

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Seventy-eighth session
Friday 27 May 2022

**Introductory statement by
H.E. Mrs. C.A. Chaminda I. Colonne, Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary, and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to ESCAP
and Rapporteur of the ACPR to the Commission**

**Agenda item 7
Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives
and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the
Commission (ACPR)**

Thank you, Chair.

Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

I am honoured to introduce to you today the report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission on its activities since the last session of the Commission in April 2021 until March of this year.

As you know, the Commission, in its resolution 73/1, had entrusted the Advisory Committee with several functions, including strengthening close cooperation and consultation between member States and the secretariat, serving as a deliberative forum for substantive exchange of views, and providing guidance on the formulation of the ESCAP agenda, as well as advising the Executive Secretary on the programme of work and preparations for the Commission and its subsidiary committees. In the elapsed time since the last session of the Commission, the Committee has done just that.

The Advisory Committee held six regular sessions during the past year. In addition, informal consultations were held to review the conference structure of the Commission, pursuant to resolution 73/1, in the lead-up to the seventy-eighth session of the Commission. H.E. Ms. Millicent Cruz-Paredes Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of the Philippines to ESCAP and Ms. Julia Feeney, Minister and Deputy Head of Mission and Permanent Representative of Australia to ESCAP served as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

Moreover, the Advisory Committee convened its Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions, which was chaired by Ms. Julia Feeney, Minister and Deputy Head of Mission and Permanent Representative of Australia, and Mr. Sukmo Yuwono, Deputy Chief of Mission and Deputy Permanent Representative of Indonesia to ESCAP, to undertake an initial review of the draft resolutions and decisions before their submission to this session of the Commission for its consideration.

Chair,

Allow me to highlight a few key activities of the Advisory Committee during the period under review, from document **ESCAP/78/32** placed before you.

The Advisory Committee reviewed the outcome of the seventy-seventh session of the Commission and provided advice and guidance on the implementation of the resolution adopted at that session.

The Advisory Committee reviewed the preparations made by the secretariat for the current seventy-eighth session of the Commission.

Members of the Advisory Committee also closely reviewed preparations for and outcomes of a broad range of meetings convened by ESCAP in several sectoral streams, including: Disaster Risk Reduction; Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development; Statistics and Transport.

Furthermore, the Advisory Committee reviewed the preparations for the Ninth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development. The Advisory Committee also examined the outcomes of the sessions of the Governing Councils of the regional institutions of ESCAP.

Throughout the year, the Executive Secretary of ESCAP regularly informed the Advisory Committee of activities relating to priority issues of the United Nations and of ESCAP, and outcomes of her virtual participations and engagements in major meetings, cooperation between member States and the secretariat, and administrative and programme matters concerning ESCAP. Regular updates on the reform of the United Nations development system were also regularly provided to the Advisory Committee.

Moreover, the Advisory Committee was briefed by the Executive Secretary on activities of the secretariat to assist member States in their response to the COVID-19.

Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

To sum up, the Advisory Committee provided valuable advice and guidance to the secretariat in the past year while remaining conscious of the importance of monitoring the implementation of Commission

resolutions, and improving coordination among all relevant stakeholders pursuing the economic, social and environmental agenda of ESCAP.

As the Rapporteur of the ACPR, it is my honour to hereby submit for consideration by the Commission the report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.

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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