

# POLICY DIALOGUE ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SURVEY OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC 2020

*Aligning Post-COVID19 Recovery  
'Towards Sustainable Economies':  
Sustainable Consumption and Production in Focus*

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## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SURVEY OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC 2020

**Towards sustainable economies**



UNITED NATIONS  
**ESCAP**  
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

76<sup>th</sup> COMMISSION  
SESSION

# COVID-19'S IMPACTS ARE MULTI-DIMENSIONAL

Economic crisis of greater magnitude than the 2008 financial crisis

- What kind of recovery will we see (green, normal, brown?)

Exposes structural inequalities

- Poorer or marginalised segments of society are more likely to be disproportionately affected because of compromised health and inadequate social safety nets

Inextricably linked to unsustainable lifestyles, climate crisis

Pandemics like COVID-19 appear more likely to occur in the future as consequence of warming climate and human encroachment on natural habitats

Short and long term impacts on consumption and production

## The COVID-19 pandemic and consumption and production patterns: REDUCTION, SHIFT, REBOUND?

1. Burdens have shifted from work place/outside to home with impacts on transportation, consumption, education.
2. We can't talk about the increase and decrease of consumption patterns, but we need to talk about the cost of the change and who bears the cost, which is unequally impacting single households and low income families.
3. This experience provides opportunity to reflect on our actual demands in life for happiness. Less international travel.
4. Flexible working arrangements in Japan have increased during the emergency period
  - Although smaller companies are struggling with teleworking; depends on sector (white vs. blue collar)
  - If they can, companies are likely to support flexible working arrangements since they are also cost saving measures.
  - Employees require stable ICT arrangements, desks and chairs etc. Reduction of commuting costs could become compensations to extra expenses occurred for managing 'home offices'.

# AREAS FOR RESEARCH

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1. Medical Waste
  2. Air Quality
  3. Sustainable Lifestyles

## **Short-Term**

Addressing urgent concerns

4. Green New Deal

## **Medium-Term**

Paving the way for  
post-crisis green recovery

5. Integrated Approaches
6. Sustainable Cities
7. Climate Adaptation Planning
8. Management of Global Risks

## **Long-Term**

Creating a resilient &  
sustainable society

Implications of COVID-19 for the Environment and Sustainability – IGES position paper , May 2020 →

<https://www.iges.or.jp/en/pub/covid19-e/en>