Draft report

I. Matters calling for action by the Commission

1. The following recommendation made at the Third Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific is brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for its consideration and possible action:

Recommendation

The participants in the Ministerial Conference recommend that, in line with Commission resolution 74/10 of 16 May 2018, priority should continue to be accorded to enhancing economic cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific in the programme of work of the Commission and through its conference structure.

II. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the Ministerial Conference

2. The Ministerial Conference, which was held in Bangkok and online from 28 to 30 September 2022, was opened by the Executive Secretary of the Commission, Mr. Woochong Um, Managing Director General of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Mr. Biswo Nath Poudel, Vice-Chair of the National Planning Commission of Nepal, also made statements.

B. Attendance

3. Representatives of the following members and associate members of the Commission attended: Armenia; Australia; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; China; Democratic People’s Republic of Korea; France; Georgia; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Lao People’s Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Maldives; Mongolia; Nauru; Nepal; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Timor-Leste; United States of America; Uzbekistan; and Viet Nam.
4. Representatives of the following Permanent Observers to the Commission also attended: Belgium; Finland; Germany; Guatemala; Hungary; Slovakia; and Switzerland.


6. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and funds also attended: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Labour Organization; International Telecommunication Union; and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

7. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations also attended: ADB; Economic Cooperation Organization; Eurasian Economic Commission; International Transport Forum; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

8. In accordance with rule 12 of the Commission’s rules of procedure, the bureau examined the credentials of representatives of member States and reported upon them to the participants in the Ministerial Conference. The credentials of the representatives of 31 member States were found to be in order. The bureau decided to defer any action on the credentials pertaining to the representatives of Myanmar at the Ministerial Conference, pending a decision by the General Assembly on the representation of Myanmar and in line with General Assembly resolution 396 (V) of 14 December 1950, and acknowledging the report of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session.

9. The participants in the Ministerial Conference took note of the oral report of the bureau on credentials.

C. Election of officers

10. The participants in the Ministerial Conference elected the following officers:

   Chair: Mr. Loknath Sharma (Bhutan)
   Vice-Chairs: Mr. Munkhjin Batumber (Mongolia)
               Mr. Arman Issetov (Kazakhstan)
               Mr. Fakhiriddin Sultanov (Uzbekistan)

D. Agenda

11. The participants in the Ministerial Conference adopted the following agenda:

   1. Opening of the Ministerial Conference:
      (a) Opening statements;
      (b) Election of officers;
      (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Building resilience to crises through regional economic cooperation and integration:
   (a) Strengthening resilience through trade and investment for sustainable development in times of crisis;
   (b) Strengthening resilience through seamless and sustainable connectivity;
   (c) Towards an inclusive digital future.

3. Other matters.

4. Adoption of the report on the Third Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific.

E. Other events

12. The following side events were held in conjunction with the Ministerial Conference:
   (a) 29 September 2022, “Cooperation of the banking sector and businesses of the Russian Federation and the Asia-Pacific region within the framework of the sustainable development agenda”;
   (b) 30 September 2022, “National perspectives and experiences on cross-sectoral infrastructure sharing for broadband connectivity”;
   (c) 30 September 2022, “Towards a forward-looking agenda for sustainable interregional transport linkages between Central and South Asia”;
   (d) 30 September 2022, “Implementing digital identity systems without leaving anyone behind”;
   (e) 30 September 2022, “The United Nations model chapter on trade in crisis situations in regional trade agreements”;
   (f) 30 September 2022, “Powering the digital economy: policy approaches to foster innovation and regional integration”, co-hosted with ADB;
   (g) 30 September 2022, “Launch of the 2022 Regional Trends Report: Towards Sustainable Energy Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific”;
   (h) 30 September 2022, “Cross-border e-payments”;
   (i) 30 September 2022, “An integrated approach to trade and transport facilitation”, co-hosted with ADB;
   (j) 30 September 2022, “Promoting intraregional foreign direct investment in States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations”.

III. Chair’s summary

13. The discussions held during the Ministerial Conference will be summarized in a Chair’s summary that will become available within a week following the conclusion of the session and be annexed to the present report.
### Annex

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**Information available online**

- [www.unescap.org/events/reci-2022](http://www.unescap.org/events/reci-2022) Information for participants
- [www.unescap.org/events/reci-2022](http://www.unescap.org/events/reci-2022) List of participants
- [www.unescap.org/events/reci-2022](http://www.unescap.org/events/reci-2022) Tentative programme