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

Bangkok and online, 15–19 May 2023

Item 6 of the provisional agenda\*

**Activities of the Advisory Committee of  
Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives  
Designated by Members of the Commission****Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent  
Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by  
Members of the Commission\*\****Summary*

The present document is submitted to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for its consideration. It covers the activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission during the period from June 2022 to March 2023. The Commission may wish to take note of the report and provide comments on it.

**I. Introduction**

1. The present document covers the activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission during the period from June 2022 to March 2023. The Advisory Committee appointed Mr. Kinzang Dorji (Bhutan) to serve as Rapporteur of the Advisory Committee, with the responsibility of presenting its report to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-ninth session.

**II. Activities of the Advisory Committee**

2. During the period under review, the Advisory Committee held six regular sessions.

3. The secretariat provided the Advisory Committee with briefings on the work of the Commission and the secretariat, its role and work, and its position in the United Nations development system to help to orient representatives of the Advisory Committee.

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\* ESCAP/79/1/Rev.2.

\*\* The present document was submitted late owing to the need for the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission to consider the report at its 405th session, which was held on 14 March 2023.

4. At its regular sessions, the Advisory Committee discussed, inter alia, the following subjects:

(a) Preparations for the seventy-ninth session of the Commission: the Advisory Committee was briefed by the secretariat on the preparations for the seventy-ninth session of the Commission and provided useful guidance, including in relation to the development of the provisional agenda and tentative programme;

(b) Outcome of the seventy-eighth session of the Commission: in its review of the outcome of the seventy-eighth session of the Commission, the Advisory Committee considered the major achievements of the session, such as the adoption of four resolutions by the Commission, including resolution 78/1, entitled “Bangkok Declaration Commemorating the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: a Common Agenda to Advance Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific”, in which the Commission highlighted areas for strengthened regional cooperation to advance sustainable development in the region, and resolution 78/2, on a conference structure of the Commission to advance sustainable development, which was aimed at allowing the conference structure to be fit for purpose and to help to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the post-pandemic recovery. The Advisory Committee extended advice and provided useful guidance on the implementation by the secretariat of the resolutions adopted by the Commission;

(c) Proposed calendar of meetings and training programmes of the Commission for 2023 and proposed calendar of intergovernmental meetings for 2024: the Advisory Committee noted the proposed calendar of meetings for both years and advised the secretariat on scheduling and organizational aspects;

(d) Review of the preparations for and outcomes of the following meetings:

(i) Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing;

(ii) Eighth session of the Committee on Statistics;

(iii) Fourth session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation;

(iv) Seventh session of the Committee on Social Development;

(v) Third Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific;

(vi) High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022;

(vii) Fourth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific;

(viii) Seventh session of the Committee on Transport;

(ix) Seventh session of the Committee on Environment and Development;

(x) First session of the Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation;

- (e) Review of the preparations for the following meetings:
  - (i) Tenth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development;
  - (ii) Eighth session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction;
  - (iii) Third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum;
  - (iv) Eighth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum;
  
- (f) Review of the outcomes of the following meetings of regional institutions:
  - (i) Seventeenth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development;
  - (ii) Eighteenth session of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;
  - (iii) Eighteenth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology;
  - (iv) Eighteenth session of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization;
  - (v) Seventh session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management;
  - (vi) Seventeenth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.

5. Members of the Advisory Committee actively contributed to the successful outcomes of the intergovernmental meetings held since the previous session of the Commission, with several representatives serving on the bureau of these meetings and helping to steer deliberations to a successful conclusion.

6. While the present document covers the activities of the Advisory Committee during the period from June 2022 to March 2023, it should be noted that the Advisory Committee was also instrumental in facilitating consensus among member States on the outcomes of the seventy-eighth session of the Commission in the context of the Working Group on Draft Resolutions. Similarly, the Advisory Committee is expected to play an important role in facilitating consensus ahead of the seventy-ninth session of the Commission.

7. The secretariat presented to the Advisory Committee the proposed programme plan for 2024.

8. The Executive Secretary regularly informed the Advisory Committee of: activities relating to the priority issues of the United Nations and of the Commission, as well as the outcome of her participation and engagements at major meetings; cooperation between member States and the secretariat; and administrative and programme matters concerning the Commission. Regular updates on the reform of the United Nations development system were provided. Moreover, the Advisory Committee was briefed by the Executive Secretary on the achievements of the Commission in 2022. In this context, the Advisory Committee was invited to provide guidance to the secretariat on its future work and to bring to the attention of the secretariat other issues and

potential expectations for 2023 that could help the Commission to strengthen its provision of support to member States.

9. The Advisory Committee expressed its continued appreciation for the briefings of the Executive Secretary, noting that it found them useful and informative.

### **III. Conclusions**

10. The members of the Advisory Committee actively contributed to strengthening its deliberative and advisory role during the reporting period. They also actively participated in the intergovernmental meetings held since the previous session of the Commission, including by serving in the bureaux, thereby contributing to their success. The Advisory Committee provided advice and guidance on important issues concerning the Commission and the secretariat, including the implementation of resolutions adopted by the Commission and the organization of various intergovernmental meetings and initiatives of the secretariat.

11. At the midpoint of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and in the light of emerging and persistent development challenges, continued constructive cooperation and mutual support between the Advisory Committee and the secretariat will be instrumental in strengthening the contribution of the Commission towards advancing inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

12. The Commission may wish to take note of the present document and provide comments on it.

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