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## Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

### Seventy-ninth session

Bangkok and online, 15–19 May 2023

Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*

**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**

## Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions

### Note by the secretariat

#### *Summary*

The present document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of the resolutions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on which the secretariat is required to report to the Commission at its seventy-ninth session.

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

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

## **Social development**

### **A. Resolution 69/13 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**

#### **Requirements of the operative paragraphs**

1. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 69/13, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific requested the Executive Secretary:

(a) To accord priority to 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;

(b) To submit a road map for the implementation of the Incheon Strategy to the Commission at its seventieth session for endorsement;

(c) To submit the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, to be convened by the Assembly on 23 September 2013,<sup>1</sup> through the President of the Assembly;

(d) To report to the Commission triennially thereafter until the end of the Decade on the progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

### **B. Resolution 74/7 Towards disability-inclusive sustainable development: implementation of the Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy**

#### **1. Requirements of the operative paragraphs**

2. In paragraph 4 of its resolution 74/7, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary:

(a) To accord priority to support members and associate members of the Commission in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Incheon Strategy;

(b) To continue to provide technical assistance to members and associate members to integrate disability perspectives and strengthen disability-inclusive development efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(c) To report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution and of resolution 69/13 to the Commission at its seventy-sixth, seventy-eighth and seventy-ninth sessions.

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<sup>1</sup> See General Assembly resolution 66/124.

## 2. Progress made

3. As resolutions 69/13 and 74/7 are closely interlinked and mutually reinforcing, the summary of progress made on both resolutions is provided in an integrated manner.

4. In response to subparagraph 3 (a) of resolution 69/13 and subparagraph 4 (a) of resolution 74/7, the secretariat conducted a comprehensive final review of the implementation of the Incheon Strategy, the Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy, and the Ministerial Declaration to conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022. The process consisted of an analytical review and consultation meetings, culminating in the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, held in Jakarta and online from 19 to 21 October 2022. The Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032, was adopted at the Meeting, highlighting a gender-responsive life-cycle approach to disability-inclusive development and calling for effective partnerships among Governments, organizations of persons with disabilities, the private sector and international organizations. It provides strategic guidance for members and associate members of the Commission to “make the right real” for all persons with disabilities through accelerated actions in the six critical areas for the coming Decade.

5. In its analytical review, the Commission examined the state of disability-inclusive development in Asia and the Pacific based on responses from 31 governments, 24 civil society organizations and 8 international organizations in its surveys on the final review, as well as secondary desk research. In the consultation meetings, including an expert group meeting and stakeholder consultations, the Commission solicited feedback and inputs on achievements, lessons learned and emerging priorities concerning disability-inclusive development in Asia and the Pacific. The findings of the analytical review and consultation meetings were presented and informed the deliberations at the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022. The findings are included in the following documents: “Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022: key achievements, priorities and challenges”;<sup>2</sup> “Implementation of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific”;<sup>3</sup> and “Disability-inclusive development in Asia and the Pacific and the path to 2030: perspectives of persons with disabilities and civil society organizations”.<sup>4</sup>

6. The secretariat, in collaboration with the Embassy of Australia in Thailand, the World Food Programme and the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability Foundation, held a regional commemoration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in December 2022. At the commemoration, participants focused on discussing the effective implementation of the Jakarta Declaration, and the power of film to change stereotypical perceptions about persons with disabilities was showcased. Moreover, the secretariat took stock of the progress made in the areas of the 10 goals of the Incheon Strategy and promoted innovative policies and

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<sup>2</sup> ESCAP/APDDP/2022/1.

<sup>3</sup> ESCAP/APDDP/2022/2.

<sup>4</sup> ESCAP/APDDP/2022/INF/1.

programmes to address the needs of diverse disability groups referred to in the publication entitled *A Three-Decade Journey towards Inclusion: Assessing the State of Disability-Inclusive Development in Asia and the Pacific*.<sup>5</sup>

7. To enhance the technical capacity of members and associate members to implement the Incheon Strategy and the Beijing Declaration and Action Plan, the secretariat developed a series of knowledge products, such as the publication entitled *Disability at a Glance 2021: the Shaping of Disability-Inclusive Employment in Asia and the Pacific*,<sup>6</sup> through which it provided a regional review of the employment status of persons with disabilities and proposed various policy recommendations on facilitating their productive employment and decent work. In addition, the secretariat undertook an in-depth analysis of the efforts to promote disability-inclusive employment and business through preferential contracting, included in the policy paper entitled *Preferential Contracting for Persons with Disabilities*.<sup>7</sup> These knowledge products contributed to realizing Incheon Strategy goal 1 on reducing poverty and enhancing work and employment prospects for persons with disabilities.

8. The secretariat developed the publication entitled *Harmonization of National Laws with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Overview of Trends in Asia and the Pacific*<sup>8</sup> in which it examined the legal measures taken by States parties in the region to harmonize national legislation with the principles and obligations of the Convention. In the publication, the secretariat also underscored priority areas for further legislative reform, expanding the knowledge base on goal 9 of the Incheon Strategy concerning the implementation of the Convention. The publication entitled *Sign Language: What Is It? An ESCAP Guide towards Legal Recognition of Sign Languages in Asia and the Pacific*<sup>9</sup> was issued to support members and associate members in understanding the importance of sign language as a basis for implementing the provisions of the Convention with regard to deaf persons and their linguistic rights and culture. Furthermore, the policy paper entitled *Framework for Disability Policies and Strategies in Asia and the Pacific*<sup>10</sup> was developed to present key elements that constitute a national disability policy or strategy. In it, the secretariat emphasized the critical role of disability policy frameworks in accelerating disability-inclusive development towards the fulfilment of the Incheon Strategy goals and the broader Sustainable Development Goals.

9. To facilitate the continued implementation of the Incheon Strategy and the Beijing Declaration and Action Plan in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and beyond, the secretariat promoted partnerships with organizations of and for persons with disabilities in Bangladesh, China, India, Malaysia and Thailand. Five pilot initiatives were conducted to mitigate the negative impacts of the pandemic on persons with disabilities, with a focus on Incheon Strategy goal 1 on poverty reduction and employment, goal 2 on political participation and decision-making, goal 3 on accessibility, goal 4 on social protection and goal 6 on gender equality and women's empowerment. Good practices and lessons learned from these initiatives were documented in detailed case studies, which are available on the

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<sup>5</sup> United Nations publication, 2022.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations publication, 2021.

<sup>7</sup> Social Development Division, Policy Paper No. 2022/06.

<sup>8</sup> ST/ESCAP/3047.

<sup>9</sup> ST/ESCAP/3048.

<sup>10</sup> Social Development Division, Policy Paper No. 2022/03.

“Make the Right Real” portal.<sup>11</sup> A dedicated web page on COVID-19 and disability inclusion was also established on the portal, enabling policymakers, persons with disabilities and other stakeholders to have access to timely information and resources on the pandemic.

10. In response to paragraph 3 (b) of resolution 69/13, the secretariat developed a road map for the implementation of the Incheon Strategy, which was endorsed by the Commission at its seventieth session. Following the endorsement, the secretariat disseminated copies of the road map and the Incheon Strategy to disability focal points of member States.

11. In response to paragraph 3 (c) of resolution 69/13, the secretariat submitted the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, which was convened by the General Assembly on 23 September 2013, through the President of the General Assembly.

12. In response to subparagraphs 4 (a) and (b) of resolution 74/7, the secretariat delivered technical assistance to members and associate members to enhance their institutional capacities in disability-inclusive policymaking and programming. The secretariat is currently assisting the Government of Bhutan in developing disability-inclusive employment and social protection systems, including through the provision of situation analyses, policy reviews, capacity-building for line ministries and procurement support. The secretariat is also supporting the provincial government of Batangas, Philippines, in enhancing disability assessment tools to increase access to social protection benefits and other services for persons with disabilities. The technical assistance provided to member States has further accelerated progress towards realizing Sustainable Development Goal target 1.3 on implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all and achieving substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable, and target 8.5 on achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including persons with disabilities.

13. Moreover, the secretariat is partnering with Samarthyam, an organization of persons with disabilities in India, to address gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities and to strengthen their participation and leadership in community networks in the State of Rajasthan. The project is also aimed at enhancing the capacity of government agencies and organizations of persons with disabilities to conduct accessibility audits of the built environment and transportation, thereby also contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender equality) and Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities).

14. In response to subparagraph 3 (a) of resolution 69/13 and subparagraph 4 (a) of resolution 74/7, and contributing to realizing Sustainable Development Goal targets related to disaster risk reduction and resilience-building, such as 1.5, 11.b and 13.1, the secretariat is assisting national and local policymakers in incorporating disability and gender perspectives into disaster risk reduction policies and measures. The Regional Consultation on Facilitating Innovative Action on Disability-Inclusive and Gender-Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific was held in May 2022 to share good practices on promoting inclusive disaster preparedness and response, including through the use of e-learning tools. Furthermore, the secretariat provided technical

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<sup>11</sup> See [www.maketherightreal.net/](http://www.maketherightreal.net/).

assistance to the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of Mongolia in collecting disability data and reporting on the Incheon Strategy indicators, supporting efforts to meet Sustainable Development Goal target 17.18 on increasing significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data, including those disaggregated by disability status.

### **3. Issues for consideration by the Commission**

15. The Commission may wish to discuss the following topics:

(a) Good practices and lessons learned on the implementation of the Incheon Strategy and the Beijing Declaration and Action Plan, in synergy with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(b) Effective ways to implement the Jakarta Declaration in the coming Decade, with close collaboration among government entities across sectors, organizations of persons with disabilities, the private sector, international organizations and other stakeholders.

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