



Economic and Social Council

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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Seventy-first session

Bangkok, 25-29 May 2015

Agenda item 12

Adoption of the report of the Commission

Draft report

Organization of the seventy-first session of the Commission

A. Attendance and organization of work

1. The seventy-first session was held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok from 25 to 29 May 2015.
2. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members:

Members

Afghanistan
Armenia
Australia
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Bhutan
Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
China
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Fiji
France
Georgia
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kiribati
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Malaysia
Maldives
Marshall Islands
Micronesia (Federated States of)
Mongolia

Myanmar
Nauru
Nepal
Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Samoa
Singapore
Solomon Islands
Sri Lanka
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Tonga
Turkey
Tuvalu
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Viet Nam

Associate members

Cook Islands
Guam
Hong Kong, China
Macao, China

3. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of Austria, Czech Republic, Germany and Israel attended. Representatives of the Holy See also attended.

4. The following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: Asian and Pacific Coconut Community; Asian Development Bank; Colombo Plan Secretariat; Commonwealth of Independent States; International Organization for Migration; International Pepper Community; Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia; Economic Cooperation Organization; Shanghai Cooperation Organization; ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee; and Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia.

5. The session was attended by representatives of the following offices of the United Nations Secretariat: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs; United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; and Regional Commissions New York Office.

6. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; United Nations Human Settlements Programme; United Nations Population Fund; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Environment Programme; and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

7. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present in a consultative capacity: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Civil Aviation Organization; International Labour Organization; International Maritime Organization; International Telecommunication Union; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; and World Health Organization.

8. Observers were present from the following non-governmental organizations: Associated Country Women of the World; Baha'i International Community; International Road Transport Union; Muslim World League; Organization of the Families of Asia and the Pacific; Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association; Soroptimist International South West Pacific; and WWF International.

9. The list of participants is available from www.unescap.org/commission/list-of-participants.

10. In accordance with rule 13 of its rules of procedure, the Commission elected Mr. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama (Fiji) as Chair of the seventy-first session.

11. Following its past practice, the Commission decided to elect the heads of delegations participating at ministerial level as Vice-Chairs:

Mr. Abdul Sattar Murad (Afghanistan)
 Mr. Mahmud Mammadgulyev (Azerbaijan)
 Mr. M. A. Mannan (Bangladesh)
 Mr. Ly Thuch (Cambodia)
 Mr. Qian Hongshan (China)
 Mr. David Dondua (Georgia)
 Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman (India)
 Mr. Kazuyuki Nakane (Japan)
 Mr. Yerzhan Ashikbayev (Kazakhstan)
 Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith (Lao People's Democratic Republic)
 Mr. Ahmed Munawar (Maldives)
 Ms. Lei Lei Thein (Myanmar)
 Mr. Swarnim Wagle (Nepal)
 Mr. Khurram Dastgir Khan (Pakistan)
 Mr. Lee Tae-ho (Republic of Korea)
 Mr. Gennady Gatilov (Russian Federation)
 Mr. Douglas Ete (Solomon Islands)
 General Tanasak Patimapragorn (Thailand)
 Mr. Maki Simelum (Vanuatu)
 Mr. Vu Quang Minh (Viet Nam)

12. The senior officials segment of the session met in two Committees of the Whole. The following officers were elected:

(a) Committee of the Whole I

Chair: Ms. Rosemarie G. Edillon (Philippines)
 Vice-Chairs: Mr. Fikret Pashayev (Azerbaijan)
 Ms. Susan Sulu Dhari (Solomon Islands)

(b) Committee of the Whole II

Chair: Ms. Noumea Simi (Samoa)
 Vice-Chairs: Mr. Kirill Barsky (Russian Federation)
 Mr. Lal Shankar Ghimire (Nepal)

13. The Commission also constituted the Working Group on Draft Resolutions to consider the draft resolutions submitted during the session. Mr. Kesang Wangdi (Bhutan) was elected Chair and Mr. Ata ul Munim Shahid (Pakistan) was elected Vice-Chair of the Working Group.

B. Agenda

14. The Commission adopted the following agenda:

Senior officials segment

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening addresses;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries:
 - (a) The new programme of action for the small island developing States;
 - (b) The new programme of action for the landlocked developing countries;
 - (c) Midterm review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 in the Asia-Pacific region;
 - (d) Key challenges and prospects for Asia-Pacific countries with special needs;
 - (e) Other matters.
3. Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions:
 - (a) Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and inclusive development;
 - (b) Trade and investment;
 - (c) Transport;
 - (d) Environment and development;
 - (e) Information and communications technology;
 - (f) Disaster risk reduction and management;
 - (g) Social development;
 - (h) Statistics;
 - (i) Subregional activities for development.
4. Management issues:
 - (a) Draft programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017;
 - (b) Programme changes for the biennium 2014-2015;
 - (c) Partnerships and extrabudgetary contributions.
5. Review of the conference structure of the Commission in implementation of resolution 69/1.
6. Evaluation pursuant to resolution 67/4: Establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management.

7. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.
8. Dates, venue and theme topic for the seventy-second session of the Commission (2016).

Ministerial segment

9. Policy issues for the Asia-Pacific region:
 - (a) Key challenges to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific;
 - (b) Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2015.
10. Theme topic for the seventy-first session of the Commission: “Balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development: from integration to implementation”.
11. Other matters.
12. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

C. Opening of the session

Senior officials segment

15. The senior officials segment was opened by the Executive Secretary on 25 May 2015. The Executive Secretary delivered a welcome statement.

Ministerial segment

16. The Acting Chair of the seventieth session, Mr. Ly Tuch (Cambodia), presided over the opening session of the ministerial segment of the seventy-first session on 28 May 2015. The Executive Secretary delivered the message of the Secretary-General as well as her welcome and policy address. General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.), Prime Minister of Thailand, delivered the inaugural address on behalf of the Government of Thailand.

17. Keynote addresses were made by Mr. Anote Tong, President of Kiribati; Mr. Baron Divavesi Waga, President of Nauru; Mr. Enele Sopoaga, Prime Minister of Tuvalu; and Mr. Henry Puna, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands.

D. Adoption of the report

18. The report of the Commission was adopted at its fifth plenary meeting on 29 May 2015.