

**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific****Seventy-sixth session**

Bangkok, 21 May 2020

Item 6 (c) of the provisional agenda **

Management issues**Overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions
and capacity development****Note by the secretariat***Summary*

The present document contains an overview of the secretariat's partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and technical cooperation work undertaken in 2019. The steps taken by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to strengthen its relations with partners and donors are highlighted, and a summary of extrabudgetary contributions made available to the secretariat in 2019 is provided. The document also elaborates upon the delivery of the Commission's technical cooperation work in 2019 using examples of results achieved in cooperation with some of the key partners of the secretariat. The effective use of partnerships by the secretariat in implementing its programme of work and mandates is highlighted, with a particular focus on the Commission's partnerships with other United Nations entities and its role in facilitating the work of the United Nations to deliver as one at the regional level through engagement with regional and subregional partners.

The Commission may wish to take note of the present document and provide the secretariat with further guidance on the development, direction and priorities of its partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and technical cooperation work.

I. Introduction

1. The ongoing United Nations development system reform calls for integrated responses, new and enhanced skills and knowledge, and coherence of action at the global, regional and national levels with a view to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In his report entitled "Implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, 2019" (A/74/73-E/2019/14), the Secretary-General recognized that United Nations assets at the regional level should be deployed for greater impact, providing member States with high-quality and integrated policy support, better normative and operational assets, stronger transboundary

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** ESCAP/76/L.1/Rev.1.

analysis, and reliable statistics and data for informed decision-making. The reform at the regional level focuses on five main areas of transformation: (a) creating a unified mechanism for coordination at the regional level, namely the United Nations regional collaborative platform, which would absorb the Regional Coordination Mechanisms convened by the regional commissions and the Regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group; (b) developing strong knowledge management hubs in each region, by pooling together policy expertise, by sector or across sectors; (c) implementing initiatives to enhance transparency and results-based management at the regional level; (d) launching a region-by-region change management process that would seek to consolidate existing capacities for data and statistics; and (e) identifying administrative services that could be provided more efficiently to regional offices through common back offices (such as human resources and procurement).

2. It is expected that the recommendations of the Secretary-General, after approval by Member States, will pave the way for effective and efficient delivery of mandates to Member States in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda both at the country and regional levels. It is also expected to result in better integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, and to provide greater visibility to the regional and subregional dimensions of sustainable development.

3. Having taken comprehensive action to align its work in all its dimensions with the 2030 Agenda, including the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is strongly placed to take advantage of the reform process to enhance its support to countries in the region in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. The ambition and breadth of the 2030 Agenda make it difficult to achieve the Goals without strong and inclusive partnerships. Creative approaches to partnerships, pulling in financial resources while tapping into synergies, knowledge and skills, are critical for the delivery of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of its related Goals and targets. The Commission endeavours to maximize the impact of the resources, experience, skills and linkages made available by partners for the implementation of work across all its subprogrammes.

II. Partnership developments in 2019

A. Introduction

5. In adopting in the 2030 Agenda, Member States recognized that its achievement would not be possible without bringing together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizing all available resources. Partnerships lie at the heart of the Commission's work in delivering the 2030 Agenda. In this context, ESCAP has continued to expand partnerships with all relevant stakeholders, including government at all levels, organizations within and outside the United Nations development system, development banks, civil society organizations and the private sector. Examples of ESCAP partnerships are given below:

(a) Partnerships in support of technical cooperation with different categories of development partners, including United Nations Member States, which provide both financial and in-kind contributions to ESCAP;

(b) Partnerships with United Nations development system entities, including facilitation of system-wide coherence through the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism;

(c) Partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Eurasian Economic Commission and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC);

(d) Partnerships with civil society, including through the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development;

(e) Partnerships with the private sector, including through the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network and its associated task forces.

B. Facilitating the efforts of the United Nations to work as one at the regional level

6. ESCAP convenes and serves as the secretariat of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism, which comprises 34 United Nations and affiliated entities, including ADB and the World Bank. The seven thematic working groups under the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism, which correspond to the relevant clusters of the Sustainable Development Goals, provide collective support from the entire United Nations system at the regional level to member States to achieve the Goals.

7. On 28 March 2019, the meeting of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism was held back-to-back with the meeting of the regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group for Asia and the Pacific, following the practice initiated in 2018 to continue reinforcing the strategic coordination between the two regional coordination platforms. The meeting, chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, took stock of the progress of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific and the regional reform of the United Nations development system. Potential areas for collective actions at the regional level were discussed at the meeting, which guided the substantive discussion of the United Nations development system in 2019.

8. In 2019, ESCAP facilitated collaboration across the United Nations entities in Asia and the Pacific on the rolling out of the United Nations development system reform at the regional level. An Asia-Pacific task team on the United Nations development system regional review was established to develop proposals for the roll-out of recommendation numbers 2 to 5 in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/74/73-E/2019/14) on the longer-term reprofiling and restructuring of the regional assets of the United Nations. The task team was co-chaired by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP and the Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group for Asia and the Pacific, and comprised of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), ESCAP, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). The Commission's value added was in facilitating consultation across the United Nations entities and coordinating the completion of a roll-out plan for the operationalization of the Secretary-General's recommendation numbers 2 to 5. Several concrete options were identified:

(a) Evolving the ESCAP Sustainable Development Goals Help Desk to become the common United Nations platform for further developing a regional knowledge management hub;

(b) Using the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development to serve as the primary platform for regional reporting of the United Nations system-wide results to member States;

(c) Developing the Commission's Asia-Pacific SDG Gateway as the joint United Nations platform for Sustainable Development Goals data at the regional level and initiating a process for stocktaking and eventual joint support for countries on data and statistics to measure Sustainable Development Goals;

(d) Piloting concrete and practical common services at the United Nations regional hub for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok.

9. While the United Nations development system reform was under way at the regional level in 2019, the thematic working groups of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism continued their work. Some of the significant deliverables include:

(a) The thematic working group on disaster risk reduction and resilience delivered joint technical assistance at the country level, including a coordinated post-disaster needs assessment in the Islamic Republic of Iran and a joint technical mission and advisory service at the request of the United Nations Resident Coordinator for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(b) The thematic working group on statistics led the development of concrete proposals for the operationalization of the Secretary-General's recommendation number 4 for the longer-term reprofiling and restructuring of the regional assets of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific;

(c) The thematic working group on gender equality and the empowerment of women provided substantive support for the preparation of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review, including offering inputs for the communication strategy, organizing side events and identifying speakers for the Conference.

10. Furthermore, the secretariat continued strengthening its collaboration with the offices of the United Nations resident coordinator and the United Nations country teams. ESCAP provided substantive inputs for the development of common country analysis through the Peer Support Group under the regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group for Asia and the Pacific and at the request of the resident coordinators. The secretariat's inputs focused on: (a) the regional, subregional and transboundary analysis relevant for the common country analysis; (b) regional norms and standards; (c) national Sustainable Development Goals progress assessments using the Asia-Pacific SDG Gateway; and (d) methodologies and tools relevant for Sustainable Development Goal-related monitoring, costing and policy support. Countries for which technical inputs were provided in 2019 included Bangladesh, China, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Timor-Leste and Turkmenistan.

C. Working with regional and subregional partners

11. Harnessing the power of partnerships to maximize the impact of the Commission's work remains a key modality for addressing the Asia-Pacific region's challenges in a holistic manner. ESCAP worked with a range of regional and subregional partners, including under formal cooperation agreements. These partners include ADB, ASEAN, the Association of Pacific Rim Universities, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Eurasian Development Bank, the Eurasian Economic Commission, the Greater Tumen Initiative, the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail, the Islamic Development Bank, the Multi-Global Navigation Satellite Systems Asia, the Pacific Islands Forum secretariat, the Organisation for Co-operation between

Railways, the Pacific Community, SAARC and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

12. ESCAP and ADB continued their long-standing partnership under an ongoing memorandum of understanding. In 2019, ESCAP and ADB further strengthened access to data on indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals, with new tools developed and capacity expanded for data visualization and advocacy resources. The website <http://sdgasiapacific.net/> is in the process of being upgraded with new options for formulating queries on and presenting Sustainable Development Goal data as well as country profiles. The theme reports for the Sixth and Seventh Asia-Pacific Forums on Sustainable Development were also produced, on transformation for empowerment and inclusion and on fast-tracking Sustainable Development Goal achievement, respectively.

13. In 2019, ESCAP continued to coordinate the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations (2016–2020) under the economic cooperation and sociocultural cooperation pillars as well as in respect of cross-sectoral cooperation. This was demonstrated by: (a) the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue; (b) the establishment of an ASEAN Resources Panel as part of the joint initiative on *Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: A Framework for Action*; and (c) the development of a road map as part of that framework. These initiatives were adopted by Heads of State and Government at the thirty-fourth ASEAN Summit in June 2019 through their Vision Statement on Partnership for Sustainability and the Chairman’s statement of the tenth ASEAN-United Nations Summit in November 2019. The Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations (2016–2020) has led to scaled-up partnership with ASEAN across the pillars of sustainable development with an implementation rate of 93 per cent across all three pillars. ESCAP continues to lead the process of developing a second Plan of Action (2021–2025), which is expected to be adopted at the eleventh ASEAN-United Nations Summit in Viet Nam in November 2020.

14. ESCAP supported the participation of the Secretary-General in the tenth ASEAN-United Nations Summit, thirty-fifth ASEAN Summit and related summits. The tenth ASEAN-United Nations Summit reinforced the support for multilateralism and the commitment to strengthen the ASEAN-United Nations Comprehensive Partnership.

15. ESCAP in collaboration with the ASEAN secretariat, convened an expert group meeting on establishing the ASEAN Resources Panel in December 2019. The meeting discussed the draft terms of reference of the Panel. Subsequent meetings are scheduled in 2020 to officially launch the Panel and make it fully operational. ESCAP and the ASEAN secretariat will serve as the secretariat of the Panel in order to support the implementation of its activities.

D. Partnerships for the implementation of the programme of work

16. With increasing demands to deliver concrete results at the global, regional and national levels, ESCAP is working to strengthen country-level support, bringing together national Governments, intergovernmental organizations, development banks, civil society, the private sector and local communities. The diversity and scope of these partnerships are critical for the successful implementation of the Commission’s capacity development projects

and initiatives in response to the transboundary challenges and needs of countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

17. The secretariat implemented several measures and actions in 2019 to further develop relations and cooperation with development partners and donors:

(a) New strategic agreements in the form of memorandums of understanding with various partners, including the Energy Foundation, Eurasian Development Bank, International Business Machines Corporation, International Solar Alliance, Korea International Cooperation Agency, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and World Meteorological Organization;

(b) Implementation of a partnership with the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation, through a multi-donor trust fund administered jointly by ESCAP and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), to support interregional cooperation between East Asia and Latin America;

(c) Annual consultation meeting with the Republic of Korea, held in September 2019 in Bangkok, which reviewed the achievements of projects funded by the Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund and other partners from the country and agreed on the future priority areas under this partnership;

(d) Consultation meeting with China to review the achievements of and future priorities for the China-ESCAP Cooperation Programme;

(e) Regular formal and informal engagements and discussions with other existing and potential new donors, including Canada, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Thailand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(f) Engagement in platforms for South-South cooperation, including the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation held in Argentina in March 2019, and the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, periodically convened by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation;

(g) An internal online handbook providing a one-stop compilation of all programme management, project management and monitoring and evaluation tools and resources for ESCAP project managers, leading to higher quality of projects and outputs;

(h) The ESCAP resource mobilization strategy 2020–2022, an internal document with the aim of improving the quality and increasing the quantity of the secretariat’s resources (financial and in-kind) and diversifying its resource mobilization base to enable ESCAP to fulfil its mandates in assisting member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda. The strategy is underpinned with a set of measurable targets and achievable actions towards strengthening a results culture as well as existing and innovative partnerships;

(i) A resource mobilization strategy for the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, aimed at strengthening and diversifying the funding base of this regional institution;

(j) The *Technical Cooperation Highlights 2018–2019*, presenting the results and achievements of the Commission’s technical cooperation work in collaboration with a diverse range of partners to support the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda, which was disseminated to all ESCAP member States and existing and potential development cooperation partners and donors.

18. The importance of the private sector and civil society organizations in the advocacy and capacity development work of the secretariat has been increasing. In 2019, the secretariat continued to collaborate with a range of global and regional private sector entities, including: (a) Google, on the use of artificial intelligence for social good in the region; (b) Vital Strategies by Bloomberg Philanthropies, to strengthen national capacities in producing vital statistics from civil registration records; and (c) the Energy Foundation, on advancing energy efficiency and renewable energy in Asia and the Pacific. The secretariat, in close consultation with the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network, organized the Asia-Pacific Business Forum in Papua New Guinea in June 2019, which was the first time such a forum was held in the Pacific.

19. Various thematic and sectoral funds supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other global and regional agendas are increasingly playing an important role in enabling ESCAP to forge new partnerships and diversify its funding base. In 2019, ESCAP in partnership with other entities within and outside the United Nations system succeeded in securing additional extrabudgetary resources from the United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund, the United Nations trust fund for human security and the Joint Fund for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

20. To guide efforts in realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women, both within the secretariat and in its work with member States, ESCAP issued a Gender Equality Policy (2019–2023) and Gender Equality Implementation Plan (2019–2023). These agency-wide documents have been aligned with the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, which is the central United Nations policy framework to strengthen the institutional environment and deliver substantive results that will promote gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goals. As part of these efforts, ESCAP also introduced a gender marker to track the financial allocation of organizational resources towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women in its capacity development projects.

E. South-South cooperation

21. The Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, reminded the global development community of the unique contributions of South-South cooperation as an important modality complementing official development assistance. ESCAP, in collaboration with its development cooperation partners, promoted regional and subregional South-South cooperation initiatives in the context of the 2030 Agenda by co-hosting several high-level policy dialogues at the Conference. These included: (a) an event on sharing ASEAN experience with South-South cooperation and its synergies with other regions around the world, co-organized by ESCAP, the Government of Thailand, the Government of Viet Nam, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, the ASEAN secretariat and the Asia Foundation; and (b) an event on building disaster resilience through South-South cooperation, co-organized by ESCAP and the Government of Thailand. The outcome document of the Conference¹ reinforced the role of regional commissions in South-South cooperation, and was operationalized in Asia and the Pacific through Commission resolution 75/3, in which the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to assist member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda by, inter alia, convening regional

¹ See General Assembly resolution 73/291.

forums in which developing countries can exchange experiences and coordinate their own South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives.

22. Gathering experts from member States, research institutes and think tanks, ESCAP in cooperation with the UNDP Seoul Policy Centre for Global Development Partnerships and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation held a regional technical workshop to share experiences and good practices in collecting data and measuring South-South cooperation in Bangkok in February 2019. ESCAP also contributed to an ASEAN forum on South-South cooperation, hosted by the Government of Thailand in Bangkok in August 2019. The forum provided a platform for ASEAN South-South cooperation practitioners to share good practices and lessons learned.

III. Extrabudgetary contributions in 2019

23. ESCAP receives extrabudgetary contributions for its Technical Cooperation Trust Fund and its General Trust Fund. In 2019, the total extrabudgetary contributions amounted to \$18.2 million (table 1).

Table 1
Summary of extrabudgetary contributions in 2019, by component

<i>Component</i>	<i>Contributions (United States dollars)</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Technical Cooperation Trust Fund	16 738 290	91.8
General Trust Fund		
Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia: Republic of Korea	1 141 000	6.3
Subregional Office for North and Central Asia: Kazakhstan	200 000	1.1
Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia: India	157 908	0.9
Subtotal, General Trust Fund	1 498 908	8.2
Total	18 237 198	100.0

24. It should be noted that the contribution of the Republic of Korea to the Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia covers the institutional costs of the office and contributes to the implementation of its programme of work. The contributions of Kazakhstan and India to the Subregional Office for North and Central Asia and the Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, respectively, cover the institutional costs of these offices.

IV. Delivering the Commission's technical cooperation programme in 2019

A. Contributions to the Commission's technical cooperation programme

25. The ESCAP technical cooperation work in 2019 was funded from both the regular budget of the United Nations and extrabudgetary resources. The regular budget comprised of the regular programme of technical cooperation (section 23) and the Development Account (section 35). Extrabudgetary resources included voluntary contributions provided by individual

Governments, entities of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, development banks and foundations. Such contributions were provided as cash (funds-in-trust) and in kind.

26. The total cash contributions received by ESCAP in 2019 for technical cooperation, from sources within and outside the United Nations, amounted to \$21.8 million. Bilateral voluntary cash contributions by ESCAP member and non-member States remained the main extrabudgetary source of funding. A summary of the financial contributions by source in both dollars and percentage terms is provided in table 2.

27. Representing 73.6 per cent of the total financial contributions in 2019 for technical cooperation, bilateral donor country contributions amounted to \$16 million. Further details on the extrabudgetary resources (funds-in-trust) received from bilateral sources are provided in annex I to the present document. The largest overall bilateral donor contributions were received from the Republic of Korea, China, Canada, Japan and the Russian Federation. The United Nations contributed \$4.7 million, representing 21.5 per cent of the total funds received for technical cooperation in 2019 (see table 2).

Table 2
Summary of financial contributions for technical cooperation in 2019, by source

<i>Source</i>	<i>Contributions (United States dollars)</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
(a) Donor countries (see annex I)	16 045 176	73.6
(b) United Nations system (see annex II)		
1. United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation (section 23)	3 250 500	14.9
2. United Nations Development Account (section 35)	300 000	1.4
3. United Nations programmes, funds and specialized agencies	1 137 332	5.2
Subtotal (b)	4 687 832	21.5
(c) Other organizations (see annex II)	1 054 691	4.8
Total	21 787 698	100.0
Regular budget ((b) 1 + (b) 2)	3 550 500	16.3
Extrabudgetary contributions ((a) + (b) 3 + (c))	18 237 198	83.7

28. Intergovernmental organizations, the business sector and other organizations contributed approximately \$1.1 million of the total funds received in 2019. Some of the more notable contributors under this category included the Energy Foundation and the Korea Disabled People's Development Institute. More detailed information on contributions from other intergovernmental organizations, the business sector and other organizations for technical cooperation is given in annex II.

29. The Commission’s technical cooperation work in 2019 was further facilitated by contributions in kind, such as the services of experts and the provision of host facilities and equipment. The former included a total of 64.5 work-months of services of experts in various disciplines provided by ESCAP member States on a non-reimbursable loan basis (see annex III).

30. The volume of the secretariat’s technical cooperation delivery in 2019 in financial terms totalled approximately \$11.9 million.

31. The distribution of extrabudgetary resources over the Commission’s nine subprogrammes in 2019 is shown in table 3, and the evolution of ESCAP expenditure over the period 2000–2019 is shown in the figure.

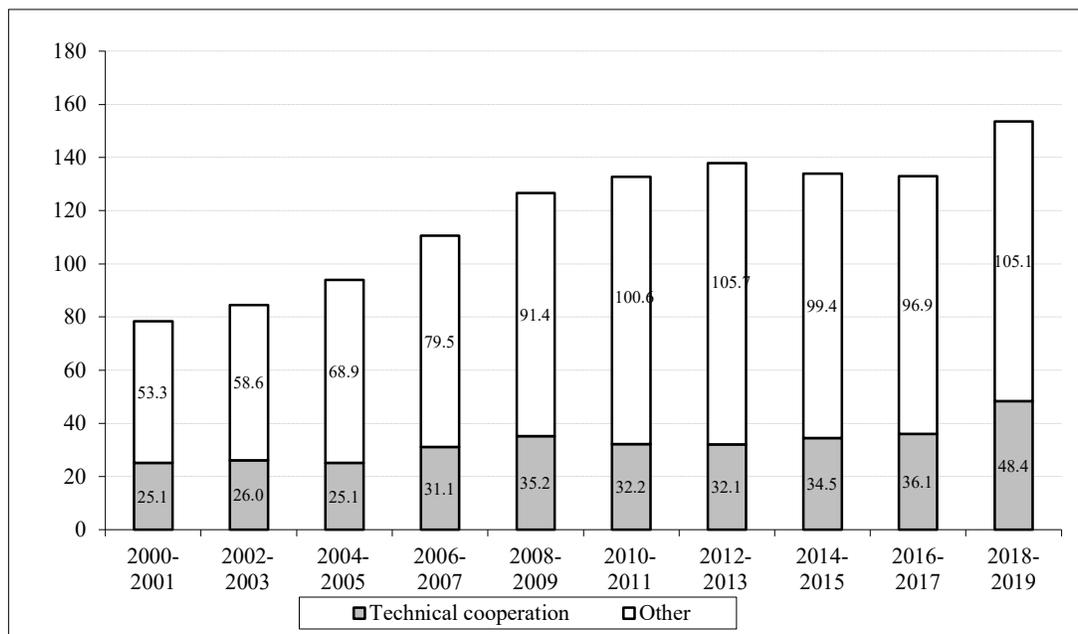
Table 3

Distribution of extrabudgetary allocations to the Commission’s subprogrammes in 2019
(Percentage)

<i>Subprogramme</i>	<i>Proportion</i>
Subprogramme 1: Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development	2.4
Subprogramme 2: Trade, investment and innovation	14.0
Subprogramme 3: Transport	7.3
Subprogramme 4: Environment and development	12.0
Subprogramme 5: Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management	26.4
Subprogramme 6: Social development	8.5
Subprogramme 7: Statistics	14.2
Subprogramme 8: Subregional activities for development	10.3
Subprogramme 9: Energy	4.8
Total	100.0

Evolution of expenditure by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, 2000–2019

(Millions of United States dollars)



B. Highlights of technical cooperation work in 2019

32. In partnership with the Government of Canada, ESCAP continued its implementation of a project on catalysing women’s entrepreneurship. ESCAP has identified, with its government partners, key priority areas for advancing women’s entrepreneurship through national consultations and national studies. Partnership arrangements were established to support policy initiatives impacting women entrepreneurs, specifically with the Government of Cambodia, and capacity-building activities were carried out in information and communications technology and business management skills development of women entrepreneurs. Furthermore, three modalities on innovative financing were launched, namely the Women Micro-, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises FinTech Innovation Fund, the Women’s Livelihood Bond and the Women Enterprise Impact Investment Fund, which will provide affordable, regulated and tailored financial services to different women entrepreneurial segments.

33. In cooperation with the Government of China, ESCAP supported member States in the areas of agricultural machinery; poverty reduction; public-private partnerships; gender-responsive budgeting; social protection; cross-border trade; information and communications technology connectivity; transport connectivity; sustainable urban development; use of space applications for resilient and sustainable development; and energy connectivity. In 2019, ESCAP helped strengthen national capacity in the planning and development of science and technology parks, offering a platform for the region’s policymakers to share good practices and lessons learned. ESCAP also supported the development of electronic trade data exchange between China, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation through its partnership-based community of practice, the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific.

34. Partnering with the Government of Germany, ESCAP continued to implement the “urban nexus” approach through the integrated planning and management of energy, water and food security in major Asian cities. The

secretariat developed an enabling framework for the piloting of urban nexus initiatives in 12 Asian cities located in China, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. For example, the pilot in Ulaanbaatar led to: (a) producing an urban nexus pre-feasibility study on a city energy plan and securing \$12.7 million to address heat loss; (b) adopting measures to improve insulation in residential and commercial buildings including upgrading heating pipes and shifting to renewable energy; and (c) developing plans for an ecovillage project to provide affordable green housing in one of the community-driven redevelopment sites.

35. In partnership with the Government of Japan, ESCAP continued to support the development of the statistical capacity of member States across the region. In 2019, the secretariat delivered a series of capacity-building programmes, which covered various aspects of social, economic, agricultural and environment statistics as well as statistical methods and data collection. In addition, with support from the Government of Japan, ESCAP organized a high-level event in the margins of the seventy-fifth session of the Commission highlighting the centrality of community empowerment and inclusive planning to address risks associated with tsunamis and other complex water-related disasters.

36. With support from the Government of the Republic of Korea, both through the Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund and through partnerships with various line ministries in the country, ESCAP has supported member States in the areas of regional connectivity and trade facilitation; regional economic cooperation; sustainable transport development; disaster risk reduction; and social protection. The secretariat established a comprehensive baseline database for the Incheon Strategy indicators to enable evidence-based monitoring in support of the implementation of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. In cooperation with the Republic of Korea, ESCAP also produced a study which includes policy recommendations on innovative and integrated intelligent transport systems for the development and operation of sustainable transport systems in urban areas. New projects were also initiated with funding from the Republic of Korea, including in the areas of air pollution, sustainable transport systems, trade and transport facilitation, and geospatial data. In partnership with the Governments of India and the Republic of Korea as well as with ADB, ESCAP brought together policymakers and practitioners to share digital and sustainable trade facilitation solutions and practices from across the region at the ninth Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum held in New Delhi.

37. With support from the Government of the Russian Federation, ESCAP supported member States on trade facilitation, including cross-border paperless trade; multimodal transport connectivity and facilitation; statistics; and strengthening road safety. In addition, in 2019, with funding from the Russian Federation, ESCAP organized multi-stakeholder subregional forums in East and North-East Asia and North and Central Asia on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, ESCAP in partnership with the Government of the Russian Federation supported the implementation of outcomes of the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, namely the Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Energy Transition towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies in Asia and the Pacific, including the publication of a statistical overview of energy and development in the region. Furthermore, ESCAP continued to update and add new functionalities to the Asia Pacific Energy Portal (www.asiapacificenergy.org), an open-access online platform providing data visualizations on energy statistics, full-text policies and interactive infrastructure maps, which was developed with the support of the Government of the Russian Federation.

38. In partnership with the Governments of Australia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, ESCAP assisted Maldives in completing a review of national statistical systems, which identified strengths and weaknesses in economic statistics and helped improve the capacity of the country's national statistical office to produce a core set of economic statistics. ESCAP also assisted the national statistical offices of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam in the areas of national accounts, statistics business registers, import price indices and training for national staff, including by providing training-of-trainers sessions, which resulted in improving their capacities to produce national statistics.

39. ESCAP also places importance on interregional cooperation. In cooperation with ECLAC, it led the implementation of an interregional project on reducing inequality within Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation member countries by advocating for innovative policymaking that would leave no one behind. Under the project, ESCAP developed an online platform to present the various inequality indicators in an interactive, intuitive and educational manner for policymakers, as well as for the general public (www.socialprotection-toolbox.org/inequality).

V. Issues for consideration by the Commission

40. In 2019, the secretariat was able to expand its partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Efforts were made to create synergies and multiplier effects, by identifying new sources of funding and focusing on delivering results through better monitoring and evaluation of projects. The enhanced cooperation with the United Nations country teams has allowed ESCAP to be more responsive to the demands of member States and ensure that its projects and programmes have a stronger impact at the national level.

41. The technical cooperation work of ESCAP has been aligned directly with the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific adopted by member States. ESCAP knowledge products and normative frameworks and agreements have also been aligned with its technical cooperation function to ensure maximum impact. In this regard, special attention will continue to be paid to the capacity development needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

42. The Commission may wish to take note of the present document and provide the secretariat with further guidance on the direction and priorities of its partnerships and technical cooperation work.

Annex I

Extrabudgetary resources provided by bilateral donors in cash for technical cooperation in 2019 (funds-in-trust)
(United States dollars)

<i>Donors</i>	<i>Resources</i>
Australia	68 606
Bangladesh	43 000
Brunei Darussalam	16 000
Cambodia	10 000
Canada	2 826 533
China	3 193 590
Fiji	9 173
Germany	223 883
Hong Kong, China	30 000
India	476 360
Indonesia	100 000
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	385 043
Japan	2 409 053
Kazakhstan	205 000
Macao, China	40 000
Malaysia	35 000
Maldives	4 000
Micronesia (Federated States of)	5 000
Mongolia	14 982
Myanmar	3 000
New Caledonia	4 676
Pakistan	26 945
Philippines	126 750
Republic of Korea	4 094 737
Russian Federation	1 200 000
Singapore	15 000
Sri Lanka	20 000
Thailand	54 000
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	365 344
Uzbekistan	7 000
Viet Nam	32 500
Total	16 045 176

Annex II

Technical cooperation resources provided by the United Nations system and by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in 2019 (United States dollars)

<i>Entity</i>	<i>Contributions</i>
United Nations system	
Regular budget resources	
Regular programme of technical cooperation (section 23)	3 250 500
Development Account (section 35)	300 000
Subtotal, regular budget resources	3 550 500
Extrabudgetary resources	
Department of Economic and Social Affairs	431 203
United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund	198 546
United Nations trust fund for human security	78 278
Joint Fund for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	119 305
Other United Nations agencies and bodies	310 000
Subtotal, extrabudgetary resources	1 137 332
Total, United Nations system	4 687 832
Other organizations	
Energy Foundation	461 379
Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth, Chinese Academy of Sciences	99 000
Islamic Development Bank	83 800
Korea Disabled People's Development Institute	335 233
Korea Maritime Institute	36 000
Korea Ports and Harbours Association	39 279
Total, other organizations	1 054 691
Grand total	5 742 523

Annex III

Extrabudgetary assistance in kind (non-reimbursable loans) in 2019

China

(Total 2 work-months)

Mr. Fei Xie

Expert on Public-Private Partnerships and Infrastructure Financing
 Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division
 2 work-months

Republic of Korea

(Total 62.5 work-months)

Mr. Gunsun Han

Expert on Regional Cooperation in North-East Asia, with particular focus on the
 Democratic People's Republic of Korea
 Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division
 6 work-months

Ms. Sohee Gwag

Expert on Regional Trade and Monetary Cooperation
 Trade, Investment and Innovation Division
 11.5 work-months

Mr. Sunwoo Jung

Expert on Land Transport Infrastructure
 Transport Division
 12 work-months

Mr. Go Eung Kim

Expert on Environment Policy
 Environment and Development Division
 2.5 work-months

Ms. Eunjung Yoon

Expert on Environment Policy
 Environment and Development Division
 8 work-months

Mr. Dongjung Lee

Expert on Information and Communications Technology
 Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division
 3 work-months

Mr. Chang Yong Son

Expert on Information and Communications Technology
 Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division
 7.5 work-months

Ms. Jeon-kyoung Cha

Expert on Social Policy
 Social Development Division
 12 work-months