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Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the seventy-ninth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (sect. I) and the annotations thereto (sect. II).

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening addresses;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Theme topic, “Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development”:
 - (a) General debate;
 - (b) Strengthening subregional cooperation;
 - (c) Catalysing climate financing and investment.
3. Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States.
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) 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, investment, enterprise and business innovation;
 - (i) Information and communications technology, science, technology and innovation;
 - (j) Statistics.
5. Management issues:
- (a) Proposed programme plan for 2024;
 - (b) Overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development.
6. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.
7. Dates and venue of and theme topic for the eightieth session of the Commission (2024).
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventy-ninth session.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the session

(a) Opening addresses

The Executive Secretary and high-level dignitaries will deliver opening remarks.

The detailed programme for the opening of the session will be made available once it has been finalized.

(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 so decided in plenary, the rule may be applied differently to enable the Commission to elect more than two Vice-Chairs, as has been the practice at previous sessions, in which case the Commission may elect a bureau of officers composed of a Chair and several Vice-Chairs.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Provisional agenda (ESCAP/79/1/Rev.2)

Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/79/1/Add.1/Rev.1)

2. Theme topic, “Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development”

(a) General debate

Documentation

Summary of the theme study on accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development (ESCAP/79/2)

Nowhere is the urgent need for enhanced climate ambition and action more apparent than in the Asia-Pacific region, where climate change and climate-induced disasters are increasingly and continuously threatening development, often undermining hard-won development gains and exacerbating underlying drivers of poverty and societal inequalities by disproportionately burdening the poor and other vulnerable groups. In 2022, Asia-Pacific countries experienced unprecedented climate-induced disasters, including heatwaves, droughts, typhoons and floods. While the economic losses in Australia, China, India and the Republic of Korea, for example, were considerable, the most devastating impacts were experienced in Pakistan, where 33 million people were displaced by floods. Furthermore, the region accounted for more than half of global greenhouse gas emissions, a share that is still increasing owing to the fossil fuel-intensive development pathways that many countries in the region are following.

Document ESCAP/79/2, which will also be considered under agenda item 2 (c), sets out the transformations that are needed for Asia and the Pacific to transition towards a net-zero-carbon future in support of sustainable development. It provides an outline of the regional context of climate change and identifies the policies and actions that could be taken in various sectors of the economy to support the global climate agenda while also making broad economic, social and environmental gains. To close the emissions gap in key sectors, efforts must be made to transition away from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy. Some countries in the region are making such efforts, but viable pathways are still needed. Low-carbon mobility and logistical solutions are crucial for accelerating innovation, developing technologies and tapping into greener fuels. The move towards low-carbon transport options requires an integrated approach to land use and urban planning, as Asia and the Pacific is rapidly motorizing. Furthermore, Governments need to boost their climate-smart trade and investment sectors so that they can decarbonize industries that are currently notable for exporting carbon-intensive goods. Trade and investment should be utilized as force multipliers to combat climate change but are still missing from the existing regional climate landscape. The document also contains information on climate-related financing needs in the region and addresses data gaps for better monitoring. Given that enhanced regional cooperation is needed for faster, bolder climate action for sustainable development in the region, policy options in this regard are presented.

The Commission may wish to take note of the document, endorse the recommendations contained therein and provide guidance on the future work of the secretariat.

(b) Strengthening subregional cooperation

Documentation

Report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on its seventeenth session (ESCAP/79/3)

Subregional cooperation to accelerate climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development (ESCAP/79/4)

Report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on its seventeenth session (ESCAP/79/3)

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

Subregional cooperation to accelerate climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development (ESCAP/79/4)

Document ESCAP/79/4 provides a brief overview of the main climate trends and challenges in each subregion of Asia and the Pacific, as well as key initiatives being pursued to address these challenges. The document contains recommendations for strengthening cooperation within and among subregions to accelerate climate action for sustainable development in the region. The Commission may wish to take note of the document and provide guidance on the future work of the secretariat.

(c) Catalysing climate financing and investment

Documentation

Summary of the theme study on accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development (ESCAP/79/2)

3. Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States

The Commission will examine the role of transport, energy and digital connectivity as a catalyser of sustainable development. It will also examine the situation regarding climate action in countries in special situations (i.e. the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States) in Asia and the Pacific. It will share updates and highlight national, bilateral and multilateral policies and cooperation initiatives aimed at enhancing connectivity and, in particular, initiatives aimed at helping to address climate-related challenges and fostering the transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy.

Documentation

Summary of the *Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2023: Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Seamless and Sustainable Connectivity* (ESCAP/79/5)

Seamless and sustainable transport, energy and digital connectivity across borders is central to improving the lives of people in countries in special situations. It can therefore be seen as a catalyser of sustainable development.

It is also important for accelerating climate action in and for these countries. For instance, improved multimodal transport connectivity can allow for the use of less energy-intensive modes of transport; greater energy connectivity can accelerate the cost-efficient deployment of renewable energy; and improved digital connectivity can assist in gaining access to green and innovative climate adaptation solutions. The long-term benefits of seamless and sustainable connectivity will be especially significant to countries in special situations given the current and future impacts of climate change and the sustainable development dividends gained from having a low-carbon and climate-resilient world.

Document ESCAP/79/5 contains an examination of how regional cooperation on seamless and sustainable connectivity can facilitate a long-term transformation towards a net-zero-carbon future. Recognizing ongoing efforts and existing initiatives and considering the large financing gaps in countries in special situations, the need to seek synergies between transport, energy and digital connectivity initiatives in the region is underscored.

The Commission may wish to consider the findings, possible solutions and recommendations contained in the document and provide guidance to the secretariat in that regard.

The Commission may also wish to reflect on the outcomes of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and advise on the regional reviews of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, scheduled for 2023, ahead of the global reviews, to be held in 2024.

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 agenda item is focused on: (a) the work of the nine subprogrammes, including the work of the regional institutions, in the context of the globally agreed development agendas, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals; (b) the reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission that have held sessions since the seventy-eighth session of the Commission; (c) the reports of other intergovernmental bodies; and (d) progress in the implementation of Commission mandates.

The sub-items have been grouped for discussion on the basis of the subsidiary structure of the Commission and along the lines of the thematic areas identified in the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/73/31, annex II), starting with the outcomes of the Tenth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

The Commission may wish to endorse the reports of the subsidiary bodies that have held meetings since its seventy-eighth session; identify key issues to be taken up in the meetings of subsidiary bodies in 2023 and 2024; 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 Asia-Pacific perspectives on issues that will be addressed in major global forums in 2023.

In addition, 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, for example by identifying priorities, gaps in implementation and any required technical assistance at the subregional or regional level.

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

Documentation

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/79/6)

Annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission (ESCAP/79/INF/1)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/79/6)

The document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of Commission resolution 69/13 on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific and Commission 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”.

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

Annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission (ESCAP/79/INF/1)

Information document ESCAP/79/INF/1 contains a summary of the annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations submitted to the Commission, including those 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.

(a) Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

Documentation

Report on the Tenth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (ESCAP/RFSD/2023/6)

Summary of round-table discussions (ESCAP/RFSD/2023/6/Add.1)

The Tenth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development will be held in Bangkok and online from 27 to 30 March 2023 as a preparatory event for the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development, to be held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit, to be held under the auspices of the General Assembly.

The Asia-Pacific Forums on Sustainable Development have played a unique role in gathering solutions and fostering peer learning, including on how to accelerate the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and fully implement the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific.

The participants in the Tenth Forum will conduct an in-depth review of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Clean water and sanitation), Goal 7 (Affordable and clean energy), Goal 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), without prejudice to the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Goals. They will discuss the regional follow-up and review processes and mechanisms in place and their contribution to the global follow-up and review processes. Furthermore, the participants will comprehensively review progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, provide political guidance on the way forward and identify solutions for accelerating the implementation of the Goals during the period until 2030 and at the midpoint of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Commission may wish to endorse the report on the Tenth Forum, take note of the summary of round-table discussions and provide the secretariat with further guidance on the implementation of, follow-up on and review of the 2030 Agenda, including in the lead-up to the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit.

(b) Social development

Documentation

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/79/6, resolutions 69/13 and 74/7)

Report of the Committee on Social Development on its seventh session (ESCAP/CSD/2022/5)

Report on the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.3/2022/3)

Outcome document: Accelerating Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, to Build a Sustainable Society for All Ages in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.3/2022/3/Add.1)

Report on the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022 (ESCAP/APDDP/2022/3)

Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032 (ESCAP/APDDP/2022/3/Add.1)

Trends in social development: the future of work in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/79/7)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/79/6, resolutions 69/13 and 74/7)

Document ESCAP/79/6 contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of Commission resolution 69/13 on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with

Disabilities, 2013–2022, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific and Commission 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”.

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 Committee on Social Development on its seventh session (ESCAP/CSD/2022/5)

The Committee on Social Development held its seventh session in Bangkok and online from 6 to 8 September 2022. At that session, the Committee focused on four areas of social development: (a) building a resilient workforce to respond to ongoing and emerging global and regional trends; (b) carrying out activities and taking measures to implement the Action Plan to Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific; (c) implementing the key outcomes of the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing; and (d) assessing the key findings of the responses to the national surveys on the status of disability-inclusive development as input to the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022. The Committee adopted four decisions and requested that they be brought to the attention of the Commission.

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

Report on the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.3/2022/3)

Outcome document: Accelerating Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, to Build a Sustainable Society for All Ages in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.3/2022/3/Add.1)

The Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing was held in Bangkok and online from 29 June to 1 July 2022.

The participants in the Meeting reviewed and appraised the progress made and the challenges faced in the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in Asia and the Pacific. In addition, four round tables were held, focusing on priority areas and emerging regional issues and opportunities.

The participants in the Meeting adopted the outcome document entitled “Accelerating Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, to Build a Sustainable Society for All Ages in Asia and the Pacific”, which contains recommendations to take concrete action on: (a) older persons and development; (b) work, the labour force, poverty and social protection; (c) a life-course perspective on population ageing and intergenerational solidarity; (d) emergency situations; (e) health and

well-being into old age; (f) enabling and supportive environments; (g) discrimination, neglect, abuse, violence, ageism and public image; (h) data and research; and (i) implementation and follow-up. The document also contains requests addressed to the Executive Secretary of the Commission, including on supporting members and associate members in building their capacities on data and research on population ageing in order to develop forward-looking policies and actions and to mainstream ageing into existing policies.

The Commission may wish to consider and endorse the matters calling for its action or brought to its attention contained in the report on the Meeting and the outcome document.

Report on the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022 (ESCAP/APDDP/2022/3)

Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032 (ESCAP/APDDP/2022/3/Add.1)

The High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, was held in Jakarta and online from 19 to 21 October 2022.

The participants in the Meeting reviewed the progress made and the challenges faced in the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. In addition, four round tables were held to discuss forward-looking policies and strategies for disability-inclusive development in Asia and the Pacific during the period to 2030, focusing on key and emerging regional issues and opportunities.

In the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032, which was adopted at the Meeting, the participants reaffirmed the continued relevance and importance of the Incheon Strategy and the Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy, and committed themselves, *inter alia*, to taking the following measures to accelerate action to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities: (a) harmonize national legislations with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; (b) promote the meaningful participation of women and men with diverse disabilities of all ages; (c) promote universally designed goods, services, equipment and facilities to improve accessibility; (d) galvanize the power of the private sector; (e) promote a gender-responsive life-cycle approach to disability inclusion; and (f) track progress in disability-inclusive development.

The Commission may wish to consider and endorse the matters calling for its action or brought to its attention contained in the report on the Meeting, as well as the Jakarta Declaration and provide guidance on its implementation.

Trends in social development: the future of work in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/79/7)

Asia and the Pacific is going through a process of rapid socioeconomic and demographic transition with profound implications for the societies and economies of the countries in the region. The region is home to more than two thirds of the world population. Of that amount, 3.2 billion individuals are of working age and two thirds of them are in the labour force. Furthermore, the

rapidly falling fertility rate and increasing life expectancy mean that Asia and the Pacific is the most rapidly ageing region in the world. The document contains information on some of the key challenges and trends that countries in the region may face in the future, including the potential impact of shrinking and ageing labour forces on the economies and societies. It sets out the key actions that need to be taken to safeguard the future health and well-being of the populations of the region, ensuring that no one is left behind, and the interlinkages with climate change, gender equality and digital transformation, all of which should be critical elements of the region's response.

The Commission may wish to take note of the findings presented in the document and discuss the priority actions to be taken.

(c) Environment and development

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Environment and Development on its seventh session (ESCAP/CED/2022/4)

Ministerial Declaration on Protecting Our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/CED/2022/4/Add.1)

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its eighteenth session (ESCAP/79/8)

Enabling cities to take climate action and advance the Sustainable Development Goals (ESCAP/79/9)

Annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission (ESCAP/79/INF/1, reports of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and South-East Asia and of the Mekong River Commission)

Report of the Committee on Environment and Development on its seventh session (ESCAP/CED/2022/4)

Ministerial Declaration on Protecting Our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/CED/2022/4/Add.1)

The Committee on Environment and Development held its seventh session in Bangkok and online from 29 November to 1 December 2022. The Committee reviewed the status of implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development for Asia and the Pacific, 2017, and noted that climate action and strengthened stewardship of natural resources were important priorities for the region. It expressed strong support for multilateral actions and stressed the need for a united position to solve emerging and existing environmental problems. The Committee adopted the Ministerial Declaration on Protecting Our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution annexed thereto, as well as the terms of reference of the Technical Expert Group on Environment and Development (ESCAP/CED/2022/3/Rev.1).

The Commission may wish to consider and endorse the matters calling for its action or brought to its attention contained in the report of the Committee, as well as the Ministerial Declaration and the Regional Action Programme and provide guidance on their implementation.

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its eighteenth session (ESCAP/79/8)

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

Enabling cities to take climate action and advance the Sustainable Development Goals (ESCAP/79/9)

Cities in Asia and the Pacific are at the centre of multiple intersecting crises. While cities contribute as much as 75 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions, they are also vulnerable to the effects of climate change and have large populations, including low-lying coastal communities and the urban poor, living in informal settlements and exposed to floods, typhoons and other climate-related disasters. Urban expansions and changing urban-rural dynamics are affecting biodiversity, natural resources, mobility, food supplies, air quality and waste, which highlights that confronting multiple, interlinked crises requires enhanced local action.

As more than 1 billion people are expected to join the urban populations of Asia and the Pacific by 2050, the demand for energy, materials and natural resources will continue to increase. It is crucial to understand how urbanization trends can become more sustainable and environmentally sound as demographics shift in order to accelerate energy transitions and realize environmental co-benefits. Furthermore, enhanced policies are essential for enabling local and subnational authorities to take climate action and localize the Sustainable Development Goals. In line with Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), the integration of environmental and health priorities, as well as nature-based solutions, in future urban and spatial planning will ensure that growth in the coming decades is not accompanied by environmental degradation.

The Commission may wish to take note of the findings and policy recommendations contained in the document and advise on the future work of the secretariat, including in the lead-up to the Eighth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, to be held in the fourth quarter of 2023.

Annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission (ESCAP/79/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.

(d) Disaster risk reduction

Documentation

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management on its seventh session (ESCAP/79/10)

Update on the financial situation of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (ESCAP/79/10/Add.1)

Early warning and action for all by 2027: transformative adaptation measures to address increased risks in the Asia-Pacific region (ESCAP/79/11)

Annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission (ESCAP/79/INF/1, reports of the Typhoon Committee and of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones)

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management on its seventh session (ESCAP/79/10)

Update on the financial situation of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (ESCAP/79/10/Add.1)

The Commission may wish to review and endorse the report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management, take note of the note by the secretariat on the update on the financial situation of the Centre and provide the secretariat with guidance on the future work of the Centre.

Early warning and action for all by 2027: transformative adaptation measures to address increased risks in the Asia-Pacific region (ESCAP/79/11)

As early warning and action are key adaptation measures that save lives and livelihoods and minimize loss and damage, the Secretary-General has launched the Early Warnings for All initiative and the Executive Action Plan on Early Warnings for All, 2023–2027, to ensure that every person on Earth will be covered by early warning systems by 2027. Countries with limited early warning coverage have disaster-related mortality rates that are eight times higher than countries with high coverage. The Executive Action Plan includes a call for \$3.1 billion in new targeted investments to be made between 2023 and 2027.

While it is especially critical to implement the Executive Action Plan in Asia and the Pacific, the world's most disaster-prone region, in the document it is noted that the effects of climate change vary by subregion. Moreover, the document contains: (a) analyses of the losses and damages experienced by the most affected social and economic sectors, such as food and energy, and of the extent to which these sectors are at risk in future climate scenarios; and (b) an innovative investment strategy for taking multi-hazard early warning and risk-informed early action. Mindful of its resolution 78/1, in which the Commission recognized the need to address the outstanding and emerging development challenge of vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change, the secretariat also proposes ways to scale up regional cooperation, in particular through the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network, the ESCAP

multi-donor trust fund for tsunamis, disaster and climate preparedness and the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development.

The document focuses on underserved high-risk developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States that are on the front lines of climate change.

The Commission may wish to consider the findings and policy recommendations contained in the document and provide further guidance to the secretariat in that regard.

Annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission (ESCAP/79/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.

(e) Energy

Documentation

Accelerating the just energy transition to make progress in achieving net-zero-emissions targets in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/79/12)

Despite record-breaking investments in renewable energy and other low-carbon technologies, the world is not on track to meet the targets under Sustainable Development Goal 7 (Affordable and clean energy) or to achieve emissions reductions in line with the Paris Agreement. The decreasing cost of clean energy technologies combined with high and volatile fossil fuel prices strengthen the economic case for the energy transition, but getting the Asia-Pacific region completely on track will require the implementation of effective and appropriate policies to further unlock investments in scaling up the use of renewable energy and improving energy efficiency. At the same time, as major producers and consumers of the critical raw materials that underpin the energy transition, the countries in the region will also need to consider the upstream impact of accelerating the deployment of these technologies. The principal challenges in sustainably accelerating the just energy transition in the region are presented in the above-mentioned document.

Furthermore, a series of concrete opportunities are identified in the document for member States, in partnership with other stakeholders, to accelerate the energy transition in line with national commitments. Attention is paid to the role that the Third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, to be held in the fourth quarter of 2023, will play in reviewing progress and discussing the possible implications of the energy transition for the region. Recommendations will be presented for policy options to accelerate the just energy transition in line with the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, consistent with national policy objectives, including net-zero-emissions targets where relevant.

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

(f) Transport

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Transport on its seventh session (ESCAP/CTR/2022/6)

Enhancing the environmental sustainability of transport systems to support climate action in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/79/13)

Report of the Committee on Transport on its seventh session (ESCAP/CTR/2022/6)

The Committee on Transport held its seventh session in Bangkok and online from 23 to 25 November 2022. The Committee reviewed the status of implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026) and discussed the major issues in transport in the areas of: (a) efficient and resilient transport and logistics networks and mobility for economic growth; (b) environmentally sustainable transport systems and services; and (c) safe and inclusive transport and mobility.

The report of the Committee, which is brought to the attention of the Commission, contained nine decisions. In its decision 1, the Committee welcomed the finalization of the “Guidelines for harmonization of national laws on multimodal transport in Asia and the Pacific” and the revision of the Model Subregional Agreement on Transport Facilitation. In its decision 2, it called for renewed support to enhance the transport connectivity of countries in special situations. In its decision 3, it welcomed evidence-based approaches to ensuring better planning, development and upgrading of the regional transport system and in particular the initiative to establish an online interactive platform on Asian highways, trans-Asian railways, dry ports and major maritime ports. In its decision 4, it requested the secretariat of the Commission to follow up on the proposal to develop a regional approach to sustainable shipping corridors. In its decision 5, it endorsed, in principle, the draft elements of the guiding principles for sustainable freight transport in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/CTR/2022/3, annex), as a means of further promoting the sustainability of freight transport in the region. In its decision 6, it welcomed the establishment of the regional cooperation mechanism on low-carbon transport to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector. In its decision 7, it took note with appreciation of the Asia-Pacific initiative on electric mobility. In its decision 8, it welcomed the Regional Plan of Action for Asia and the Pacific for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030 (ESCAP/CTR/2022/5, annex). Lastly, in its decision 9, it acknowledged the work done on the seven thematic areas of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026).

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

Enhancing the environmental sustainability of transport systems to support climate action in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/79/13)

The demand for transport in Asia and the Pacific is projected to grow by more than 150 per cent between 2015 and 2050. As a result, carbon emissions are expected to increase by 50 per cent over the same period. More

ambitious transport policies are required in order to reverse the growth in emissions from the transport sector and enhance environmental sustainability.

Environmental sustainability and the decarbonization of the transport sector in the region can be achieved by reducing the distance that people and goods travel; shifting to sustainable transport modes; promoting mass public transport systems; improving vehicle, fuel and system efficiency; adopting low-carbon technologies and innovations; and transitioning to electric modes of transport. Transport infrastructure and systems also need to be transformed in order to support changes in the behaviour of transport users. The document outlines some of the activities and new initiatives that are being carried out under the environmental dimension of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026).

The Commission may wish to review the document and encourage the active engagement of its members and associate members in the planned activities of the regional cooperation mechanism for low-carbon transport and the Asia-Pacific initiative on electric mobility.

The Commission may also wish to share information on innovative policies and actions being taken at the national, subregional and regional levels to enhance the environmental sustainability of and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector in the region, specifically in respect of land, rail and maritime transport.

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

Documentation

Securing public debt sustainability while pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals (ESCAP/79/14)

Amid the rising risk of public debt distress and given the limited progress made in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals to date, the prospects of achieving the Goals in Asia and the Pacific by 2030 seem daunting. The document contains an analysis of how the region can maintain public debt sustainability while pursuing its ambitions on inclusive and green development. Recent trends in public debt are reviewed and attention is paid to how the COVID-19 pandemic, tighter global financial conditions and weaker economic prospects are undermining public debt sustainability in developing Asia-Pacific economies. It is noted that climate change challenges can also increase fiscal risks because of the significant cost of implementing climate action initiatives and of supporting households and rebuilding public infrastructure in the aftermath of natural disasters, for example.

Against this backdrop, the document sets out some policy options to boost fiscal resources and achieve public debt sustainability in the region. Examples of domestic measures include: expanding the tax base; improving public spending efficiency; enhancing public debt management; exploring innovative debt reduction modalities; and mobilizing private sources of funding for development projects. Multilateral measures taken by international development communities include: stepping up efforts to broaden the scope of existing global debt relief initiatives, for example by expanding coverage to include middle-income countries; creating incentives for private creditors to participate; encouraging debt restructuring; and meeting commitments on climate and development financing.

The Commission may wish to consider the suggested policy actions to deal with rising debt distress, share country experiences and provide guidance on the future work of the secretariat in this area.

(h) Trade, investment, enterprise and business innovation

Documentation

Report on the Third Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/MCREI/2022/5)

Report of the Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation on its first session (ESCAP/CTIEBI(1)/8)

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its eighteenth session (ESCAP/79/15)

Harnessing trade, investment, innovation and technology transfer for climate action (ESCAP/79/16)

Report on the Third Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/MCREI/2022/5)

The Third Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific was held in Bangkok and online from 28 to 30 September 2022.

The Commission may wish to consider and endorse the matters calling for its action or brought to its attention contained in the report on the Third Ministerial Conference and provide the secretariat with guidance in that regard.

Report of the Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation on its first session (ESCAP/CTIEBI(1)/8)

The Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation held its first session in Bangkok and online from 22 to 24 February 2023.

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

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its eighteenth session (ESCAP/79/15)

The Commission may wish to review and endorse the report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and provide the secretariat with guidance on the future work of the Centre.

Harnessing trade, investment, innovation and technology transfer for climate action (ESCAP/79/16)

While globalization has lifted millions of people in the Asia-Pacific region out of poverty, economic growth has come at a significant environmental cost. In its latest report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change unequivocally concludes that a human-made climate crisis is unfolding

and that the world is at a tipping point. All possible avenues for reducing greenhouse gas emissions need to be considered.

The document contains information on the roles of trade, investment, innovation and technology transfer in addressing climate change. It provides an overview of how trade policies can promote environmental sustainability and contribute to attaining the goals of the Paris Agreement. The document outlines the trends, opportunities and challenges related to foreign direct investment in climate change mitigation and adaptation and how public-private partnerships in sustainable infrastructure financing and private sector initiatives can address climate change. Technology transfer too has a role to play in efforts to address climate change and in supporting Governments in Asia and the Pacific to meet their national commitments and objectives under the Paris Agreement. Concrete measures should be taken in the areas of technology innovation, transfer and diffusion in order to accelerate and scale up climate action. The document concludes with a list of policy recommendations that take into account existing, emerging and potential future challenges.

The Commission may wish to take note of the document and the policy recommendations contained therein and provide guidance on the future work of the secretariat in that regard.

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

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation on its fourth session (ESCAP/CICTSTI/2022/6)

Report on the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/MCSASD/2022/3)

Jakarta Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/MCSASD/2022/3/Add.1)

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its seventeenth session (ESCAP/79/17)

Promoting digital transformation in Asia and the Pacific through the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026 (ESCAP/79/18)

Report of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation on its fourth session (ESCAP/CICTSTI/2022/6)

The Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation held its fourth session in Bangkok and online from 30 August to 1 September 2022.

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

Report on the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/MCSASD/2022/3)

Jakarta Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/MCSASD/2022/3/Add.1)

The Fourth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific was held in Jakarta and online on 26 October 2022. It was co-organized by the Government of Indonesia and the secretariat of the Commission.

The participants in the Ministerial Conference adopted the Jakarta Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

The Commission may wish to consider and endorse the matters calling for its action or brought to its attention contained in the report on the Fourth Ministerial Conference, as well as the Jakarta Ministerial Declaration.

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its seventeenth session (ESCAP/79/17)

The Commission may wish to review and endorse 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 on the future work of the Centre.

Promoting digital transformation in Asia and the Pacific through the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026 (ESCAP/79/18)

Digital connectivity and technology applications have played an important role in mitigating the impacts of global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate-related disasters, which are occurring with increased frequency and severity in the Asia-Pacific region. The digital environment is developing at an unprecedented speed, transforming societies and their economies while also widening the digital divide. As the digital dividends are not being equitably shared, the digital transformation process is one of the key drivers of socioeconomic inequality. In turn, this means that the need to leverage digital connectivity and innovative digital technologies for all has become a prerequisite for achieving an inclusive society.

Document ESCAP/79/18 contains an evidence-based overview of the current status of the digital divide, as well as the key trends in digitalization. It outlines the key components of the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026, which was endorsed by the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation at its fourth session, in September 2022, as a blueprint for multi-stakeholder cooperation to bridge the digital divide and promote digital transformation. The document also contains updates on the work of the Working Group on Connectivity for All, the Working Group on Digital Technologies and Applications and the Working Group on Digital Data. Lastly, the document includes a range of policy recommendations to bridge the digital divide and accelerate digital transformation for an inclusive society.

The Commission may wish to consider the issues highlighted in the document and provide guidance to the secretariat on its future work in that regard.

(j) **Statistics**

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Statistics on its eighth session (ESCAP/CST/2022/8)

Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its eighteenth session (ESCAP/79/19)

Getting everyone in the picture for more effective climate change action (ESCAP/79/20)

Report of the Committee on Statistics on its eighth session (ESCAP/CST/2022/8)

The Committee on Statistics held its eighth session in Bangkok and online from 23 to 25 August 2022.

The Committee discussed the progress that had been made on strengthening national statistical systems, including in terms of meeting the commitments contained in the collective vision and framework for action (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/1/Rev.1) and the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind, both of which are aimed at advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee also discussed the progress that had been made through the Get Every One in the Picture initiative on civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific.

The Committee discussed two emerging issues: how to measure progress beyond gross domestic product; and data governance in a changing world. It recognized the benefit of sharing knowledge and experience in both areas. Moreover, it recognized the importance of data governance and expressed support for incorporating it into regional actions on official statistics.

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

Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its eighteenth session (ESCAP/79/19)

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

Getting everyone in the picture for more effective climate change action (ESCAP/79/20)

The document contains a brief analysis of the importance of having resilient civil registration and vital statistics systems in order for climate change action to be more effective, in particular in the context of ensuring a legal identity for all, including birth registration, in line with Sustainable Development Goal target 16.9.

Ensuring that everyone has a legal identity is critical for enabling the global community and national Governments to uphold their promise to leave no one behind, including those affected by climate change. Furthermore, attaining the target of ensuring a legal identity for all has been acknowledged as being a catalyst for the achievement of 12 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and data generated from civil registration supports the measurement of more than 60 Goal indicators.

Having resilient civil registration and vital statistics systems is also central to supporting efforts aimed at adapting to climate change, now and in the future. When they are well-functioning, such systems are the best source of timely and granular data on the population and of statistics that can be used in planning, implementing and monitoring policies in a large range of areas. Unregistered persons are often invisible to the State and, as a result, their level of vulnerability and the limitations they experience in accessing social protection and services can be very difficult to assess. Displacement too creates major challenges for civil registration and vital statistics systems and can compound the negative impacts of non-registration. At the same time, displaced persons are among those most in need of the social and legal protection underpinned by civil registration and vital statistics systems.

The Commission may wish to take note of the analysis on the importance of well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics systems for effective climate change action contained in the document and provide the secretariat with guidance on its future work.

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 the secretariat.

(a) Proposed programme plan for 2024

Documentation

Proposed programme plan for 2024 (ESCAP/79/21)

The document comprises a foreword by the Executive Secretary, the proposed programme plan for 2024 and information on programme performance for 2022. The programme plan contains an overall orientation of the programme of the secretariat, legislative mandates and a programme plan for each of the subprogrammes. Each subprogramme plan comprises seven sections: objective of the subprogramme; strategy; programme performance on a selected topic in 2022; result 1 – programme performance in 2022 and programme plan in 2024 for the planned result, as reflected in the 2022 programme plan (A/76/6 (Sect.19)); result 2 – programme performance in 2022 and programme plan in 2024 for the planned result, as reflected in the 2023 programme plan (A/77/6 (Sect.19)); result 3 – programme plan on a selected topic for 2024; and deliverables for the period 2022–2024.

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 Commission may wish to review and endorse the programme plan.

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

Documentation

Overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development (ESCAP/79/22)

The document contains an overview of the secretariat's partnerships in 2022, 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 delivering capacity-development support to member States.

The document also contains an overview of the extrabudgetary resources mobilized to implement the Commission's programme of work.

Individual members and associate members may wish to announce their intended contributions for 2023.

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, including through the enhancement of South-South cooperation.

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/79/23)

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-eighth 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 take note of the report, 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 eightieth session of the Commission (2024)

Documentation

Dates and venue of and theme topic for the eightieth session of the Commission (2024) (ESCAP/79/24)

The Commission may wish to decide on the dates and venue of and theme topic for its eightieth session.

8. Other matters

Under this agenda item, the result of the elections 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.

9. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventy-ninth session

The Commission will consider and adopt the report on its seventy-ninth session. Pursuant to its resolution 78/2 on a conference structure of the Commission to advance sustainable development, the report of the Commission will be composed of its decisions and resolutions. The draft record of proceedings, prepared by the secretariat, will be circulated among members and associate members for comment within 15 days after the conclusion of the session.
