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

Bangkok, 21 May 2020

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the seventy-sixth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II).

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. General debate on the theme topic “Promoting economic, social and environmental cooperation on oceans for sustainable development”.
3. Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries.
4. Regional cooperation to address the socioeconomic effects of the global health crisis.
5. Review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific:
 - (a) Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development;
 - (b) Social development;
 - (c) Environment and development;
 - (d) Disaster risk reduction;
 - (e) Energy;
 - (f) Transport;
 - (g) Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development;
 - (h) Trade and investment;

* Second reissue for technical reasons (8 May 2020).

- (i) Information and communications technology, science, technology and innovation;
 - (j) Statistics.
6. Management issues:
 - (a) Proposed programme plan for 2021;
 - (b) Programme changes for the 2020 programme plan;
 - (c) Overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development;
 - (d) Report on the evaluation activities of the Commission during the biennium 2018–2019 and outcomes of the evaluation/review of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization and the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management.
 7. Review of the conference structure of the Commission pursuant to resolution 73/1.
 8. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.
 9. Dates and venue of and theme topic for the seventy-seventh session of the Commission (2021).
 10. Other matters.
 11. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the session

(a) Opening statements

The detailed programme for the opening of the session will be made available upon finalization.

(b) Election of officers

According to Rule 13 of its rules of procedure, the Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chair and two Vice-Chairs, designated as First and Second Vice-Chair, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election. If the plenary so decides, the rule may be applied differently; for the seventy-sixth session, to accommodate the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, a Chair and a Vice-Chair shall be elected.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Provisional agenda (ESCAP/76/L.1/Rev.1)

Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/76/L.2)

2. General debate on the theme topic “Promoting economic, social and environmental cooperation on oceans for sustainable development”

Documentation

Executive summary of the theme study on promoting economic, social and environmental cooperation on oceans for sustainable development (ESCAP/76/1/Rev.1)

Oceans provide innumerable benefits, such as carbon sequestration and fisheries, and are critical for sectors such as marine shipping and tourism. They are a precious asset for sustainable development, especially in coastal countries and small island developing States. Despite the vital importance of oceans, the health of those in Asia and the Pacific has been deteriorating over time and is now extremely fragile. The multiple and complex reasons for this include climate change; plastic pollution; illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; and poor data, among others.

Much of the problem in taking effective actions to protect oceans is due to the fact that they are public goods, and measures to protect them, therefore, must necessarily be implemented by Governments in coordination with one another. This makes regional cooperation an absolute requirement for the successful protection, conservation and sustainable management of oceans. The theme study will serve to inform the debate on the health of oceans; the reasons for their deterioration; and regional cooperation measures that Governments may consider adopting to address marine debris and plastic pollution, sustainable maritime connectivity, and sustainable fisheries management and data.

The Commission may wish to take note of the document and endorse the recommendations therein.

3. Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries

The Commission will consider the development challenges of countries with special needs, including in the context of the regional review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020.

Documentation

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/76/5, resolution 74/1)

Executive summary of the Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2020: Leveraging Ocean Resources for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (ESCAP/76/2/Rev.1)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/76/5, resolution 74/1)

The document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 74/1 on supporting the smooth transition of the least developed countries in Asia and the Pacific towards a sustainable graduation.

The Commission may wish to review the progress made and provide the secretariat with further guidance on the effective implementation of the resolution.

Executive summary of the Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2020: Leveraging Ocean Resources for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (ESCAP/76/2/Rev.1)

The *Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2020* will serve to highlight the need for small island developing States to make more effective and efficient use of their vast ocean resources, to which their development is intrinsically linked.

The exclusive economic zones of 12 Pacific small island developing States span a combined area of 16.8 million km², which is approximately 31 times greater than their combined land area. Given this, the potential for these countries to benefit economically from ocean resources within their own jurisdiction is tremendous. The vastness of their marine resources offers them the potential to address one of the defining obstacles to their sustainable development, namely the narrowness of their resource bases and the scarcity of their financial resources. To that end, small island developing States will need to devise mechanisms and policies to enhance their ability to generate financial resources for sustainable development using their ocean resources, predominantly through fisheries and tourism.

While fisheries play an important role in the livelihoods of people in small island developing States, with offshore capture fisheries and associated processing activities providing major economic benefits, tourism has become one of the most important economic activities in these countries. It has already become the largest economic sector in the Cook Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu, and it has the potential to become a key source of employment and income growth as well as poverty alleviation in other countries. Achieving the further development of tourism and fisheries in an environmentally sustainable way poses a challenge, given the fragile ecosystems of small island developing States.

The Commission may wish to take note of the document and provide further guidance to the secretariat on issues identified therein.

4. Regional cooperation to address the socioeconomic effects of the global health crisis

The Commission will consider the challenges posed to the region by the spread of COVID-19 throughout the world and discuss policy options and regional cooperation measures to address the socioeconomic impacts of the crisis.

Documentation

The impact of and policy responses with regard to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/76/34)

Letter dated 6 May 2020 from the Minister Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific addressed to the Secretary of the Commission (ESCAP/76/INF/5)

The impact of and policy responses with regard to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/76/34)

The spread of COVID-19 throughout the world is an unprecedented crisis and requires unprecedented measures in response. It is affecting the global economy, hitting manufacturing and service sectors alike, with huge impacts on

the labour force. As a result of the crisis and its impact on vulnerable individuals and households that are already bordering on poverty, inequality gaps may widen and people may become entrenched in poverty.

The tremendous impact of COVID-19 in Asia and the Pacific is due to demographics, urbanization, the concentration of economic activities, and difficulties in progressing towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. With the region accounting for more than two thirds of the global population, the world's most populous cities and the bulk of the world's industrial activities, energy supply and consumption, as well as 46 million of the world's migrants, the crisis has shown how tightly Asia and the Pacific is woven into the economic and social fabric of the world. However, it also shows how quick action, steadfast policies, and innovation, which have been displayed in several Asian countries, can effectively deal with this unprecedented outbreak.

The document contains a summary of the key impacts of COVID-19 in the Asia-Pacific region and short- and medium-term recommendations for consideration by member States. The recommendations are approached through the prism of sustainable development, addressing the economic, social and environmental dimensions thereof. The document also serves to highlight the need for regional cooperation and coordination among countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Commission may wish to review the document and provide guidance on the future work of the secretariat.

Letter dated 6 May 2020 from the Minister Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific addressed to the Secretary of the Commission (ESCAP/76/INF/5)

The Commission may wish to take note of the letter and its annexes.

5. Review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

The agenda item is focused on reviewing the work of the nine subsidiary bodies of the Commission and the subprogrammes that support them, including the work of the regional institutions, in the context of recent globally agreed development agendas such as the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, by taking into account the reports of the subsidiary bodies which have met since the previous session of the Commission, the reports of other intergovernmental bodies and progress made in the implementation of Commission mandates.

The sub-items have been grouped for discussion roughly along the lines of the thematic areas identified in the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific,¹ starting with the outcomes of the Seventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and the means of implementation of the regional road map.

The work of the subprogrammes is covered in the documents listed below, and the relevant sections of each will be deliberated upon under each sub-item as appropriate.

¹ E/ESCAP/73/31, annex II.

Documentation

Report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on its fourteenth session (ESCAP/76/3)

Subregional cooperation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/76/4)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/76/5)

Summary of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in the period 2019–2020 (ESCAP/76/6)

Annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission (ESCAP/76/INF/1)

Report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on its fourteenth session (ESCAP/76/3)

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia and to provide the secretariat with guidance on the future work of the Special Programme.

Subregional cooperation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/76/4)

The document serves to elaborate on the importance of cooperation within and across subregions for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and contains an analysis of key challenges and opportunities in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the five ESCAP subregions and priority areas for accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in each subregion.

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/76/5)

Document ESCAP/76/5 contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of Commission resolutions. The Commission may wish to review the progress made and provide the secretariat with further guidance on the effective implementation of the resolutions.

Summary of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in the period 2019–2020 (ESCAP/76/6)**Annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission (ESCAP/76/INF/1)**

Document ESCAP/76/6 contains a summary of all the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held since its seventy-fifth session and of the matters those bodies have brought to the Commission for its action or attention. The summary covers the sixth session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction, the second session of the Committee on Energy, and the second session of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development.

Information document ESCAP/76/INF/1 contains a summary of the annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission, including the reports of the Coordinating Committee for

Geoscience Programmes in East and South-East Asia, the Mekong River Commission, the Panel on Tropical Cyclones and the Typhoon Committee.

The Commission may wish to endorse the reports of the subsidiary bodies that have held meetings since its seventy-fifth session; identify key issues to be taken up in the meetings of subsidiary bodies in 2020; identify emerging development issues, including those emanating from the 2030 Agenda, that merit policy dialogue; identify progress made and gaps requiring priority attention with regard to the implementation of Commission mandates and the follow-up actions to major global conferences; and articulate Asian and Pacific perspectives on issues that will be addressed in major global forums in 2020.

Additionally, the Commission may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on how the work of the subprogrammes, including that of the regional institutions, can further support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, by identifying, for example, priorities, gaps in implementation and any required technical assistance at the subregional or regional level.

(a) Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

Documentation

Report of the Seventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (ESCAP/76/7)

The Seventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development was held on 20 May 2020 as a preparatory event for the high-level political forum on sustainable development of the Economic and Social Council.

The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development agreed that transformative action to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific was urgently needed. The Forum explored and reviewed the entry points for transformation in the region as identified in the *Global Sustainable Development Report 2019: The Future is Now – Science for Achieving Sustainable Development*, prepared by an independent group of scientists appointed by the Secretary-General, and provided policy recommendations to accelerate progress on each entry point. The Forum also discussed the regional follow-up and review processes and mechanisms in place and their contribution to global follow-up and review processes. The Forum provided the Asia-Pacific regional perspective to the global decade of action in support of the political declaration of the 2019 high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly.

The Commission may wish to endorse the report of the Forum and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

(b) Social development

Documentation

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/76/5, resolutions 74/7 and 74/11)

Report of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review (ESCAP/76/8)

Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review (ESCAP/76/8/Add.1)

Action plan to strengthen regional cooperation on social protection in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/76/9)

Asia-Pacific indicator framework for monitoring progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and of the commitments contained in the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development (ESCAP/76/10)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/76/5, resolutions 74/7 and 74/11)

The document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 74/7 entitled “Towards disability-inclusive sustainable development: implementation of the Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy”, and resolution 74/11 on strengthening regional cooperation to tackle inequality in all its forms in Asia and the Pacific.

The Commission may wish to review the progress made and provide the secretariat with further guidance on the effective implementation of the resolutions.

Report of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review (ESCAP/76/8)

The document provides a summary of the organization and proceedings of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review, which was focused on progress made and persistent challenges in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Policy responses that have been implemented by member States and relevant stakeholders and deemed effective in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women are highlighted in the document, as are priority areas for continued intervention.

The Commission may wish to review and endorse the report.

Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review (ESCAP/76/8/Add.1)

The Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review was adopted at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review. In the Asia-Pacific Declaration, member States identified key actions needed to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as priority areas to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women, including the following: equitable and inclusive development; shared prosperity and decent work; poverty eradication, social protection and public services; freedom from violence, stigma, harmful stereotypes and negative social norms; participation, social dialogue, accountability and national women’s machinery for gender equality and women’s empowerment; peaceful and inclusive societies; environmental conservation, climate action and resilience-building; data and statistics; and partnerships and regional cooperation.

The Asia-Pacific Declaration was submitted as the region’s input to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-fourth session. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific may wish to take note of the Declaration and provide the secretariat with further guidance, if any, on its implementation.

Action plan to strengthen regional cooperation on social protection in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/76/9)

The document is submitted in response to the recommendation of the Committee on Social Development at its fifth session calling for strengthening regional cooperation on social protection and encouraging the secretariat, in coordination with relevant United Nations agencies, to explore and develop a modality for regional cooperation to support member States in that regard.

The Commission may wish to take note of the document and request the Committee on Social Development, at its sixth session, to further discuss its recommendations and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

Asia-Pacific indicator framework for monitoring progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and of the commitments contained in the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development (ESCAP/76/10)

Population and development concerns are central to the 2030 Agenda. The document has been prepared in response to a recommendation of the 2018 Midterm Review of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development to develop a regional monitoring framework, in order to provide guidance to member States that wish to monitor and evaluate progress on population and development matters as they relate to the 2030 Agenda.

The document contains a list of internationally agreed indicators, drawn primarily from the Sustainable Development Goals and the metadata that will assist member States in this effort.

The Commission may wish to take note of the document and request the Committee on Social Development, at its sixth session, to review and endorse the framework.

(c) Environment and development

Documentation

Executive summary of the theme study on promoting economic, social and environmental cooperation on oceans for sustainable development (ESCAP/76/1/Rev.1)

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its fifteenth session (ESCAP/76/11)

The urban opportunity: accelerating local actions to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (ESCAP/76/12)

Annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission (ESCAP/76/INF/1, reports of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and South-East Asia and the Mekong River Commission)

Executive summary of the theme study on promoting economic, social and environmental cooperation on oceans for sustainable development (ESCAP/76/1/Rev.1)

Plastic pollution has become one of the greatest challenges to ocean ecosystems. Approximately 3.0 and 5.3 million tons of micro- and macroplastics, respectively, are lost to the environment annually. If no transformational actions are taken, the amount of plastic debris in the ocean could triple within the next three decades. The Asia-Pacific region produces 49.3 per cent and consumes 38 per cent of the global volume of plastics. The production structure of plastics, lifestyle and consumption patterns, and weak governance and institutional capacities are driving this crisis. Beyond its explicit damage to the ocean, plastic pollution carries economic, social and environmental consequences, including impacts on human and animal health. Transformative ocean-related actions are urgently needed to tackle marine pollution. Recommendations include the implementation of national policies for the protection of the ocean, such as a ban on single-use plastics and economic incentives or disincentives to leverage production and consumption.

The Commission may wish to consider these issues and to assess recommendations elaborated in the theme study.

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its fifteenth session (ESCAP/76/11)

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization and to provide the secretariat with guidance on the future work of the Centre.

The urban opportunity: accelerating local actions to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (ESCAP/76/12)

Cities face major challenges, including extreme urban poverty and poor living conditions in informal settlements; constraints on productivity due to lack of basic infrastructure; unsustainable use of resources; significant land-based sources of marine pollution; and rising risks due to natural disasters and heightened climate effects.

However, cities also have extraordinary potential for transformational change, including economic, social and environmental change. This potential is due to several factors including concentration of economic activity; high levels of annual investment in infrastructure; high degrees of innovation; nimble local governments; connection to surrounding rural and natural environments; ability to reduce eco-footprints by means of densification; and suitability for systems-based solutions.

In the document, which contains an overview of the above-mentioned challenges and city-level solutions to address them, a case is made for the view that interventions in and for urban areas would have a positive impact on progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and accelerate delivery on the 2030 Agenda as a whole.

The document is based on the findings contained in the *Future of Asian and Pacific Cities: Transformative Pathways towards Sustainable Urban Development* and the deliberations and outcomes of the Seventh Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, held in Penang, Malaysia, from 15 to 17 October 2019. The recommendations may assist member States in determining the allocation of enhanced resources and in policymaking for sustainable urban development, as

well as in identifying areas for enhanced regional cooperation with local governments to promote sustainable development, including through the Penang Platform for Sustainable Urbanization.

The Commission may wish to review the findings and recommendations, consider regional cooperation measures to accelerate local actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

Annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission (ESCAP/76/INF/1, reports of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and South-East Asia and the Mekong River Commission)

The Commission may wish to take note of the reports of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and South-East Asia and the Mekong River Commission.

(d) Disaster risk reduction

Documentation

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/76/5, resolution 74/6)

Summary of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in the period 2019–2020 (ESCAP/76/6, report of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction on its sixth session)

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management on its fourth session (ESCAP/76/13)

Subregional and regional approaches for disaster resilience (ESCAP/76/14)

Annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission (ESCAP/76/INF/1, reports of the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/76/5, resolution 74/6)

The document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 74/6 on advancing disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific.

The Commission may wish to review the progress made and to provide the secretariat with further guidance on the effective implementation of the resolution.

Summary of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in the period 2019–2020 (ESCAP/76/6, report of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction on its sixth session)

The Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction held its sixth session in Bangkok from 28 to 30 August 2019, making four recommendations and taking seven decisions.

In recognition of the changing geography and intensification of disaster risks, the Committee recommended scaling up regional cooperation to complement national disaster risk reduction efforts and supporting the member States in capacity-building, data access and exchange, learning, and access to new services and technologies. Taking note of the operationalization of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network, the Committee decided that priority would be given to the regional platform for multi-hazard early warning systems for floods and droughts. The Committee underlined the importance of the findings presented in *The Disaster Riskscape across Asia-Pacific: Pathways for Resilience, Inclusion and Empowerment – Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2019* and requested the secretariat to further deepen its analytical research to support risk-informed policy decisions of member States.

Recognizing that the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030) supports disaster risk reduction and resilience and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee welcomed the offer from the Government of Indonesia to host the fourth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific in 2022 and requested the secretariat to assist with the organization of the Conference.

The Committee also noted the results of the work of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific and endorsed the recommendations made by the Committee on Statistics at its sixth session (ESCAP/CST/2018/6, recommendation 3).

The Commission may wish to consider the recommendations and decisions of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction and provide the secretariat with further guidance on their implementation.

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management on its fourth session (ESCAP/76/13)

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management and provide the secretariat with guidance on the future work of the Centre.

Subregional and regional approaches for disaster resilience (ESCAP/76/14)

As climate uncertainties grow, the Asia-Pacific region faces an increasingly complex disaster “riskscape”. A new analysis presented in the *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2019* not only shows the changing geography of the region and intensification of disaster risks but also identifies the risk hotspots with critical resilience gaps.

Based on these findings, the document captures the subregional specificities of impacts of and exposure and vulnerability to disasters and climate change. For each subregion, specific solution-oriented resilience-building approaches are proposed. Opportunities to build resilience through subregional and regional cooperation are highlighted.

The document contains a discussion of the responses implemented by the secretariat under the aegis of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network, as the document serves to highlight ongoing collaboration with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on the development of an action plan for drought resilience and the Network’s partnership architecture for extreme and slow-onset

climate events with the World Meteorological Organization, the World Bank and the Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia through the South Asia Hydromet Forum. The secretariat's work with the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms on developing a sand and dust storm alert system in South-West Asia and beyond, and its support to countries in North and Central Asia on building climate- and disaster-resilient infrastructure, are also discussed.

The Commission may wish to deliberate on the findings of the document and provide the secretariat with further guidance on specific follow-up actions at the subregional level.

Annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission (ESCAP/76/INF/1, reports of the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones)

The Commission may wish to take note of the reports of the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones.

(e) Energy

Documentation

Summary of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in the period 2019–2020 (ESCAP/76/6, report of the Committee on Energy on its second session)

Regional road map on power system connectivity: promoting cross-border electricity connectivity for sustainable development (ESCAP/76/15)

Summary of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in the period 2019–2020 (ESCAP/76/6, report of the Committee on Energy on its second session)

The second session of the Committee on Energy was held in Bangkok from 9 to 11 October 2019. Member States shared their visions and strategies on sustainable energy development for implementing the 2030 Agenda. They proposed possible areas for regional cooperation to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 7, and provided guidance on the development of the national expert Sustainable Development Goal tool for energy planning. The Committee also reviewed and provided guidance on the development of an Asia-Pacific regional road map on power system connectivity.

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action or brought to its attention and to provide the secretariat with further guidance.

Regional road map on power system connectivity: promoting cross-border electricity connectivity for sustainable development (ESCAP/76/15)

The document contains an Asia-Pacific regional road map on power system connectivity. The road map consists of nine non-binding strategies for stakeholders which will enable the region to harness connectivity opportunities. It includes suggested critical milestones, time frames and entities responsible for delivering each strategy. The road map was developed by the Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity and was presented in draft form to the Committee on Energy at its second session. The final regional road map reflects additional

revisions made following further review and on the basis of comments received from member States.

The Commission may wish to take note of the document and request the Committee on Energy, at its third session, to review and endorse the regional road map on power system connectivity.

(f) Transport

Documentation

Executive summary of the theme study on promoting economic, social and environmental cooperation on oceans for sustainable development (ESCAP/76/1/Rev.1)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/76/5, resolutions 74/2 and 74/3)

Executive summary of the theme study on promoting economic, social and environmental cooperation on oceans for sustainable development (ESCAP/76/1/Rev.1)

Accelerating action to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular to achieve Sustainable Goal 14 (Life below water), will require a transformation of maritime shipping in Asia and the Pacific. Maritime freight transport, or shipping, has helped to forge economic ties between countries and continents and is part of the region's economic growth success story. At the same time, shipping comes at an increasing cost to the marine environment and ecosystem, and the achievement of a sustainable ocean economy requires moving away from practices that have led to growing air and water pollution from vessels, maritime accidents, noise pollution and congestion in ports. This challenge is formidable for Asia and the Pacific, given that the bulk of global shipping operations and associated industries are concentrated in the region and there is potential for greater growth. At the same time, there is tremendous potential for a transformation that could pave the way for a much more sustainable ocean economy, and this is of particular relevance to the Pacific small island developing States. Promoting new technologies and innovative business models and strengthening human and institutional capacities can help in the implementation of more efficient, green and safe shipping practices.

In the theme study, the regional pathway for enhancing maritime connectivity in Asia and the Pacific and greening the shipping sector is highlighted, and concrete actions to strengthen regional cooperation for sustainable shipping are recommended. The Commission may wish to take note of the document and endorse the recommendations therein.

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/76/5, resolutions 74/2 and 74/3)

The document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 74/2 on the promotion of the regional framework for the planning, design, development and operation of dry ports of international importance and resolution 74/3 on improving road safety in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable transport systems.

The Commission may wish to review the progress made and to provide the secretariat with further guidance on the effective implementation of the resolutions.

(g) Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development**Documentation**

Summary of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in the period 2019–2020 (ESCAP/76/6, report of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development on its second session)

Transforming economies to make them consistent with the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (ESCAP/76/16)

Summary of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in the period 2019–2020 (ESCAP/76/6, report of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development on its second session)

The second session of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development was held in Bangkok from 6 to 8 November 2019.

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action or brought to its attention and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

Transforming economies to make them consistent with the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (ESCAP/76/16)

The Asia-Pacific region has experienced rapid economic growth and undergone considerable economic transformation over the past few decades, which has helped to reduce extreme poverty. At the same time, the growing challenges of inequality, environmental degradation and climate change call into question the current growth paradigm. Going forward, the next phase of the region's economic transformation should not only deliver high productivity growth but also be consistent with the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda. There is a particular need for a transition to a more sustainable economic model with cleaner production and less material-intensive lifestyles, supported by enabling policies.

Everyone is a stakeholder in this transition. Consumers can adopt green diets and use green appliances and modes of transport. Businesses can contribute to solving social and environmental challenges, rather than creating them by focusing primarily on short-term profits. Governments can set out a clear road map for decarbonization and introduce consistent standards and price signals for private actors. Multilateral cooperation is also critical in such areas as financing, technology and trade to facilitate the transition towards a more sustainable economic model.

The document contains an analysis of the drawbacks of the current development path and its environmental and socioeconomic consequences; proposed policy recommendations to overcome these challenges; and highlights of the potential trade-offs of which Governments need to be cognizant in implementing such policies.

The Commission may wish to discuss the findings and policy recommendations and provide guidance to the secretariat on further analysis of these aspects.

(h) Trade and investment

Documentation

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/76/5, resolution 74/10)

Trade and investment as drivers for accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (ESCAP/76/18)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/76/5, resolution 74/10)

The document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 74/10 on the Ministerial Declaration on Enhancing Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration to Support the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific.

The Commission may wish to review the progress made and to provide the secretariat with further guidance on the effective implementation of the resolution.

Trade and investment as drivers for accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (ESCAP/76/18)

The document is focused on how trade and investment can contribute to the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific. It contains an outline of how policies associated with trade and investment, in particular non-tariff measures linked to those policies, have multifaceted and sometimes contradictory relationships with some of the aspects of the 2030 Agenda. The document includes a summary of the recent trends in using non-tariff measures to address the challenges of sustainable development, exemplified by specific case studies, as well as recommendations on priority actions for Governments to address these challenges for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Commission may wish to discuss the findings and policy recommendations and provide guidance to the secretariat on future work in this area.

(i) Information and communications technology, science, technology and innovation

Documentation

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its fourteenth session (ESCAP/76/19)

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its fifteenth session (ESCAP/76/20)

Policy priorities for transformation to inclusive digital economies (ESCAP/76/21)

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its fourteenth session (ESCAP/76/19)

The fourteenth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development was held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, on 28 November 2019. The Council endorsed the Centre's programme of work on promoting information and communications technology for human capacity development, with a focus on the areas of digital government, digital society and inclusion, and on addressing transboundary issues such as disaster risk reduction and climate change.

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Centre and to provide the secretariat with guidance on the future work of the Centre.

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its fifteenth session (ESCAP/76/20)

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, and to provide the secretariat with guidance on the future work of the Centre.

Policy priorities for transformation to inclusive digital economies (ESCAP/76/21)

The importance of digital technology and innovation as critical enablers in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is particularly apparent in the context of the decade of action for the Goals and delivery for sustainable development and is underlined in the report of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation entitled "The age of digital interdependence". Perhaps in no other region in the world is this borne out to a greater degree than in Asia and the Pacific. Some countries have surged ahead as global leaders in frontier technologies while a number of traditional economies are rapidly transforming to digital economies. This technological transition offers opportunities for inclusive engagement in economic activities. For example, the following technologies significantly impact poverty reduction and empower the poor: fintech is providing new solutions for financial inclusion; e-commerce is providing opportunities for broader engagement of small and medium-sized enterprises; and blockchain technology is reducing the costs and increasing the efficiency of trading across borders.

However, this wave of optimism about the transformative potential of digital technologies is tempered by the growing acknowledgment that the digital divide is widening. There is evidence that growth in the number of Internet users is slowing, with billions of people remaining offline. Furthermore, efforts to reach the unconnected and develop emerging technologies and business models are growing more costly and complex. Additionally, there are huge uncertainties about what this means for the future of work.

The document contains a brief review of the state of information and communications technology in Asia and the Pacific, including an outline of the key transformative opportunities for enabling inclusive digital economies and the key challenges inherent to tackling the growing digital divide. The document also contains examples drawn from subregional implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative to support connectivity in Central Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific. It also contains suggested policy priorities for accelerating the transformation to inclusive digital economies.

The Commission may wish to share country experiences on the inclusive digital economy and to share views on policy priorities for member States in the Asia-Pacific region.

(j) Statistics

Documentation

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/76/5, resolutions 71/14 and 74/6)

Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its fifteenth session (ESCAP/76/22)

Report of the 5th meeting of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/76/23/Rev.1)

Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14 on life below water: accounting for our oceans (ESCAP/76/24)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/76/5, resolutions 71/14 and 74/6)

The document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 71/14 on the Asian and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade, 2015–2024, and resolution 74/6 on advancing disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific.

The Commission may wish to review the progress made and to provide the secretariat with further guidance on the effective implementation of the resolutions.

Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its fifteenth session (ESCAP/76/22)

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and provide the secretariat with guidance on the future work of the Institute.

Report of the 5th meeting of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/76/23/Rev.1)

At its 5th meeting, the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific discussed the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade, 2015–2024, and made several recommendations for the preparations for the second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, which will be held from 6 to 9 October 2020 to celebrate the midpoint of the Decade and review the progress made.

The Commission may wish to review the report and express its continued support for the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific and the upcoming Ministerial Conference and to take note of the recommendations for member States, development partners and the secretariat.

Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14 on life below water: accounting for our oceans (ESCAP/76/24)

The document is intended to inform the Commission of activities in pursuit of the advancement of statistics on oceans and to strengthen related capacities in the region. The document contains the results of pilot projects to develop ocean accounts in China, Malaysia, Samoa, Thailand and Viet Nam and outlines the utility of ocean accounts for policy-relevant information and analysis. Major data gaps and other constraints for further work are presented together with suggestions for future regional collaboration to strengthen ocean accounting for the successful implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life below water).

The Commission may wish to note the progress made and express interest in contributing to achieving Goal 14 in the region, for example by funding or engaging in additional pilot activities in pursuit of the advancement of statistics on oceans and strengthened capacities.

6. Management issues

Under this agenda item, the secretariat is submitting, for the consideration of the Commission, documents on a range of management issues relevant to the continued effectiveness of the work of ESCAP.

(a) Proposed programme plan for 2021

Documentation

Proposed programme plan for 2021 (ESCAP/76/25)

The document comprises a foreword by the Executive Secretary, the proposed programme plan for 2021 and information on programme performance for 2019. The programme plan contains an overall orientation of the programme of ESCAP and a programme plan for each of the subprogrammes. Each subprogramme plan comprises seven sections: objective of the subprogramme; strategy; programme performance in 2019; programme performance in 2019 against planned result; programme plan for 2021; legislative mandates; and deliverables for the period 2019 to 2021.

As subsidiary bodies of the Commission, each of the Committees provided the secretariat with guidance on the future focus of the subprogrammes under their purview. In addition, the proposed programme plan was reviewed by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.

The document is submitted for the Commission's review and endorsement.

(b) Programme changes for the 2020 programme plan

Documentation

Programme changes for the 2020 programme plan (ESCAP/76/26)

In the wake of the endorsement of the programme plan for 2020 by the Commission at its seventy-fifth session, emerging global priorities have been identified by the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and global conferences, which may occasion the need to make changes to the 2020 programme plan.

The Commission may wish to consider the proposed changes with a view to endorsing them for incorporation into the programme plan for 2020.

(c) Overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development

Documentation

Overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development (ESCAP/76/27)

The document contains an overview of the secretariat's partnerships in 2019, including with regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations, which facilitated the efforts of the United Nations to work together as one at the regional level in support of its capacity development work.

The document also contains an overview of the extrabudgetary resources mobilized to implement the programme of work. The delivery of the Commission's capacity development work in 2019 is discussed.

Individual members and associate members may wish to announce their intended contributions for 2020.

The Commission may wish to take note of the document and provide the secretariat with further guidance on the development of partnerships and the mobilization of additional resources.

(d) Report on the evaluation activities of the Commission during the biennium 2018–2019 and outcomes of the evaluation/review of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization and the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management

Documentation

Report on the evaluation of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific pursuant to resolution 71/1 (ESCAP/76/28)

Report on the evaluation of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization pursuant to resolution 71/1 (ESCAP/76/29)

Report on the review of the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management pursuant to resolution 71/11 (ESCAP/76/30)

Report on the evaluation activities of the Commission during the biennium 2018–2019 (ESCAP/76/31)

Evaluation of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific pursuant to resolution 71/1 (ESCAP/76/INF/2)

Evaluation of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization pursuant to resolution 71/1 (ESCAP/76/INF/3)

Review of the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management pursuant to resolution 71/11 (ESCAP/76/INF/4)

Report on the evaluation of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific pursuant to resolution 71/1 (ESCAP/76/28)

Report on the evaluation of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization pursuant to resolution 71/1 (ESCAP/76/29)

Evaluation of the Statistical Institute for Asia and Pacific pursuant to resolution 71/1 (ESCAP/76/INF/2)

Evaluation of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization pursuant to resolution 71/1 (ESCAP/76/INF/3)

In its resolution 71/1, the Commission decided to review the continued substantive relevance and financial viability of each regional institution every five years. To inform this review, the secretariat commissioned independent evaluations of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization. The key findings and recommendations resulting from these evaluations, and the secretariat's response thereto, are contained in documents ESCAP/76/28 and ESCAP/76/29.

The Commission may wish to endorse the recommendations contained in documents ESCAP/76/28 and ESCAP/76/29 or take other appropriate decisions.

The Commission may also wish to take note of the evaluations of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization as contained in information documents ESCAP/76/INF/2 and ESCAP/76/INF/3, respectively.

Report on the review of the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management pursuant to resolution 71/11 (ESCAP/76/30)

Review of the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management pursuant to resolution 71/11 (ESCAP/76/INF/4)

In its resolution 71/11, the Commission decided to assess at its seventy-sixth session the performance of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management on the basis of the findings of an independent comprehensive review and to determine the continuation of operations of the Centre as a regional institution of the Commission thereafter. Document ESCAP/76/30 contains the key findings and recommendations of the independent comprehensive review of the Centre.

The Commission may wish to endorse the recommendations contained in document ESCAP/76/30 and decide on the continuation of the Centre as a regional institution of the Commission.

The Commission may also wish to take note of the review of the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management as contained in information document ESCAP/76/INF/4.

Report on the evaluation activities of the Commission during the biennium 2018–2019 (ESCAP/76/31)

In its resolution 66/15, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to ensure periodic evaluation of the secretariat's programmatic work, including the work of divisions, subregional offices and regional institutions.

Document ESCAP/76/31 includes a summary of the main findings and recommendations contained in evaluations conducted during the biennium 2018–2019 and the steps taken by the secretariat to address those recommendations.

The Commission may wish to take note of the document and recommend actions to further enhance its own performance and the results of its work and to strengthen its evaluation function.

7. Review of the conference structure of the Commission pursuant to resolution 73/1

Documentation

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/76/5, resolution 74/5)

Review of the conference structure of the Commission pursuant to resolution 73/1 (ESCAP/76/32)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/76/5, resolution 74/5)

The document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 74/5 on the transition of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture to an intergovernmental organization outside the United Nations system.

The Commission may wish to review the progress made and to provide the secretariat with further guidance on the effective implementation of the resolution.

Review of the conference structure of the Commission pursuant to resolution 73/1 (ESCAP/76/32)

In its decision 75/17, the Commission established an open-ended working group to further consider issues pertinent to the review of the conference structure of the Commission and requested the working group to report its findings and recommendations to the Commission at its seventy-sixth session.

The open-ended working group reviewed several aspects related to the conference structure of the Commission, including issues related to the organization and agenda of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, the issues to be addressed by the Committees subsidiary to the Commission, and the timing and frequency of meetings of the bodies subsidiary to the Commission.

The Commission may wish to consider the report of the working group and endorse the recommendations contained therein.

8. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

Documentation

Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ESCAP/76/33)

The report includes a summary of the main activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission since the seventy-fifth session of the Commission, including support provided by the Advisory Committee to the Executive Secretary on matters related to programme planning, implementation and monitoring.

The Commission may wish to comment on the role of the Advisory Committee and provide further guidance on its work.

9. Dates and venue of and theme topic for the seventy-seventh session of the Commission (2021)

Documentation

Dates and venue of and theme topic for the seventy-seventh session of the Commission (2021) (ESCAP/76/17)

The Commission may wish to decide the dates and venue of and theme topic for the seventy-seventh session.

10. Other matters

The result of the election for the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology will be announced.

The Commission may also wish to consider other matters brought to its attention.

11. Adoption of the report of the Commission

The Commission will consider and adopt the report on its seventy-sixth session. Pursuant to paragraph 7 of annex II, entitled “Conference structure of the Commission”, to the annual report of ESCAP, 20 May 2016–19 May 2017 (E/2017/39–E/ESCAP/73/40), the report of the Commission will be composed of its decisions and resolutions. The draft record of proceedings of the Commission session, prepared by the secretariat, will be circulated among members and associate members for comments within 15 days after the conclusion of the session.