Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Seventy-seventh session
Bangkok and online, 26–29 April 2021

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the seventy-seventh 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 addresses;
   (b) Election of officers;
   (c) Adoption of the agenda.

2. Theme topic, “Building back better from crises through regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific”:
   (a) General debate;
   (b) Subregional perspectives.

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

4. Review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission:
   (a) Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development;
   (b) Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation;
   (c) Committee on Statistics;
   (d) Committee on Social Development;
   (e) Committee on Transport;
   (f) Committee on Environment and Development;
   (g) Committee on Trade and Investment;
(h) Committee on Energy;
(i) Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction;
(j) Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development.

5. Management issues:
   (a) Proposed programme plan for 2022;
   (b) Programme changes for the 2021 programme plan;
   (c) Overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development;
   (d) Report on the evaluation of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development.

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


8. Other matters.

9. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the session

   (a) Opening addresses

      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.

   (c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Provisional agenda (ESCAP/77/L.1)

Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/77/L.2)
2. Theme topic, “Building back better from crises through regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific”

(a) General debate

Documentation

Summary of the theme study on building back better from crises through regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/77/1)

Enhancing regional cooperation for seamless trade and transport connectivity in times of pandemic (ESCAP/77/2)

Summary of the theme study on building back better from crises through regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/77/1)

From the moment it was first detected in late 2019, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has triggered simultaneous, unprecedented global health, social and economic crises, which threaten to roll back hard-won development gains and complicate the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific.

Document ESCAP/77/1 contains an analysis of the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic in the region, actions taken and recommendations for policymakers for building back better to put the region back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and build resilience to future pandemics and similar wide-scale crises. A number of areas for regional cooperation are highlighted, in particular: (1) ensuring a sustained economic recovery; (2) strengthening social protection; (3) strengthening sustainable regional connectivity and supply chains; and (4) protecting and restoring ecosystems.

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

Enhancing regional cooperation for seamless trade and transport connectivity in times of pandemic (ESCAP/77/2)

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused severe stresses to international trade worldwide as well as in Asia and the Pacific, highlighting the need for more resilient and efficient cross-border trade and transport connectivity. This may be achieved through greater regional cooperation. “Streamline, harmonize and digitize” should be the guiding principles of the trade and transport response during and after the crisis when mobilizing existing regional cooperation mechanisms for trade and transport connectivity to accelerate progress.

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

(b) Subregional perspectives

Documentation

Subregional cooperation to build back better from crises in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/77/3)

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the subregions of Asia and the Pacific over different timescales and with varying severity. It is therefore
important to examine the impacts of and responses to the pandemic through a subregional lens and to discuss the implications for regional cooperation and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The document includes a review of the major impacts of COVID-19 in the five subregions of ESCAP and of responses at the subregional level, in particular by subregional organizations. It also contains lessons learned from subregional responses and priorities for subregional cooperation for building back better.

The Commission may wish to take note of the document and provide guidance on the future work of the secretariat at the subregional level.

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

The Commission will consider the development challenges, including those posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, of countries with special needs, and 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/77/6, resolution 75/1)

Summary of the Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2021: Strengthening the Resilience of Least Developed Countries in the Wake of the Coronavirus Disease Pandemic (ESCAP/77/4)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/77/6, resolution 75/1)

The document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 75/1 on the implementation of the outcome of the Euro-Asian Regional Midterm Review of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024.

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

Summary of the Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2021: Strengthening the Resilience of Least Developed Countries in the Wake of the Coronavirus Disease Pandemic (ESCAP/77/4)

In the Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2021, ESCAP provides a comprehensive review of the progress made by the least developed countries in the region in implementing the Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action). Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its unprecedented socioeconomic impacts on least developed countries, the Report also includes an examination of how the pandemic has affected the prospects of these countries’ progress towards graduation from the category of least developed countries and towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.
Between 2011 and 2019, Asia-Pacific least developed countries made significant progress in implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action, with 10 of the region’s 12 least developed countries meeting the criteria for graduation by 2018. Yet, it has still not been fully implemented.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the acute vulnerability of least developed countries to external shocks. While widespread job losses, especially among low-wage informal workers, have increased income poverty in least developed countries, weak initial conditions, such as limited coverage of social protection and narrow fiscal space, have amplified the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic. Thus, the pandemic has imposed significant economic and social costs on the least developed countries and set them further behind in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Areas of policy focus for the programme of action for least developed countries for the next decade are highlighted in the Report with a view to guiding countries in their efforts to initiate sustained socioeconomic recovery in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and effectively work towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Regional and subregional cooperation will remain important in improving the resilience of these countries in dealing with shocks such as the current pandemic. For countries graduating from the category of least developed countries, continued support from development partners, beyond graduation, will be essential to ensure a smooth transition from that category.

The Commission may wish to note the policy issues discussed in the document and provide guidance to the secretariat thereon.

4. Review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission

The Commission will review the reports of subsidiary bodies of the Commission (of which sessions have been held since the most recent Commission session) and the work under the nine subprogrammes, including the work of the regional institutions, in the context of recent globally agreed development agendas, and in particular the 2030 Agenda. The Commission will also review reports of other intergovernmental bodies as well as the progress made in the implementation of Commission mandates.

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

Documentation

Report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on its fifteenth session (ESCAP/77/5)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/77/6)

Summary of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in the period 2020–2021 (ESCAP/77/7)

Annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission (ESCAP/77/INF/1)
Report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on its fifteenth session (ESCAP/77/5)

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

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/77/6)

The document 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 2020–2021 (ESCAP/77/7)

Annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission (ESCAP/77/INF/1)

Document ESCAP/77/7 contains a summary of all the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held since the seventy-sixth session of the Commission and of the matters those bodies have brought to the Commission for its action or attention. The summary covers the third session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation; the seventh session of the Committee on Statistics; the sixth sessions of the Committee on Social Development, the Committee on Transport and the Committee on Environment and Development; the seventh session of the Committee on Trade and Investment; and the third session of the Committee on Energy.

Document ESCAP/77/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-sixth session; identify key issues to be taken up in the meetings of subsidiary bodies in 2021; 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 2021.

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

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/77/6, resolution 75/2)

Report of the Eighth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (ESCAP/77/8)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/77/6, resolution 75/2)

The document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 75/2 on committing to strengthening the links between national, regional and global follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda 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 resolution.

Report of the Eighth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (ESCAP/77/8)

The Eighth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development was held in Bangkok and online from 23 to 26 March 2021 as a preparatory event for the high-level political forum on sustainable development of the Economic and Social Council.

Member countries agreed that the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development plays a unique role as a catalyst of solutions and peer learning on how to accelerate transformations for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda while recovering from COVID-19. The Forum conducted an in-depth review of Sustainable Development Goals 1–3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17, without prejudice to the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Goals. 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 Commission may wish to endorse the report of the Forum and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

(b) Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation

Documentation

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/77/6, resolutions 75/6, 75/7 and 75/8)

Summary of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in the period 2020–2021 (ESCAP/77/7, report of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation on its third session)
Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its fifteenth session (ESCAP/77/9)

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its sixteenth session (ESCAP/77/10)

Promoting meaningful and affordable access to broadband Internet for inclusive development (ESCAP/77/11)

**Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/77/6, resolutions 75/6, 75/7 and 75/8)**

The document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 75/6 on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030), resolution 75/7 on advancing the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative through regional cooperation and resolution 75/8 on advancing science, technology and innovation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda 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.

**Summary of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in the period 2020–2021 (ESCAP/77/7, report of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation on its third session)**

The Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation held its third session in Bangkok and online on 19 and 20 August 2020.

The Commission may wish to consider and endorse the matters calling for action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Committee, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

**Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its fifteenth session (ESCAP/77/9)**

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

**Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its sixteenth session (ESCAP/77/10)**

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and provide the secretariat with guidance for the future work of the Centre.
Promoting meaningful and affordable access to broadband Internet for inclusive development (ESCAP/77/11)

Document ESCAP/77/11 contains a review of the current state of broadband connectivity in the Asia-Pacific region against the backdrop of an increasingly digitized region as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Emerging government policy practices on expanding meaningful and affordable access to broadband Internet and accelerating digital transformation are highlighted. Collective dependence on digital connectivity during the COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the importance of regional digital cooperation, which has informed the preparations being made for the second phase of implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative.

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

e) Committee on Statistics

Documentation

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/77/6, resolution 74/8)

Summary of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in the period 2020–2021 (ESCAP/77/7, report of the Committee on Statistics on its seventh session)

Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its sixteenth session (ESCAP/77/12)

Is everyone in the picture? Civil registration in the middle of the coronavirus disease pandemic (ESCAP/77/13)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/77/6, resolution 74/8)

The document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 74/8 on accelerating the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics 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 resolution.

Summary of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in the period 2020–2021 (ESCAP/77/7, report of the Committee on Statistics on its seventh session)

The Committee on Statistics held its seventh session in Bangkok and online from 26 to 28 August 2020.

The Committee reviewed progress on the 2016 commitments contained in the document entitled “Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: a collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community” and the 2018 Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind. The draft monitoring and evaluation
framework for the collective vision and framework for action and the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind and the baseline report for those two overarching regional agreements (the collective vision and the Declaration) were presented at the session.

The Committee also discussed three priority topics selected by the Bureau of the Committee: integrated statistics and analysis, big data and human resource management.

The Committee endorsed the draft monitoring and evaluation framework subject to amendments suggested by member States. In addition, the Committee decided to advance the mainstreaming of gender in its work and to feature accounting for integrated statistics and analysis as well as big data for official statistics in its future work. The Committee also decided that the strengthening of national statistical offices, including the development of training and train-the-trainer programmes, should feature in its future work.

The Commission may wish to consider and endorse the matters calling for action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Committee, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its sixteenth session (ESCAP/77/12)

The Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific held its sixteenth session on 30 November and 1 December 2020 online. The Council reviewed the draft resource mobilization strategy of the Institute. It welcomed the focus on partnerships and supported the importance placed on partnerships with the private sector, especially regarding new technologies, new technical skills and access to new data sources. The draft strategy is to be further developed with greater detail and requires consideration by the Council at its next session.

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

Is everyone in the picture? Civil registration in the middle of the coronavirus disease pandemic (ESCAP/77/13)

Document ESCAP/77/13 contains a brief situation analysis of civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific based on the midterm review of the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade (2015–2024) as agreed in the Ministerial Declaration to “Get Every One in the Picture” in Asia and the Pacific (Commission resolution 71/14). Civil registration and vital statistics systems are central to supporting the monitoring of and responses to COVID-19 and other emergencies. The link between civil registration and vital statistics and the 2030 Agenda, especially with regards to the principle of leaving no one behind, is highlighted.

The Commission may wish to reaffirm the commitment to the vision of all people in Asia and the Pacific benefiting from universal and responsive civil registration and vital statistics systems, facilitating the realization of their rights and supporting good governance, health and development, the need for which has been highlighted during the current COVID-19 crisis. The Commission may further wish to acknowledge the work of the Regional

1 ESCAP/CST/2020/1, section III.
Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific and the progress made in the region in the first half of the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade.

(d) Committee on Social Development

Documentation

Summary of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in the period 2020–2021 (ESCAP/77/7, report of the Committee on Social Development on its sixth session)

Report of the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (ESCAP/77/27)


Summary of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in the period 2020–2021 (ESCAP/77/7, report of the Committee on Social Development on its sixth session)

The Committee on Social Development held its sixth session in Bangkok and online on 20 and 21 October 2020. The Committee endorsed the Action Plan to Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific, with some representatives highlighting the critical role of a dynamic regional platform to share good practices on social protection. The Committee emphasized that universal social protection could reduce poverty and inequality, empower women and girls, and advance the inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized populations in development. Noting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, participants emphasized the importance of expanding social protection systems to aid recovery from the pandemic-related crisis and recession.

The Committee also endorsed the Asia-Pacific Indicator Framework for Voluntary Monitoring of 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. Noting the need for region-specific guidance and the monitoring framework on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the commitments contained in the Ministerial Declaration, the Committee reiterated its commitment and continued support for implementation of the Programme of Action and to the Declaration as an enabler for implementing the 2030 Agenda.

The Commission may wish to consider and endorse the matters calling for action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Committee, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

Report of the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (ESCAP/77/27)

The Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was held from 10 to 12 March 2021. Participants reviewed progress made in the Asia-Pacific region in achieving the objectives of the Global Compact, taking into account its cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and addressing the interlinkages between the Global
Compact and the 2030 Agenda. They also reviewed the cluster of objectives of the Global Compact as outlined in General Assembly resolution 73/326. Meeting participants shared experiences and findings with regard to adopting policies and programmes to achieve the objectives of the Global Compact. The deliberations enhanced understanding of progress, good practices, challenges and emerging issues associated with the implementation of the Global Compact and the migration-related commitments of the 2030 Agenda, including the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Commission may wish to take note of the discussions, as contained in the report, on advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact.


The Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, held its sixth session online on 24 and 25 September 2020. It reviewed recent progress with regard to the Asian and Pacific Decade, with a focus on several goals of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, including goal 1 on poverty and employment, goal 6 on gender equality and women’s empowerment, and goal 7 on disaster risk reduction and management. The Working Group reviewed new initiatives to protect and empower persons with disabilities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. It also reviewed the preparatory process for the conclusion of the Asian and Pacific Decade. The Working Group adopted a set of recommendations to support the implementation of the Incheon Strategy in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

The Commission may wish to take note of the decisions and recommendations made by the Working Group, as contained in the report, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

(e) Committee on Transport

Documentation

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/77/6, resolution 73/4)

Summary of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in the period 2020–2021 (ESCAP/77/7, report of the Committee on Transport on its sixth session)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/77/6, resolution 73/4)

The document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 73/4 on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Transport Connectivity 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 resolution.
Summary of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in the period 2020–2021 (ESCAP/77/7, report of the Committee on Transport on its sixth session)

The Committee on Transport held its sixth session in Bangkok and online on 12 and 13 November 2020. The Committee discussed matters of strategic importance to regional transport development, regional cooperation and the formulation of regional policies to advance sustainable transport and connectivity with a focus on transformative actions for a more sustainable, efficient and resilient regional transport connectivity against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Committee also reviewed progress in the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2017–2021), and adopted recommendations for the consideration of the fourth Ministerial Conference on Transport, to be held in 2021, regarding the next phase of the Regional Action Programme for the years 2022 to 2026. On the basis of the Committee’s recommendations, the draft of the next phase of the Regional Action Programme will be developed in close consultation with members and associate members of the Commission and considered by the fourth Ministerial Conference on Transport.

The Commission may wish to endorse the matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Committee, and to provide the secretariat with further guidance.

(f) Committee on Environment and Development

Documentation

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/77/6, resolutions 74/4 and 75/4)

Summary of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in the period 2020–2021 (ESCAP/77/7, report of the Committee on Environment and Development on its sixth session)

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its sixteenth session (ESCAP/77/15)

Annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission (ESCAP/77/INF/1, reports of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and South-East Asia and of the Mekong River Commission)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/77/6, resolutions 74/4 and 75/4)

The document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 74/4 on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development for Asia and the Pacific, 2017, and resolution 75/4 on strengthening regional cooperation to tackle air pollution challenges 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.
Summary of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in the period 2020–2021 (ESCAP/77/7, report of the Committee on Environment and Development on its sixth session)

The Committee on Environment and Development held its sixth session in Bangkok and online on 9 and 10 December 2020. The Committee considered the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the environment, as well as possible responses to reduce environmental risk and strengthen resilience, including through climate action and green growth. The Committee reviewed environmental solutions to help to accelerate ambitious action on climate and air pollution, increase sustainable resource and ecosystem use for human well-being, and develop sustainable cities. The Committee reviewed, also, how recovery efforts could advance progress in the Asia-Pacific region in implementing the 2030 Agenda and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, through a transition towards more sustainable, resilient and inclusive societies. The Committee established the Technical Expert Group on Environment and Development to enhance regional exchange and to mobilize technical expertise in support of the Commission’s efforts to accelerate environmental and sustainable development action.

The Commission may wish to consider and endorse the matters calling for action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Committee, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its sixteenth session (ESCAP/77/15)

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

Annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission (ESCAP/77/INF/1, reports of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and South-East Asia and of 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 of the Mekong River Commission.

(g) Committee on Trade and Investment

Documentation

Summary of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in the period 2020–2021 (ESCAP/77/7, report of the Committee on Trade and Investment on its seventh session)

Report of the 6th meeting of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation (ESCAP/77/16)

Summary of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in the period 2020–2021 (ESCAP/77/7, report of the Committee on Trade and Investment on its seventh session)

The Committee on Trade and Investment held its seventh session in Bangkok and online from 27 to 29 January 2021. It reviewed recent trends and developments, including the impact of rising protectionism and the
COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee also discussed promoting inward and outward foreign direct investment in the post-coronavirus-disease era as well as the work of the secretariat, associated results and the future focus of the subprogramme on trade, investment and innovation.

The Commission may wish to consider and endorse the matters calling for action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Committee, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.


The 6th meeting of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation was held in Bangkok and online on 25 and 26 January 2021.

The Commission may wish to take note of the decisions made by the Steering Group, as contained in the report, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

**(h) Committee on Energy**

**Documentation**

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/77/6, resolution 74/9)

Summary of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in the period 2020–2021 (ESCAP/77/7, report of the Committee on Energy on its third session)

Enhancing energy security in the context of the coronavirus disease pandemic for a greener, more resilient and inclusive energy future in the region (ESCAP/77/17)

**Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/77/6, resolution 74/9)**

The document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 74/9 on the implementation of the outcomes of the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum.

The Commission may wish to review the progress made and 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 2020–2021 (ESCAP/77/7, report of the Committee on Energy on its third session)**

The Committee on Energy held its third session in Bangkok and online from 24 to 26 February 2021. The Committee reviewed progress on the implementation of the outcomes of the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, including a review of progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7, the status of national road maps for the implementation of Goal 7 and the preparatory work for the third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, to be held in 2023, as well as the draft road map entitled “Regional road map on power system connectivity: promoting cross-border electricity

The Commission may wish to consider and endorse the matters calling for action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Committee, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

Enhancing energy security in the context of the coronavirus disease pandemic for a greener, more resilient and inclusive energy future in the region (ESCAP/77/17)

The document contains an overview of the secretariat’s analytical work on energy security and resilience in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. It contains a review of the current status of the transformation of the energy sector in the region and the convergence of new technologies, platforms and frameworks for international cooperation which are producing new challenges to energy security and resilience. This background was used as the basis for identifying opportunities for regional cooperation to enhance energy security and energy resilience in the Asia-Pacific region.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 74/225, the Secretary-General will convene a high-level dialogue on energy at the summit level during the seventy-sixth session of the Assembly in September 2021 in New York. Document ESCAP/77/17 serves to bridge the discussion at the regional and global levels to support the efforts of ESCAP members and associate members to contribute to the high-level dialogue.

The Commission may wish to review document ESCAP/77/17 and provide guidance for the future work of the secretariat.

(i) Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction

Documentation

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/77/6, resolution 75/5)

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management on its fifth session (ESCAP/77/18)

Pathways for managing systemic risks in Asia and the Pacific: regional and subregional approaches (ESCAP/77/19)

Annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission (ESCAP/77/INF/1, reports of the Typhoon Committee and of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/77/6, resolution 75/5)

The document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 75/5 on the implementation of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration of the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.
The Commission may wish to review the progress made and provide the secretariat with further guidance on the effective implementation of the resolution.


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 for the future work of the Centre.

**Pathways for managing systemic risks in Asia and the Pacific: regional and subregional approaches (ESCAP/77/19)**

Starting as a health emergency, the COVID-19 pandemic has evolved into an economic and human crisis of mammoth proportions with global coverage and local impacts. In order to build back better for a more equal, resilient and sustainable region post COVID-19, the systemic risks emerging from the intersection of multiple natural and biological hazards need to be considered and addressed. Until now, the discourse on these risks has been siloed, resulting in major gaps in economic and social preparedness, as seen in the context of the current crisis.

Through the lens of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, document ESCAP/77/19 demonstrates how systemic hazard risks cut across the four key areas of regional cooperation: economic recovery, restoring and strengthening supply chains and connectivity, protecting people, and protecting and restoring ecosystems. The document contains an analysis of further gaps in preparedness and a discussion of how digital tools and geospatial applications can help to identify, analyse, track, monitor and manage systemic risks from the very beginning.

The Commission may wish to consider the findings as well as the menu of possible solutions and policy recommendations to build systemic resilience in line with the 2030 Agenda, as contained in document ESCAP/77/19, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

**Annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission (ESCAP/77/INF/1, reports of the Typhoon Committee and of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones)**

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

(j) **Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development**

**Documentation**

Economic policies and financing strategies to build resilient, inclusive and sustainable economies (ESCAP/77/20)

The COVID-19 pandemic is a truly unprecedented shock. It has resulted in severe economic contraction, substantial job losses and a considerable increase in poverty. Importantly, it has revealed the fault lines of persistent inequalities, the environmental impacts resulting from excessive
focus on the growth of the gross domestic product, and the overall lack of resilience in economies around the world. Consequently, the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals has become even more challenging.

In response, governments have deployed trillions of dollars in emergency health responses and immediate relief measures for households and businesses. While essential, such spending has led to a considerable squeeze in the fiscal space of countries, along with a substantial rise in government debt levels. However, to initiate and sustain recovery, economies will require significant fiscal support and stimulus, along with other supportive policy measures. Importantly, the march towards the Sustainable Development Goals must resume so that governments can build resilient, inclusive and sustainable economies.

Against this backdrop, document ESCAP/77/20 contains a discussion of a wide range of economic policies and financing strategies that governments can consider and implement to ensure that policy support is sustained in the near future, for economic recovery and investments in areas such as health, social protection, digital infrastructure and climate action. The discussion centres on two broad themes: first, enhancing fiscal space and finding the means to finance the required government spending in a manner that has minimal adverse implications for debt sustainability and overall macroeconomic stability, and, second, channelling investments towards sustainable development, both public and private, through the development of appropriate financing instruments and leveraging the potential of technologies.

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

5. 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.

Documentation

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/77/6, resolution 75/3)

The document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 75/3 on advancing partnerships within and across regions for the sustainable development of 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 resolution.

(a) Proposed programme plan for 2022

Documentation

Proposed programme plan for 2022 (ESCAP/77/21)

The document comprises a foreword by the Executive Secretary, the proposed programme plan for 2022 and information on programme performance for 2020. 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 eight sections: objective of the subprogramme; strategy; result 1 – programme performance on a selected topic in 2020; result 2 – programme performance in 2020 and programme plan in 2022 for the planned result, as reflected in the 2020 programme plan; \(^2\) result 3 – programme performance in 2020 and programme plan in 2022 for the planned result, as reflected in the 2021 programme plan; \(^3\) result 4 – programme plan on a selected topic for 2022; legislative mandates; and deliverables for the period 2020 to 2022.

As subsidiary bodies of the Commission, the Committees provided the secretariat with guidance on the future focus of the subprogrammes under their purview as appropriate. 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 2021 programme plan

Documentation

Programme changes for the 2021 programme plan (ESCAP/77/22)

In the wake of the endorsement of the programme plan for 2021 by the Commission at its seventy-sixth session, emerging global and/or regional priorities impacted by crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, have been identified by the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly, and global and regional intergovernmental forums, which may occasion the need to make changes to the 2021 programme plan.

The Commission may wish to consider the proposed changes with a view to endorsing them for incorporation into the programme plan for 2021.

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

Documentation

Overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development (ESCAP/77/23)

The document contains an overview of the secretariat’s partnerships in 2020, 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 2020 is discussed.

\(^2\) A/74/6 (Sect. 19).

\(^3\) A/75/6 (Sect. 19).
Individual members and associate members may wish to announce their intended contributions for 2021.

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 of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development**

**Documentation**

Report on the evaluation of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (ESCAP/77/24)

Evaluation of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (ESCAP/77/INF/2)

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 an independent evaluation of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development. Document ESCAP/77/24 contains the key findings, recommendations and the secretariat’s response.

The Commission may wish to endorse the recommendations contained in document ESCAP/77/24 and take note of the evaluation of the Centre, as contained in document ESCAP/77/INF/2.

6. **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/77/25)

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-sixth 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.
7. **Dates and venue of and theme topic for the seventy-eighth session of the Commission (2022)**

**Documentation**

Dates and venue of and theme topic for the seventy-eighth session of the Commission (2022) (ESCAP/77/26)

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

8. **Other matters**

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

9. **Adoption of the report of the Commission**

The Commission will consider and adopt the report on its seventy-seventh 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.

____________________