: Armenia, Bangladesh, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam.

176. A representative of United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific made a statement.

177. The Commission was informed of the wide range of environmental challenges faced by the region, including climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental pollution. Several representatives highlighted their countries' high vulnerability to climate impacts, noting the threats posed by sea level rise, and the fragility of mountainous ecosystems.

178. Representatives shared national achievements and commitments to environmental sustainability, including improvements in air and water quality; efforts to increase forest coverage and to reaffirm net-zero emissions targets by 2050 through local decarbonization pilot projects; progress in renewable energy capacity and sustainable agriculture; and leadership in green garment production and solar energy expansion. Several representatives provided updates on their nationally determined contributions and other national development plans for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

179. The importance of regional cooperation and knowledge-sharing was emphasized, with details provided on partnerships and initiatives, as well as support for ocean-related work, including the regional voluntary initiative on ocean-based climate action.

180. Representatives highlighted the role of technology and innovation in driving climate action, enhancing urban management and supporting sustainable growth. One representative advocated equitable access to cutting-edge technologies to enable an equitable energy transition and strengthen climate resilience. Another emphasized the promotion of technical innovation to foster green development and cultivate new drivers of high-quality growth. One representative proposed a regional smart city policy framework incorporating artificial intelligence and data-driven governance.

181. Some representatives noted the need for enhanced climate finance and resource mobilization and for adequate and predictable funding, noting that resource gaps posed challenges.

182. National strategies on sustainable urban development were shared by various representatives. One representative emphasized the importance of integrated transboundary river management. Another representative emphasized placing sustainability principles, including ocean-based action, at the core of national development agendas to foster resilient coastal and urban communities.

183. One representative acknowledged the work of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in supporting member States in achieving digitalization and mechanization in agriculture through capacity-building and project cooperation.

184. The representative of the Republic of Korea highlighted the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth and announced his Government's intention to extend the initiative for a fifth phase, from 2026 to 2030, and to continue making cash and in-kind contributions.

185. The representative of Armenia noted the need to protect biodiversity and marine ecosystems and informed the Commission that his Government would host the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

186. The representative of United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific emphasized the role of local authorities in achieving sustainable development and climate goals. She highlighted the urgent need for enabling policy environments, direct access to financing mechanisms and enhanced capacity-building support to empower cities and local governments to localize the Sustainable Development Goals. She also underscored that strengthening multilevel governance and fostering partnerships between national and local actors would help accelerate effective climate and environmental action across the region.

187. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Commission adopted resolution 81/3 on strengthening cooperation on the water and climate change nexus for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, without a vote.

188. Armenia, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Maldives and the Philippines joined Tajikistan in sponsoring the resolution.

189. The representative of the Cook Islands expressed his delegation's support for the resolution.

190. The representative of the United States made a statement indicating that, while his delegation joined the consensus in adopting the resolution, it disassociated itself from the resolution because it believed that the Commission should focus not on climate policy but on practical efforts beneficial to all member States. He added that the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals impinged on State sovereignty as a soft form of global governance and that his Government would no longer reaffirm them as a matter of course in United Nations resolutions or other documents.

191. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted decision 81/10, by which it endorsed the report of the Committee on Environment and Development on its eighth session (ESCAP/CED(8)/6), by a vote of 36 to 1.

192. The representative of the United States stated that his delegation had requested a vote on the decision because, in its view, the report contained an unnecessary and distracting focus on climate.

193. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted decision 81/11, by which it endorsed the report of the of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its twentieth session (ESCAP/81/10), without a vote.

194. The representative of the United States made a statement indicating that his delegation disassociated itself from decision 81/11 as, in its view, the report of the Governing Council encouraged member States to increase their contributions to the Centre instead of focusing on improving the efficiency of existing programmes and efforts.

195. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted decision 81/19, by which it took note of various documents, including the note by the secretariat on regional cooperation to enhance multilevel action and raise climate ambitions (ESCAP/81/11), by a vote of 36 to 1.

196. The representative of the United States requested a vote on the decision, explaining that his delegation objected to the content of a number of the reports referred to in decision 81/19, including language pertaining to gender, climate, the Sustainable Development Goals and the proposed digital solutions centre for sustainable development.

**Sub-item (d)**
**Disaster risk reduction**

197. In addition to the documents for consideration common to agenda item 5, the Commission had before it the note by the secretariat containing a summary of progress made in the implementation of various resolutions of the Commission, including resolution 79/8 on consideration of the modalities for the establishment of the United Nations special programme for the Aral Sea basin (ESCAP/81/6); the note by the secretariat on the annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission, including the reports of the Typhoon Committee and of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (ESCAP/81/8); the report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management on its ninth session (ESCAP/81/12); and the note by the secretariat on advancing multi-hazard early warnings for all through regional cooperation (ESCAP/81/13).

198. The Chair of the ninth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management presented the report of the Governing Council.

199. Representatives of the following members of the Commission made statements: Bangladesh, China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Thailand and Viet Nam.

200. Various representatives underscored the increasing severity and unpredictability of disasters, including from climate change, and noted the importance of strengthening disaster risk governance, integrating climate adaptation measures into disaster risk reduction strategies and mobilizing greater financial resources for disaster risk reduction efforts, noting the role of technology, innovation and nature-based solutions in supporting multi-hazard early warning systems. Representatives discussed good practices, including revising urban disaster management plans, expanding multi-hazard early warning systems and promoting nature-based solutions.

201. Various representatives noted the importance of advancing regional cooperation for inclusive and end-to-end multi-hazard early warning systems, including for transboundary hazards such as sand and dust storms, with a view to achieving the objectives of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, in particular target G. In that context, one representative noted initiatives implemented in the areas of disability- and gender-inclusive disaster risk reduction.

202. Various representatives expressed support for the Early Warnings for All initiative of the Secretary-General and for more public-private partnerships in promoting early warnings for all. The representative of Thailand, recalling the 20-year anniversary of the Indian Ocean tsunami, stated that her Government had contributed $500,000 to the ESCAP multi-donor trust fund for tsunami, disaster and climate preparedness in 2024, with the aim of strengthening early warning systems in the Asia-Pacific region.

203. The importance of science, technology and innovation in disaster risk reduction was noted by various representatives, who pointed to digital platforms, satellite technologies and advanced forecasting as being among the enablers of effective disaster preparedness and response. Representatives called for increased regional cooperation and knowledge-sharing and strengthened data systems to support anticipatory action, including through the Commission and other United Nations platforms. One representative called for increased access to and dissemination of satellite data and information.

204. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Commission adopted decision 81/12, by which it endorsed the report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management on its ninth session (ESCAP/81/12), without a vote.

205. The representative of the United States made a statement indicating that his delegation disassociated itself from decision 81/12 as, in its view, the report of the Governing Council encouraged member States to mobilize additional financial resources for the Centre instead of focusing on improving the efficiency of existing programmes and efforts.

206. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted decision 81/19, by which it took note of various documents, including the note by the secretariat on advancing multi-hazard early warnings for all through regional cooperation (ESCAP/81/13), by a vote of 36 to 1.

207. The representative of the United States requested a vote on the decision, explaining that his delegation objected to the content of a number of the reports referred to in decision 81/19, including language pertaining to gender, climate, the Sustainable Development Goals and the proposed digital solutions centre for sustainable development.

**Sub-item (e)**
**Energy**

208. In addition to the documents for consideration common to agenda item 5, the Commission had before it the note by the secretariat on promoting just energy transitions to support sustainable urban development (ESCAP/81/14).

209. Representatives of the following members of the Commission made statements: Armenia, Bangladesh, China and Iran (Islamic Republic of).

210. One representative emphasized the adoption of a national integrated power and energy master plan in his country to guide sustainable energy development, in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 7 (Affordable and clean energy) and other global targets. His Government aimed to generate 80 per cent of the country's electricity from clean energy by 2030 and to increase the share of renewables in the energy mix to 40 per cent by 2041, with the number of solar home systems already installed standing at over 6 million.

211. One representative highlighted the role played by his country in global clean energy development. Over 80 per cent of the world's photovoltaic equipment and 70 per cent of wind power equipment were being manufactured in the country, which had contributed to lowering global renewable energy costs significantly. His Government called for strengthening international cooperation on global energy transformation, infrastructure connectivity and just energy transitions to end energy poverty.

212. One representative outlined the complexities of energy system planning and stated that, despite existing challenges, his country was making progress on its energy transition through innovations in policy, technology and financing, with a focus on renewables and subsidy optimization. His Government also aimed to enhance energy trade with neighbouring countries to support regional cooperation and sustainable development.

213. One representative stressed his Government's commitment to enhancing energy security through renewable energy, solar power in particular, which provided over 5 per cent of the country's electricity and was projected to provide 15 per cent by 2030. His Government was prioritizing investments in nuclear and solar power and electricity storage and stood ready to promote regional cooperation and integrated energy resource management.

214. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Commission adopted decision 81/19, by which it took note of various documents, including the note by the secretariat on promoting just energy transitions to support sustainable urban development (ESCAP/81/14), by a vote of 36 to 1.

215. The representative of the United States requested a vote on the decision, explaining that his delegation objected to the content of a number of the reports referred to in decision 81/19, including language pertaining to gender, climate, the Sustainable Development Goals and the proposed digital solutions centre for sustainable development.

**Sub-item (f)**
**Transport**

216. In addition to the documents for consideration common to agenda item 5, the Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Transport on its eighth session (ESCAP/CTR(8)/9) and the note by the secretariat on enhancing the resilience and sustainability of urban public transport systems in Asia-Pacific cities (ESCAP/81/15).

217. The Chair of the eighth session of the Committee on Transport presented the outcomes of the session.

218. Representatives of the following members of the Commission made statements: Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea and Thailand.

219. Various representatives recognized transport as an important element for sustainable, resilient, safe and inclusive urban development. One representative emphasized the importance of transport decarbonization for sustainable growth in the region, while acknowledging that multiple approaches could be taken to achieve that objective pragmatically and noting the diverse circumstances facing each country. The Commission was informed of efforts by member States to promote various forms of low-carbon transport, including through long-term development strategies that promoted the transition to electric mobility, through the extension of public transport networks in combination with transit-oriented development and through the pragmatic application of open technologies to support net-zero transportation systems.

220. The Commission was informed of investments made by member States in intelligent transport systems, digital technology and efficient public transit-oriented urban planning to reduce congestion and carbon emissions through efficiency improvements. Some representatives pointed out the

potential of digital solutions – for example, blockchain, the Internet of things and artificial intelligence – to promote smart logistics or efficiency improvements in road-based transport. One representative said that his Government planned to make financial contributions to various digital and transport initiatives delivered by the secretariat, including on the transition to smart mobility in Pacific small island developing States.

221. The Commission was informed of the progress made by various member States in transport infrastructure development. While recognizing that the development of highways, railways, airports and inland waterway systems had strengthened transport connectivity, including in rural areas, several representatives underscored that closing infrastructure gaps remained a priority, with a view to enhancing transport connectivity for all. Some representatives noted the importance of robust policy frameworks and long-term strategic plans, especially for inclusive urban planning and multimodal transport and logistics, together with digitalization and the promotion of green technologies, including along international transport corridors and in ports.

222. Some representatives reiterated that road safety remained a priority issue for Governments in the region. In that regard, the Commission was apprised of various initiatives of member States to improve road safety, including: road safety targets to reduce road fatality rates and promote helmet usage; national road safety campaigns to promote safe, accessible and environmentally sustainable transport systems; investments in intelligent transport systems to enhance safe road infrastructure and traffic law enforcement; and the alignment of national vehicle safety standards with relevant United Nations road safety legal instruments.

223. Many representatives highlighted inclusive transport as an area of focus and priority in urban transport development in Asia and the Pacific, citing achievements such as electric buses that had been designed according to universal access standards, accessible urban public transport that had been made available and inclusive, and sustainable and safe urban transport systems that had been achieved through strategic planning, technological innovation and strong policy frameworks.

224. Several representatives noted the importance of strengthening regional and international cooperation mechanisms and partnerships, especially cooperation involving countries in special situations, and of enhancing human resource development in the transport sector through the sharing of technical know-how and national experiences. They called upon the secretariat to support such endeavours through capacity-building events.

225. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Commission adopted decision 81/13, by which it endorsed the report of the Committee on Transport on its eighth session (ESCAP/CTR(8)/9), without a vote.

226. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted decision 81/19, by which it took note of various documents, including the note by the secretariat on enhancing the resilience and sustainability of urban public transport systems in Asia-Pacific cities (ESCAP/81/15), by a vote of 36 to 1.

227. The representative of the United States requested a vote on the decision, explaining that his delegation objected to the content of a number of the reports referred to in decision 81/19, including language pertaining to gender, climate, the Sustainable Development Goals and the proposed digital solutions centre for sustainable development.

**Sub-item (g)**
**Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development**

228. In addition to the documents for consideration common to agenda item 5, the Commission had before it the note by the secretariat on macroeconomic prospects, challenges and policy issues for the Asia-Pacific region (ESCAP/81/16) and a note verbale dated 13 February 2025 from the Embassy of Nepal in Bangkok addressed to the secretariat of the Commission (ESCAP/81/31).

229. Representatives of the following members of the Commission made statements: Bangladesh, China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nepal and Thailand.

230. The representative of Nepal, reporting on behalf of the Chair of the high-level Regional Consultation on Financing for Development in Asia and the Pacific, which had been organized in preparation for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, highlighted four priority areas of discussion at the Regional Consultation: (a) strengthening domestic public resources; (b) accelerating the mobilization of domestic and international private finance and investment towards the Sustainable Development Goals; (c) tackling public debt sustainability concerns; and (d) addressing new and emerging issues. Implementing tax reforms, increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of fiscal expenditure and strengthening fiscal management had been identified as priorities at the Regional Consultation. In addition, it had been noted that useful actions to mobilize investment included developing enabling policy and regulatory environments; deepening banking and capital markets and public-private partnerships; and deploying innovative financing instruments, such as green bonds and sustainability-linked loans, as well as de-risking mechanisms and blended finance solutions.

231. Some representatives highlighted that high inflation posed a threat to economic growth and development. A tighter fiscal policy stance, increases in tax collection and overall fiscal discipline were noted as possible options for taming inflation, while the depreciation of local currencies was highlighted as an emerging source of inflationary pressure.

232. Some representatives underscored the importance of regional cooperation and inclusiveness in fostering sustainable development amid current global economic uncertainties and in leveraging the potential of innovative technologies.

233. One representative highlighted national efforts to reduce poverty through financial support for low-income individuals and household debt relief initiatives. He noted that public investment had been allocated to areas relating to the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in environmental, infrastructure and social projects.

234. One representative highlighted the importance of lifting labour productivity and diversifying economies away from fossil fuels in promoting development, while noting the role of economic, human capital and labour market policies in addressing those issues.

235. One representative highlighted the role of regional peace and stability in supporting sustained economic growth, while noting rising geopolitical tensions, unilateralism and protectionism and the increasingly fragmented global economy. He called for cooperation to promote universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization and for multilateralism that included the

global South in a non-discriminatory environment, while highlighting the importance of creating new drivers of economic development and the opportunities presented by scientific and technological innovation.

236. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Commission adopted decision 81/19, by which it took note of various documents, including the note by the secretariat on macroeconomic prospects, challenges and policy issues for the Asia-Pacific region (ESCAP/81/16), by a vote of 36 to 1.

237. The representative of the United States requested a vote on the decision, explaining that his delegation objected to the content of a number of the reports referred to in decision 81/19, including language pertaining to gender, climate, the Sustainable Development Goals and the proposed digital solutions centre for sustainable development.

**Sub-item (h)**
**Trade, investment, enterprise and business innovation**

238. In addition to the documents for consideration common to agenda item 5, the Commission had before it the report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its twentieth session (ESCAP/81/17) and the note by the secretariat on reimagining private sector engagement for urban development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/81/18).

239. The Chair of the twentieth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology presented the report of the Governing Council.

240. Representatives of the following members of the Commission made statements: Bangladesh, China, India, Thailand and the United States.

241. The Commission was informed of national priorities and experiences in the areas of trade, investment, enterprise and business development. Several representatives emphasized the critical role of trade, investment, innovation and entrepreneurship as drivers of inclusive and sustainable development. Several representatives provided information and shared reflections on their respective efforts to leverage international trade for sustainable development, attract investment, promote public-private collaboration and support innovation-driven industrialization. One representative shared the progress made in preparing the road map for implementing the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific.

242. One representative expressed concern over the increasing use of unilateral protectionist trade measures and underscored the importance of collective efforts grounded in a rules-based multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization. Another representative highlighted national efforts aimed at addressing trade imbalances as part of broader initiatives to promote fair and equitable trade.

243. Several representatives noted the importance of developing infrastructure, innovation hubs, enabling environments and a robust ecosystem to facilitate the commercialization of innovations and the localization and scaling up of advanced industrial technologies. The importance of regional cooperation on the ethical use of emerging technologies in realizing the objectives of Sustainable Development Goals was also noted.

244. One representative noted the role of young innovators, in particular women, in delivering and developing advanced technologies, demonstrating dynamic entrepreneurial spirit and promoting start-up ecosystems.

245. Some representatives highlighted the importance of technology transfer and expressed support for the work of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, which was focused on strengthening national innovation systems, fostering technology cooperation, promoting emerging digital technologies, including information and communications technologies and fourth industrial revolution technologies, and building the capacities of member States. Some representatives acknowledged the importance of the Centre's capacity-building events, including the Technology and Innovation Conclave 1.0.

246. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Commission adopted decision 81/14, by which it endorsed the report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its twentieth session (ESCAP/81/17), by a vote of 36 to 1.

247. The representative of the United States requested a vote on the decision because, in the view of his delegation, the report contained an unnecessary focus on climate change instead of on specific environmental threats and sensible environmental protections.

248. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted decision 81/19, by which it took note of various documents, including the note by the secretariat on reimagining private sector engagement for urban development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/81/18), by a vote of 36 to 1.

249. The representative of the United States requested a vote on the decision, explaining that his delegation objected to the content of a number of the reports referred to in decision 81/19, including language pertaining to gender, climate, the Sustainable Development Goals and the proposed digital solutions centre for sustainable development.

**Sub-item (i)**
**Information and communications technology, science, technology and innovation**

250. In addition to the documents for consideration common to agenda item 5, the Commission had before it the report on the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation (ESCAP/MCDIT/5), the Astana Ministerial Declaration on Digital Inclusion and Transformation in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/MCDIT/5/Add.1), the report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its nineteenth session (ESCAP/81/19) and the note by the secretariat on strengthening cooperation on emerging digital technologies through the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative and the Astana Ministerial Declaration (ESCAP/81/20).

251. The Chair of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation presented the outcomes of the Ministerial Conference.

252. The Chair of the nineteenth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development presented the report of the Governing Council.

253. Representatives of the following members of the Commission made statements: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Russian Federation, Thailand and Viet Nam.

254. Several representatives noted the influence of emerging digital technologies, in particular artificial intelligence, in reshaping service delivery for government and business sectors. Digital transformation, coupled with innovation and scientific progress, could serve as a catalyst for sustainable development. Nevertheless, concerns were raised about the increasing risks associated with such technologies, such as cybersecurity threats, the persistent widening of the digital divide and practices that could suppress the technological development of other countries.

255. Several representatives noted the role of the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative in promoting the need to bridge the digital divide and accelerate digital transformation for sustainable development. Representatives also noted the contribution of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030) in promoting the monitoring of the environment and the prediction of disaster hotspots, as well as the role of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology in promoting regional cooperation on digital technologies, especially on climate-resilient digital infrastructure and emerging digital technologies. Representatives further noted the support provided by the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on digital transformation and capacity-building, in particular in strengthening the ability of member States to use information and communications technology effectively for sustainable development.

256. Various representatives expressed their support of the secretariat working with other organizations to assist member States in promoting the safe, secure and trustworthy use of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, and in localizing the Global Digital Compact. Some representatives noted the importance of promoting equitable and affordable access to digital technologies and fostering open, free and secure digital infrastructure ecosystems. A few representatives highlighted the need to leverage artificial intelligence, satellite data and satellite-based applications for early warning systems and to bridge the digital divide for sustainable development.

257. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Commission adopted resolution 81/4 on the Astana Ministerial Declaration on Digital Inclusion and Transformation in Asia and the Pacific, without a vote.

258. Fiji, Maldives, Mongolia and Vanuatu joined Kazakhstan in sponsoring the resolution.

259. The representatives of France and the Cook Islands expressed their delegations' support for the resolution.

260. The representative of the United States made a statement indicating that his delegation disassociated itself from the resolution because his Government opposed the establishment of the digital solutions centre for sustainable development, as well as the process that might facilitate its establishment. Establishing another regional centre would be highly duplicative and inefficient. Furthermore, in its view, the Ministerial Declaration contained an unnecessary focus on climate. He added that the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals impinged on State sovereignty as a soft form

of global governance and that his Government would no longer reaffirm them as a matter of course in United Nations resolutions or other documents.

261. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted decision 81/15, by which it took note of the report on the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation (ESCAP/MCDIT/5), without a vote.

262. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted decision 81/16, by which it endorsed the report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its nineteenth session (ESCAP/81/19), by a vote of 36 to 1.

263. The representative of the United States stated that his delegation had requested a vote on the decision because, in its view, the report of the Governing Council included unclear language on gender inclusion and it was the policy of his Government to use clear and accurate language that recognized that women were biologically female and men were biologically male.

264. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted decision 81/19, by which it took note of various documents, including the note by the secretariat on strengthening cooperation on emerging digital technologies through the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative and the Astana Ministerial Declaration on Digital Inclusion and Transformation in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/81/20), by a vote of 36 to 1.

265. The representative of the United States requested a vote on the decision, explaining that his delegation objected to the content of a number of the reports referred to in decision 81/19, including language pertaining to gender, climate, the Sustainable Development Goals and the proposed digital solutions centre for sustainable development.

**Sub-item (j)**
**Statistics**

266. In addition to the documents for consideration common to agenda item 5, the Commission had before it the note by the secretariat containing a summary of progress made in the implementation of various resolutions of the Commission, including resolution 71/14 on the Asian and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade, 2015–2024, and resolution 75/9 on the implementation of the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind (ESCAP/81/6); the report of the Committee on Statistics on its ninth session (ESCAP/CST(9)/6); the report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its twentieth session (ESCAP/81/21); and the note by the secretariat on a whole-of-society approach to building agile statistical systems (ESCAP/81/22).

267. The Chair of the ninth session of the Committee on Statistics presented the outcomes of the session.

268. The Chair of the twentieth session of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific presented the report of the Governing Council.

269. Representatives of the following members of the Commission made statements: Bangladesh, China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan and Thailand.

270. Several representatives acknowledged the importance of statistics for evidence-based decision-making, noting the foundational contributions to policy that had been made possible by statistics, including for the 2030 Agenda. One representative highlighted that World Statistics Day, observed on 20 October, could be leveraged as an opportunity to showcase the importance of official statistics for societal development.

271. The Commission emphasized the need for data governance, quality assurance and agile statistical systems capable of adapting and partnering with diverse stakeholders to meet changing demands for accurate, timely and granular data to inform policy.

272. Several representatives shared their experiences with innovations, such as digital censuses, online platforms for the Sustainable Development Goals, big data, cloud computing and artificial intelligence. They highlighted the benefit of regional statistical collaboration for sharing and strengthening innovation expertise, such as through technical workshops on the use of big data for official statistics. One representative noted the continued need for statistics capacity development and training and highlighted the important role played by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, noting the need to expand and diversify its funding.

273. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Commission adopted decision 81/17, by which it endorsed the report of the Committee on Statistics on its ninth session (ESCAP/CST(9)/6), by a vote of 36 to 1.

274. The representative of the United States stated that his delegation had requested a vote on the decision because his Government believed that the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals impinged on State sovereignty as a soft form of global governance. He stated that his Government would no longer reaffirm them as a matter of course in United Nations resolutions or other documents.

275. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted decision 81/18, by which it endorsed the report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its twentieth session (ESCAP/81/21), without a vote.

276. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted decision 81/19, by which it took note of various documents, including the note by the secretariat on a whole-of-society approach to building agile statistical systems (ESCAP/81/22), by a vote of 36 to 1.

277. The representative of the United States requested a vote on the decision, explaining that his delegation objected to the content of a number of the reports referred to in decision 81/19, including language pertaining to gender, climate, the Sustainable Development Goals and the proposed digital solutions centre for sustainable development.

## Agenda item 6
## Management issues

278. The Executive Secretary made an introductory statement on management issues.

**Sub-item (a)**
**Proposed programme plan for 2026**

279. The Commission had before it the note by the secretariat on the proposed programme plan for 2026 (ESCAP/81/23).

280. The representative of the Russian Federation made a statement.

281. In his statement, the representative of the Russian Federation said that the proposed programme plan for 2026 was well balanced and welcomed the consistent work of the secretariat aimed at fulfilling the complex mandates of the Commission. He stressed the importance of the outcomes of certain forthcoming events in implementing the programme plan: the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, the Second World Summit for Social Development and other events organized under the auspices of the United Nations on achieving sustainable development. While the representative stated that he had no objections to the planned evaluation of the secretariat's approach to leveraging artificial intelligence to support member States, he called for a balanced approach to the topic, bearing in mind that the secretariat was not a specialized forum for addressing issues related to artificial intelligence.

282. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Commission adopted decision 81/20, by which it endorsed the proposed programme plan for 2026 (ESCAP/81/23), without a vote.

**Sub-item (b)**
**Overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development**

283. The Commission had before it the note by the secretariat on the overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development (ESCAP/81/24).

284. Representatives of the following members of the Commission made statements: China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea and United Kingdom.

285. The representative of China stated that, in 2025, his Government would continue to provide contributions to the China-ESCAP Cooperation Programme, the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization and other subsidiary bodies and to support work in relevant specialized areas. He stated that the amount of the contributions had yet to be approved. He highlighted that his Government, which was a major and long-standing donor to the Commission, would continue to maintain the level of its contributions to the Commission despite the various difficulties faced by countries in the region, such as pressures on economic growth and fiscal constraints. He expressed his Government's continued support to the Commission and its commitment to promoting cooperation on sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region. He also expressed the hope that, in using the contributions, the secretariat and the regional institutions of the Commission would strengthen project management, improve resource efficiency, produce tangible results to benefit the people in the region, and contribute to the promotion of sustainable development and economic growth in the region.

286. The representative of the Republic of Korea stated that his Government would provide a total contribution of $3.6 million towards the programme of work of the secretariat and the regional institutions for 2025. Recalling that the Republic of Korea was the host country of the Subregional Office for East and

North-East Asia and the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, he stated that his Government intended to pledge $1.14 million for the Subregional Office; $1.49 million for the Centre; $75,000 for other regional institutions; and $930,000 for technical cooperation, trust funds and other projects. The Government of the Republic of Korea reaffirmed its commitment to inclusive and sustainable development and regional cooperation through its unwavering support of the work of the Commission. It recognized the importance of technical assistance and capacity development programmes that enhanced the technical and institutional capacities of member States and was proud to contribute to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region.

287. The representative of India stated that his Government recognized the important role of the secretariat and the regional institutions in assisting in the delivery of capacity-building and other initiatives in support of member States and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. He reaffirmed the commitment of his Government to engaging in regional cooperation to tackle shared challenges across the Asia-Pacific region in order to realize the Sustainable Development Goals. In that regard, the representative stated that his Government intended to pledge $994,000 to support the activities of the Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific. He highlighted that his Government would provide a one-time contribution of $500,000 to the ESCAP multi-donor trust fund for tsunami, disaster and climate preparedness.

288. The representative of the United Kingdom affirmed her Government's collaboration with the secretariat and its partners in the Asia-Pacific region in support of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The representative highlighted that a budget of 2.1 million pounds sterling (approximately $2.8 million) had been announced in December 2024 for a project entitled "ASEAN green investment catalyst", which would support the ASEAN secretariat and States members of ASEAN in achieving their climate goals with the implementation of the recently adopted ASEAN Regional Investment Promotion Action Plan 2025–2030. The initiative was focused on channelling foreign direct investment into green sectors, which were critical for the transition to a low-carbon economy. Furthermore, in February 2025, a two-year project with a budget of 1 million pounds sterling focused on strengthening transport policies and workforce development for a just and inclusive transition to electric mobility in Bangkok was launched as part of the secretariat's regional low-carbon mobility work. The representative of the United Kingdom reaffirmed her Government's commitment to the multilateral system and the Asia-Pacific region and expressed her appreciation for the collaboration with the secretariat and the members and associate members of the Commission.

289. The representative of Japan welcomed the information provided by the secretariat in its note on the overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development (ESCAP/81/24) and encouraged further information-sharing, especially linked to projects under sections 23 and 35 of the budget, as more information would enable co-financing, greater accountability and more resource contributions from a wider array of sources. Noting that the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific had responded to the increasing need for statistical training by members and associate members and the growing demand to track progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by providing necessary measures and training resources, the representative expressed his appreciation to the Institute for its

efforts in that regard. Recalling that Japan was the host country of the Institute, he stated that his Government would pledge approximately $2.8 million in combined cash and in-kind contributions to support its work. Furthermore, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Government would provide fellowships for participation in a three-month training course. The representative of Japan expressed the hope that the contributions would be used effectively and efficiently for capacity development in the area of statistics.

290. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025 the Commission adopted decision 81/21, by which it took note of the note by the secretariat on the overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development (ESCAP/81/24), without a vote, and expressed its appreciation for pledges amounting to $7,116,353 for 2025 from the following members and associate members: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand, as well as Macao, China.

**Sub-item (c)**
**Evaluation of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management**

291. The Commission had before it the note by the secretariat on the evaluation of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (ESCAP/81/25).

292. Representatives of the following members of the Commission made statements: China and Iran (Islamic Republic of).

293. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran acknowledged the pertinent conclusions of the evaluation and affirmed his Government's support for the implementation of actions to address the recommendations. Recalling that the Islamic Republic of Iran was the host country of the Centre, he reiterated his Government's full commitment to the Centre and emphasized the importance of better aligning resources with programme delivery and utilizing various modalities for securing staff resources to enhance the Centre's efficiency, credibility and impact.

294. The representative of China commended the contributions of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management in integrating disaster information management into disaster risk reduction strategies. She affirmed her Government's readiness to deepen collaboration in support of disaster information management in the region.

295. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Commission adopted decision 81/22, by which it endorsed the recommendations contained in the note by the secretariat on the evaluation of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (ESCAP/81/25), by a vote of 36 to 1.

296. The representative of the United States stated that his delegation had requested a vote on the decision because, in its view, the note by the secretariat on the evaluation of the Centre included unclear language on gender inclusion and it was the policy of his Government to use clear and accurate language that recognized that women were biologically female and men were biologically male.

**Sub-item (d)**
**Evaluation of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization**

297. The Commission had before it the note by the secretariat on the evaluation of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (ESCAP/81/26).

298. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Commission adopted decision 81/23, by which it endorsed the recommendations contained in the note by the secretariat on the evaluation of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (ESCAP/81/26), by a vote of 36 to 1.

299. The representative of the United States stated that his delegation had requested a vote on the decision because the note by the secretariat on the evaluation of the Centre included language on gender mainstreaming.

**Sub-item (e)**
**Evaluation of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific**

300. The Commission had before it the note by the secretariat on the evaluation of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/81/27).

301. Representatives of the following members of the Commission made statements: China and Japan.

302. The representative of Japan acknowledged the findings of the evaluation of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and endorsed the secretariat's response to its recommendations. He noted concerns regarding the timing of the evaluation process in relation to the formulation of the Institute's next strategic plan and emphasized the need for future evaluations to allow sufficient time for review and consultation by its Governing Council.

303. The representative of China commended the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific for its contributions to regional statistical capacity-building. She affirmed her Government's readiness to deepen cooperation in support of statistical development in the region.

304. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Commission adopted decision 81/24, by which it endorsed the secretariat's response to the recommendations contained in the note by the secretariat on the evaluation of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/81/27), without a vote.

**Agenda item 7**
**Midpoint review of the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

305. The Commission had before it the note by the secretariat on the midpoint review of the conference structure of the Commission (ESCAP/81/28).

306. The Vice-Chair of the informal consultations on the midpoint review of the conference structure of the Commission presented the outcomes of the consultations.

307. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Commission adopted decision 81/25, by which it took note of the note by the secretariat on the midpoint review of the conference structure of the Commission (ESCAP/81/28), without a vote.

308. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted decision 81/26, by which it decided that, recalling its resolution 80/4 of 26 April 2024 and without prejudice to rules 31 and 32 of its rules of procedure, members of the Commission intending to submit draft decisions and draft recommendations to be considered by its subsidiary bodies, in particular the committees, were strongly encouraged to submit them to the Executive Secretary at least one month prior to the commencement of the session, in order to allow sufficient time for review by the members and associate members of the Commission. The decision was adopted without a vote.

309. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted decision 81/27, by which it decided to rename the Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States as the Special Body on Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. The decision was adopted without a vote.

**Agenda item 8**
**Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission**

310. The Commission had before it the report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ESCAP/81/29).

311. The Alternate Deputy Permanent Representative of Cambodia, speaking on behalf of the Permanent Representative of Cambodia, presented the report of the Advisory Committee on behalf of its members.

312. Representatives of the following members of the Commission made statements: China, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Japan.

313. One representative emphasized the role of the Advisory Committee in helping delegations prepare and in facilitating engagement with capitals. She underscored that it would be valuable for the calendar of meetings – including details such as the proposed dates, the resolutions containing the mandates and the budget type – to be issued by December of the preceding year to enable delegations to plan and participate more effectively. She further recommended that meetings, in particular committee sessions, be scheduled to avoid overlaps or tight sequencing, which could limit delegations' ability to engage meaningfully.

314. Another representative acknowledged the constructive work of the Advisory Committee and underscored its important role in supporting communication, coordination and the preparation of meetings, including the annual session of the Commission. The Advisory Committee had actively contributed to advancing the implementation of relevant resolutions and regional action plans. He expressed his delegation's commitment to working collaboratively with all member States to further strengthen the role of the Advisory Committee as an effective platform for fostering communication and cooperation between member States and the secretariat in support of sustainable development in the region.

315. One representative emphasized the importance of enhancing transparency in the work of the Advisory Committee and encouraged all delegations to engage actively in its activities.

316. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Commission adopted decision 81/28, by which it took note of the report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ESCAP/81/29), without a vote.

**Agenda item 9**
**Dates and venue of and theme for the eighty-second session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (2026)**

317. The Commission had before it the note by the secretariat on the dates and venue of and theme for the eighty-second session of the Commission (2026) (ESCAP/81/30).

318. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Commission adopted decision 81/29, by which it decided that its eighty-second session would be held in Baku from 20 to 24 April 2026 and that the theme for its eighty-second session would be "Leaving no one behind: advancing a society for all ages in Asia and the Pacific". The decision was adopted without a vote.

319. The representative of Armenia made a statement regarding decision 81/29 and reaffirmed his Government's commitment to engage constructively with the Commission in promoting sustainable development, with the understanding that the Government of Azerbaijan would reciprocate and not oppose the potential nomination of Armenia to elected positions within the context of the Commission. He expressed the expectation that the eighty-second session of the Commission would be conducted in adherence to the Charter of the United Nations and the Commission's mandate.

320. The representative of Azerbaijan reassured the Commission that his Government would accord the same level of hospitality and support to all delegations and looked forward to welcoming all delegations in Baku in 2026 for the eighty-second session of the Commission.

**Agenda item 10**
**Other matters**

321. In accordance with rule 12 of the Commission's rules of procedure, the Chair and the Vice-Chairs examined the credentials of the representatives of member States and reported upon them to the Commission. The credentials of the representatives of 43 member States were found to be in order. Acknowledging the report of the Credentials Committee to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session (A/79/613), and in line with Assembly resolution 396 (V) of 14 December 1950, the bureau decided to defer any action on the credentials pertaining to the representatives of Myanmar at the eighty-first session of the Commission pending a decision by the Assembly on the representation of Myanmar.

322. The Commission took note of the oral report of the bureau on credentials.

**Election of the members of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development**

323. In addition to the host country, the Republic of Korea, the Commission elected the following members to the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for

Development for the period from 2025 to 2028: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Kazakhstan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Thailand and Uzbekistan.

**Election of the members of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management**

324. In addition to the host country, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Commission elected the following members and associate members to the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management for the period from 2025 to 2028: Bangladesh, India, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Mongolia, Pakistan and Türkiye, as well as Macao, China.

**Election of the members of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization**

325. In addition to the host country, China, the Commission elected the following members to the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization for the period from 2025 to 2028: India, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

**Election of the members of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific**

326. In addition to the host country, Japan, the Commission elected the following members to the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific for the period from 2025 to 2028: China, India, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Thailand.

**Agenda item 11**
**Adoption of the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on its eighty-first session**

327. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Commission unanimously adopted the report on its eighty-first session (ESCAP/81/32).