



Summary of delegations' assessments of the outcome of the Seventy-fifth session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific *

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27-31 May 2019

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* Prepared by the Strategy and Programme Management Division based on written feedback to a survey questionnaire provided to the government delegations who attended the seventy-fifth session of the Commission.

Summary assessment of the outcome of the seventy-fifth session of the Commission

I. Introduction

The seventy-fifth session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific was held at the United Nations Conference Centre, in Bangkok, Thailand from 27 to 31 May 2019.

A questionnaire assessing the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the session was distributed to member State delegations attending the session. The overall response rate was at 33 per cent. The present assessment was prepared based on these questionnaire responses¹.

The main purpose of this assessment is to support the secretariat's ongoing efforts to develop and improve its annual servicing of sessions of the Commission.

II. Attendance

The session was attended by 79 per cent of all ESCAP members and associate members (49 of 62). In total there were 548 individual participants from ESCAP members and associate members, of whom 211 were female (39 per cent). Twenty-three governments were represented by ministerial level officials, of whom two were Head of States. (see Annex III).

In addition, the session was also attended by other entities, including other States, United Nations bodies and agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations, as described in

Figure 1 (for further details see Annex I, II and III). From these entities, there were 127 participants of whom 53 were female (42 per cent).

The total number of participants from both member States and other entities is 675 individuals.

¹ Responses are ranked as follow:

81-100: Very high; 61-80: High; 41-60: Medium; 21-40: Low; 1-20: Very low

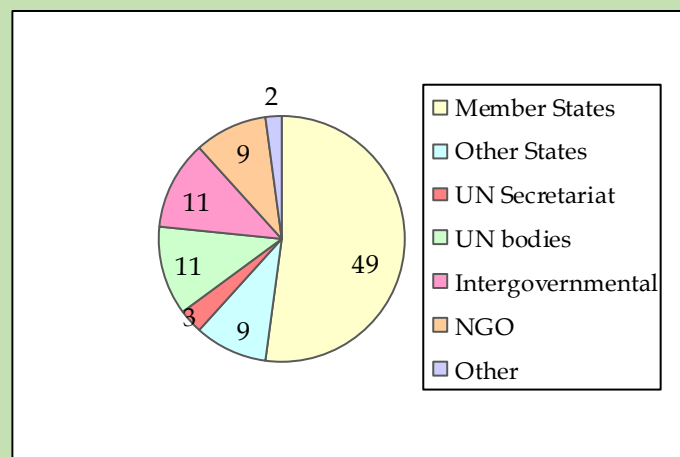


Figure 1: Type and number of states and entities at the seventy-fifth session of the Commission

III. Ownership and participation

The responses received regarding the sense of ownership, the benefits of attending the session and the outcome of the deliberations at the Commission session were positive. All evaluated statements averaged an index score of 80 and above.

This showed that the delegations were satisfied with their participation in the session and its outcome.

EVALUATED STATEMENT	INDEX (0-100) ²
The Commission session was owned and driven by member States.	85
The benefits of my delegation's attendance at the session justified the costs (travel, time, opportunity cost of absence from the office).	83
The overall outcome of the deliberations was positive and a result of a collaborative effort by member States.	88

IV. Overall relevance

Under the theme of overall relevance, it is worth highlighting that the relevance of the Commission as a key intergovernmental forum and the most representative body for the Asian and Pacific region to discuss and decide on important issues, pertaining to inclusive and sustainable development in the region scored the highest among all evaluated statements.

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.

Respondents highly agreed that the theme topic “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality” reflects the current needs and priorities of the region in general. It was noted that there is room for improvement with regards to the side events organized in conjunction with the Commission.

EVALUATED STATEMENT	INDEX (0-100)
The Commission is a key intergovernmental forum and the most representative body for the Asian and Pacific region to discuss and decide on important issues pertaining to inclusive and sustainable development in the region.	88
The Commission engaged distinguished individuals, high-level representatives of other organizations, corporate leaders and civil society organizations in the session, and their inputs were a useful contribution to the discussions at the Commission.	85
The theme topic “ Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality ” reflects the current needs and priorities of the region in general, and my country/territory in particular.	87
The side events are useful, owned and driven by member States	78

a. Ministerial segment

The views on the deliberations of the Ministerial segment were also positive. However, the focus and effectiveness of deliberations at generating policy options that can address key sustainable development issues affecting the region need to be improved on.

Results showed that the deliberations were effective in highlighting areas for regional cooperation to address key sustainable development issues affecting the region and that the resolutions and decisions adopted reflected the key outcomes of the seventy-fifth session of the Commission.

EVALUATED STATEMENT	INDEX (0-100)
The deliberations were focused and effective at generating policy options for addressing key sustainable development issues affecting the region.	77
The deliberations were effective in highlighting areas for regional cooperation to address key sustainable development issues affecting the region.	84

The resolutions and decisions adopted reflected the key outcomes of the seventy-fifth session of the Commission.	83
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b. Senior officials' segment

The deliberations of the Senior officials' segment were generally positive, but there were also areas for improvement (see Annex IV).

The respondents rated favorably (with a score of 80 and above) for agenda items 3 – 5 and agenda item 8. Results showed that implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, is the most relevant agenda item for the Senior Officials segment.

Agenda item 6 – 7 on management issues and the midpoint review of the conference structure of the Commission scored relatively lower.

EVALUATED STATEMENT	INDEX (0-100)
Agenda item 3: Special body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries	85
Agenda item 4: Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific	88
Agenda item 5: Sub regional perspectives on the theme topic: "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality"	83
Agenda item 6: Management issues	75
Agenda item 7: Midpoint review of the conference structure of the Commission	77
Agenda item 8: Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	85

V. Organizational aspects

Overall, responses demonstrated that the secretariat effectively and efficiently serviced the 75th session of the Commission.

a. Organization and servicing by the secretariat

Positive feedback was received regarding the servicing by the secretariat in terms of facilitating effective outcomes.

The organization of work between Commission sessions and the conduct of meetings for the Working Group on Draft Resolutions contributed to the effectiveness of the Commission session.

Respondents were also positive in their feedback on the communication between the secretariat and member States between Commission sessions.

Pre-session servicing by the secretariat through the Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions was effective in providing a useful basis for decision-making during the Commission session.

b. Documents

In general, improvements can be made to the documentation for the Commission session in terms of conveying clear messages concerning the issues on the agenda and ensuring that they were issued in a timely manner.

EVALUATED STATEMENT	INDEX (0-100)
Sufficient time was allocated to agenda items during the session.	78
The servicing by the secretariat facilitated effective outcomes.	87
The organization of work between Commission sessions contributed to the effective functioning of the Commission session (ACPR, Committees, Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions (IWGDR), etc.).	88
The communication between the secretariat and member States between Commission sessions contributed to the effective functioning of the Commission session.	85
The conduct of the meetings of the Working Group on Draft Resolutions was effective for enabling interactive discussions and for reaching consensus.	87
Pre-session servicing by the secretariat through the Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions provided a useful basis for decision-making during the Commission.	82
The pre-session documents conveyed clear messages concerning the issues on the agenda.	80
The pre-session documents were issued in a timely manner.	77

VI. Use of ESCAP recommendations and analytical work

ESCAP recommendations and analytical work presented at the 75th Commission session could be improved on to ensure usage by member States when engaging in policy and programme formulation at the national level.

EVALUATED STATEMENT	INDEX (0-100)
How likely is it that you will use any of the ESCAP recommendations and analytical work, presented at the 74 th Commission session, when engaging in policy and programme formulation at the national level?	77

VII. Most successful features

The questionnaire provided space for respondents to comment on the most successful features of the Commission session.

The most successful features of the 75th session of the Commission was noted as: active participation of member States, high-level panel discussion on the theme topic and achieving consensus on various topics. For further details, please refer to Annex IV.

VIII. Conclusion and additional comments

This assessment demonstrates that the 75th session of the Commission successfully attracted high and wide representation and was conducted efficiently, enabling participants to discuss and negotiate issues of importance for the region.

In conclusion, delegates expressed general satisfaction with the preparations for, servicing and outcome of the 75th session, and continue to consider the Commission as an important regional body for discussing issues of regional and global importance.