Assessment of Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development, Second session
Bangkok | 6–8 November 2019

**ATTENDANCE**

- Number of Participants
  - 106 total participants
  - 15 members & associate members
  - 91 other entities
  - 42% ESCAP members attended
  - 54% delegations headed by officials from capital
  - 36% women representation

“The recommendation of the session shall be brought to the notice of various departments under the government for further deliberations & considerations. Formation of Working Group on tax shall be one of the prominent activities which the government would be actively considering and collaborating with the Committee in the future.”

- Feedback from Delegates

**PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT**

**Relevance**

- Relevant to country needs: 73
- Reflect present trends/ issues: 77
- SDG mainstreaming: 81

Comments on relevance:
- It is advisable to consider the draft reports not on the last day of the committee
- Context of SIDS could be more in this session

**Effectiveness**

- Session documents: 60
- Promote dialogue on regional cooperation: 65
- Promote dialogue on country experiences: 85
- Identify priority areas: 73
- Highlight trends/ issues: 75
- Gender issues: 69

Comments on effectiveness:
- Need to provide more information on details of establishing the Working Group (TOR draft, etc.)
- Tax reform is a challenge for us especially with regulatory challenges

**Efficiency**

- Communications: 75
- Service by secretariat: 79
- Time available for discussion: 85

Comments on efficiency:
- Well-organized and superb assistance from the Secretariat and the regional office
- It would have been better if the outline of the expected country statement was shared as soon as the requirement was done

This assessment is prepared by the Strategy and Programme Management Division based on written feedback to a survey questionnaire provided to the government delegations who attended the 2nd session of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development.

Please contact us at escap-spmd@un.org should you require further information &/ clarification.

*Responses are rated as follow: 81-100: Very high; 61-80: High; 41-60: Medium; 21-40: Low; 1-20: Very low*
Summary Assessment

Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development, Second session
Bangkok
6-8 November 2019

I. Introduction

The Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development, second session was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 6-8 November 2019.

A questionnaire assessing the relevance, effectiveness and quality of the meeting was distributed to each delegation of ESCAP members and associate members. In total, 14 of the 26 members and associate members in attendance submitted questionnaires. The overall response rate is therefore 54 per cent. The present assessment was prepared on the basis of these questionnaire responses.

The main purpose of this assessment is to support the secretariat’s ongoing efforts to improve its servicing of session.

II. Attendance

The Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development was attended by 42 per cent of all ESCAP members and associate members (26 of 62). 14 of the delegations (54 per cent) were headed by officials from the respective capital. From ESCAP members and associate members, there were 106 individual participants, of whom 34 were female (32 per cent).

A number of other entities participated, including United Nations bodies and agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and observers. From these entities, there were 15 participants, of whom 2 were female (13 per cent).

Therefore, the total number of participants from both governments and other entities is 121 individuals and the total number of female participants is 36 (27 per cent).

III. Relevance of the session

The overall relevance was rated favorably. Respondents agreed that the agenda items reflected the present development trends/issues in the area of economic policy making and financing for development in the Asia-Pacific region. (See table 1).
There were a few comments and suggestions on how to make the session more relevant to the needs and priorities of participating member States:

- It is advisable to consider the draft reports not on the last day of the committee.
- Context of SIDS could be more in these sessions

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVALUATED STATEMENT</th>
<th>INDEX (0-100)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The agenda items on mainstreaming the SDGs into economic policy making, strengthening regional tax cooperation, and enhancing regional cooperation to leverage financing for the countries with special needs were relevant and timely for countries in the Asia-Pacific region.</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The agenda items reflected the present development trends/issues in the area of economic policy making and financing development in the Asia-Pacific region.</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The agenda items are relevant to the needs and priorities of my country/territory.</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IV. Effectiveness of the session

The respondents have mixed reviews regarding the session’s effectiveness. Respondents agreed that the session effectively promoted dialogue on country experiences and approaches to mainstreaming the SDGs into economic policy making. The respondents rated least favorably for the effectiveness of the session in addressing gender-related issues (See table 2).

There were a few comments and suggestions on how to make the session more effective:

- Need to provide more information on details of establishing the Working Group (TOR draft, etc.)
- Tax reform is a challenge for us especially with regulatory challenges

Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVALUATED STATEMENT</th>
<th>INDEX (0-100)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The session effectively highlighted development trends and issues in the region.</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The session effectively identified priority areas and emerging issues in the region.</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 All comments and suggestions provided are recorded verbatim in this assessment.

2 Methodology, an index between 100 and 0 is given, whereby, at a value of 100, all respondents rate to a great extent to the statement, and, at a value of 0, all respondents rate to not at all. 

Index = actual value of all aggregated responses - minimum value of all aggregated responses / maximum value of all aggregated responses - minimum value of all aggregated responses.
The session effectively promoted dialogue on country experiences and approaches to mainstreaming the SDGs into economic policy making                      85
The session effectively promoted dialogue on strengthening regional tax cooperation and enhancing regional cooperation to leverage financing for the countries with special needs                      65
The session effectively addressed gender-related issues                                                    60
The session documents were of high quality, concise and clear                                                    69

V. Efficiency of the session

There were areas for improvement with regards to the efficiency of the session (See table 3). Below listed are a few comments and suggestions on the efficiency of the organizational and servicing aspects of the session:

- Draft report did not accurately reflect views expressed in the Committee
- It would have been better if the outline of the expected country statement was shared as soon as the requirement was done

Table 3

<table>
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<tr>
<th>EVALUATED STATEMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The time available for discussion during the sessions was adequate.</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The servicing by the secretariat was efficient and effective.</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The communications from the secretariat to the member States on the preparations for the session were effective.</td>
<td>75</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

VI. Other comments

The respondents indicated concrete actions that their government would take in response to the decisions and recommendations of the session included:

- The recommendation of the session shall be brought to the notice of various departments under the government of India for further deliberations, considerations. e.g. formation of WG on tax shall be one of the prominent activities which India’s government would be actively considering and collaborating with the Committee in the future.

Other comments and suggestions for the session are as follow:

- I would like to suggest we have to (together) more focus on implementing Regional Tax Cooperation and Regional Policy Cooperation (sic.)
- Well-organized and superb assistance from the Secretariat and the regional office
VII. Conclusion

Overall, responding delegations agreed that there were good aspects to the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development, second session, though there are also areas for improvement.

The session was generally seen as relevant to the needs of the region. The session was seen to be effective at promoting dialogue on country experiences and approaches to mainstreaming the SDGs into economic policy making. The efficiency of the session was also viewed positively.