Policy Statement

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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Impacts of COVID-19

Shocks across the region:

• Impacts to health, economies and societies
• Losses of families, friends and livelihoods
• Exposed importance of investing in public health and social protection systems
• Criticality of data and information management
Protecting our ocean

Renewed commitment to ocean health

- Theme of this year’s Commission
- Importance of sustainability of oceans highlighted
- Calls for regional cooperation in data and statistics, maritime connectivity, sustainable fisheries and marine plastic pollution
- UN Oceans Conference
Achievements

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been significant achievements:

- Integrated national financing frameworks and regional cooperation on innovative financing
- Sustainable urban planning to build resilience, smart cities and transition to finance solutions leading to people-centred development
- Gender equality and women’s empowerment, through improved access to formal economy, financial inclusion and technology
Revamped regional architecture

ESCAP will strengthen:

• Policy coordination and joint programming with UN agencies, funds and programmes

• Programming through issue-based coalitions on climate change mitigation, resilience, inclusion and empowerment, gender and human rights and human mobility and urbanization
Partnerships and Cooperation

ESCAP strengthened partnerships with multi-stakeholders by:

• Stepping up collaboration with subregional organizations, the private sector, think tanks, academia and civil society

• ASEAN partnership to enhance complementarities between ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and UN 2030 Agenda

• Working with subregional mechanisms to achieve the SAMOA Pathway
COVID-19 Response

Countries face unprecedented challenges

- Balancing containment measures against socio-economic recovery
- Refocusing our work is critical to building back better
Looking Forward

Policy areas to build back better:

1. Protecting and investing in people and enhancing resilience
2. Supporting sustainable and inclusive economic recovery
3. Restoring supply chains and supporting SMEs

Accelerating collections actions to protect the environment by addressing pollution reduction, decarbonization and energy efficiency, and climate change and biodiversity.
Focusing on the vulnerable

Recovery must include those most at risk

- Our collective strengths and spirit of compassion unite us as we chart new pathways
- We will take forward the Secretary-General’s call for solidarity and inclusive multilateralism
- At this turning point of the UN’s 75th anniversary, we will support the people of the region together
THANK YOU

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