

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Seventy-eighth session  
Friday 27 May 2022

**Introductory statement by  
H.E. Ms. Millicent Cruz-Paredes  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
and Permanent Representative of the Philippines to ESCAP and Chair  
of the informal consultations on the review of the conference structure  
of the Commission**

**Agenda item 6  
Review of the Conference Structure of the Commission pursuant to  
resolution 73/1**

Thank you, Chair.

*Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,*

I am honoured to present to you today the outcomes of the informal consultations on the review of the conference structure of the Commission which I had the honour to Chair along with Ms. Julia Feeney, Minister and Deputy Head of Mission and Permanent Representative of Australia to ESCAP who acted as vice Chair of these consultations.

Pursuant to resolution 73/1 adopted in May 2017, the Commission decided to conduct a review of its conference structure at its seventy-eighth session, in 2022, following a midpoint review conducted at its seventy-fifth session, in 2019, and requested the Executive Secretary to submit a report in both cases, with a focus on the programme areas of the Commission, which would serve as a basis for that review.

In this connection six informal consultations among member States were organized between November 2021 and March 2022. The objectives of these consultations were to hear views on the review of the conference structure of the Commission pertaining to its subsidiary bodies and to come to a common understanding on what should be updated, in particular the terms of reference of the committees, the areas to be mainstreamed into their work and the list of the primary issues to be addressed by each of them.

*Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,*

As the Chair of informal consultation on the review of the conference structure of the Commission, it is my honour to report the outcomes of these consultations as follows:

- First, the terms of reference and issues to be considered by the committees subsidiary to the Commission will be updated to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to align with post-COVID-19 recovery priorities, as well as to reflect resolutions and decisions adopted since the last review in 2017;
- Secondly, the Committee on Trade and Investment will be reconstituted as the *Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation*, and will meet biennially; and
- Thirdly, the Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries will be renamed as the *Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States* and its deliberations will be held during the ministerial segment of the Commission sessions.

These changes will be executed through the resolution entitled “A conference structure of the Commission to advance sustainable development” that will be formally adopted later today during agenda item 10 – Adoption of the report of the Commission after being agreed by member States and undergoing the silence procedure.

This important resolution allows the conference structure of the Commission to be fit for purpose to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the post-pandemic recovery in the region.

In closing, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all member States for their active engagement in the informal consultations and for the support extended to me and the Vice-Chair.

I look forward to comments from the meeting and would be pleased to entertain any questions there may be.

Thank you.

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