United Nations

Economic and Social Council

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Committee on Environment and Development

Seventh session
Bangkok and online, 29 November–1 December 2022
Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its seventh session

Draft report

I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention

A. Matters calling for action by the Commission

1. The following recommendations of the Committee on Environment and Development are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) for its consideration and possible action:

Recommendation 1

The Committee on Environment and Development recommends that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, at its seventy-ninth session, endorse the Ministerial Declaration on Protecting Our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution.

Recommendation 2

The Committee on Environment and Development recommends that the members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific propose and develop multilateral and regional initiatives and collaborate in support of the actions set out in the Ministerial Declaration on Protecting Our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Commission

2. The following decisions adopted by the Committee are brought to the attention of ESCAP:

Decision 1

The Committee on Environment and Development adopts the Ministerial Declaration on Protecting Our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution.
Decision 2

The Committee on Environment and Development adopts the terms of reference of the Technical Expert Group on Environment and Development as orally amended (ESCAP/CED/2022/3/Rev.1, annex) and requests the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to seek the nomination of experts from among the members and associate members of the Commission prior to the first meeting of the Technical Expert Group.

II. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the session

3. The Committee held its seventh session in Bangkok and online from 29 November to 1 December 2022. The session was opened by a member of the bureau of the sixth session of the Committee.

B. Attendance

4. Representatives of the following members and associate members attended: Australia; Bangladesh; Cambodia; China; Fiji; France; Georgia; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Lao People’s Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Maldives; Mongolia; Nepal; New Zealand; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Türkiye; United States of America; Uzbekistan; and Viet Nam.

5. A representative of Germany, a Permanent Observer to ESCAP, also attended.

6. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and funds also attended: International Atomic Energy Agency; International Labour Organization (ILO); International Organization for Migration (IOM); International Telecommunication Union; United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

7. Representatives of the Economic Cooperation Organization, an intergovernmental organization, attended.

8. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and other entities also attended: Alexis Foundation; Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact; Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism; Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs; German Agency for International Cooperation; India Water Foundation; International Association for Religious Freedom, Coordination Council for South Asia; International Council of Women; International Federation of Social Workers; Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George; Thailand Clean Air Network; UNEP Major Group for Children and Youth; and Urbanice Malaysia.

9. In accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure of ESCAP, the Chair and Vice-Chairs examined the credentials of all the representatives and found them to be in order.
C. **Election of officers**

10. The Committee elected the following officers for the senior officials segment:

   Chair: Mr. Amenatave V. Yauvoli (Fiji)
   Vice-Chairs: Ms. Huda Ali Shareef (Maldives)
               Mr. Davaadash Sambuu (Mongolia)

11. The Committee elected the following officers for the ministerial segment:

   Chair: Mr. Bat-Ulzii Bat-Urdene (Mongolia)
   Vice-Chairs: Ms. Vilaykham Phosalath (Lao People’s Democratic Republic)
               Ms. Zulfiya Suleimenova (Kazakhstan)

D. **Agenda**

12. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

   **Senior officials segment**

   1. Opening of the senior officials segment:
      (a) Opening statements;
      (b) Election of officers;
      (c) Adoption of the agenda.


   3. Protecting our planet through regional cooperation and solidarity in Asia and the Pacific.

   4. Other matters.

   **Ministerial segment**

   5. Opening of the ministerial segment:
      (a) Opening statements;
      (b) Election of officers;
      (c) Adoption of agenda.

   6. Strengthening regional collaboration to protect our planet.

   7. Other matters.

   8. Adoption of the ministerial declaration on environment and development for Asia and the Pacific, 2022.

   9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its seventh session.
E. Other events

13. The following side events and partnership events were held in conjunction with the Committee session:

   (a) 29 November 2022, side event: “Asia-Pacific finance round table”, organized by the Alexis Foundation;

   (b) 29 November 2022, side event: “Managing the risk of a temperature overshoot in Asia and the Pacific”, organized by the Energy and Resources Institute and the Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative of the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs;

   (c) 30 November 2022, side event: “Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia: challenges, perspectives and opportunities”, organized by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan;

   (d) 30 November 2022, side event: “Strengthening the environment-health nexus and One Health in Asia and the Pacific”, co-hosted with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UNEP and the World Health Organization;

   (e) 30 November 2022, partnership event: “Lessons for building an air quality management framework for the Asia-Pacific region”, organized by the Governments of Maldives, Mongolia and the United States of America;

   (f) 30 November 2022, partnership event: “Promoting a regional approach to climate-related mobility in the Pacific”, co-hosted with the ESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific, IOM, ILO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Platform on Disaster Displacement;

   (g) 30 November 2022, partnership event: “Urban-ACT: integrated climate action for low-carbon and resilient cities”, co-hosted with the German Agency for International Cooperation.

III. Chair’s summary

14. The discussions held during the session will be summarized in a Chair’s summary that will become available within a week following the conclusion of the session and be annexed to the present report.
Annex

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