



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
30 April 2013

Original: English

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Sixty-ninth session

Bangkok, 25 April-1 May 2013

Agenda item 1

Opening of the session

Draft report

Organization of the sixty-ninth session of the Commission

A. Attendance and organization of work^{*}

1. The sixty-ninth session of the Commission was held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok from 25 April to 1 May 2013. The session comprised two segments: a senior officials segment from 25 to 27 April 2013, and a ministerial segment from 29 April to 1 May 2013.

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
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kiribati
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Malaysia
Marshall Islands
Mongolia
Myanmar

^{*} The list of countries/organizations attending the session is tentative and may be updated on 1 May 2013.

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

Associate members

Cook Islands
Hong Kong, China
Macao, China

3. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of Cuba, Denmark, Germany, Israel, Kenya, Luxembourg, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates attended. Representatives of the Holy See also attended.

4. The session was attended by a representative of the following offices of the United Nations Secretariat: Economic Commission for Africa; Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; Economic Commission for Europe; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; and Regional Commissions, New York Office.

5. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Environment Programme; and United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

6. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present in a consultative capacity: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Finance Corporation; International Maritime Organization; International Telecommunication Union; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; Universal Postal Union; and World Health Organization.

7. The following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: Asian Development Bank; Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific; Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures

in Asia; Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geosciences Programmes in East and Southeast Asia; Eurasian Economic Commission; Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones; and Typhoon Committee.

8. Observers were present from the following non-governmental organizations: ASEAN Autism Network; ASEAN Disability Forum; Asia Pacific Disability Forum; Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development; Asia-Pacific DPO United; Association of Pacific Rim Universities; CBM Central East Asia Regional Office; CCLP Worldwide; Central Asian Disability Forum; Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society; Community-based Rehabilitation Asia-Pacific Network; Daisy Consortium; Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era; Disabled People's International Asia-Pacific Region; International Chamber of Commerce; International Federation of Non-Government Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse; LDC Watch; National Council of Women of Thailand; Pacific Disability Forum; Rehabilitation International Asia Pacific; South Asian Disability Forum; Thailand Environment Institute; and World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises.

9. Representatives of Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and Sovereign Military Order of Malta also attended the session.

10. The list of participants is given in document E/ESCAP/69/INF/2.

11. In accordance with rule 13 of its rules of procedure, the Commission elected H.E. Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Security (Timor-Leste), Chair.

12. Following its past practice, the Commission decided to elect the following heads of delegations as Vice-Chairs:

H.E. Mr. Shamlall Bathija (Afghanistan)
 H.E. Mr. Sergey Manassarian (Armenia)
 H.E. Dr. Gowher Rizvi (Bangladesh)
 H.E. Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Wahab bin Juned (Brunei Darussalam)
 H.E. Dr. Ly Thuch (Cambodia)
 H.E. Mr. Ma Zhaoxu (China)
 H.E. Dr. Jiko F. Luveni (Fiji)
 H.E. Dr. D. Purandeswari (India)
 H.E. Mr. Seyed Hamid Pour Mohammadi (Iran (Islamic Republic of))
 H.E. Mr. Kenta Wakabayashi (Japan)
 H.E. Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith (Lao People's Democratic Republic)
 H.E. Mr. Alounkeo Kittikhoun (Lao People's Democratic Republic)
 H.E. Mr. Wunna Maung Lwin (Myanmar)
 H.E. Mr. Soe Thein (Myanmar)
 H.E. Mr. Kan Zaw (Myanmar)
 H.E. Mr. Ye Htut (Myanmar)
 H.E. Ms. Khin San Yee (Myanmar)
 H.E. Mr. Lee Si-hyung (Republic of Korea)
 Hon. James Tora Tora (Solomon Islands)
 Hon. Mr. Sarath Amunugama (Sri Lanka)
 Hon. Shantha Kumara Ananda Welgama (Sri Lanka)
 H.E. Mr. Jullapong Nonsrichai (Thailand)
 Hon. Emilia Pires (Timor-Leste)
 H.E. Mr. Bendito Freitas (Timor-Leste)

H.E. Mr. Francisco Kabualdi Lay (Timor-Leste)
H.E. Mr. Roberto Soares (Timor-Leste)
Hon. Edward Nipake Natapei (Vanuatu)

13. 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: Mr. Erdem Direkler (Turkey)
Vice-Chairs: Mr. Yuba Raj Bhusal (Nepal)
Mr. Math Soumala (Lao People's Democratic Republic)

(b) Committee of the Whole II:

Chair: Ms. Noumea Simi (Samoa)
Vice-Chairs: H.E. Mr. Askar Tazhiyez (Kazakhstan)
H.E. Ms. Jocelyn S. Batoon-Garcia (Philippines)

14. The Commission also constituted a Working Group on Draft Resolutions, under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Kazi Imtiaz Hossain (Bangladesh) to consider draft resolutions submitted during the session. H.E. Mr. Kesang Wangdi (Bhutan) was elected Vice-Chair of the Working Group.

B. Agenda

15. 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 and Landlocked Developing Countries:
 - (a) Final regional review of the Almaty Programme of Action;
 - (b) Biennial review of the Istanbul Programme of Action;
 - (c) 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;
 - (g) Social development;
 - (h) Statistics;
 - (i) Subregional activities for development.

4. Management issues:
 - (a) Draft programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015;
 - (b) Programme changes for the biennium 2012-2013;
 - (c) Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions.
5. Final review of the conference structure of the Commission, including its subsidiary structure, pursuant to resolutions 64/1 and 67/15.
6. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.
7. Dates, venue and theme topic for the seventieth session of the Commission (2014).

Ministerial segment

8. 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 2013.
9. Theme topic for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission (2013): "Opportunities to build resilience to natural disasters and major economic crises".
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

C. Account of proceedings

Senior officials segment

16. The senior officials segment was opened by the Executive Secretary on 25 April 2013. The Executive Secretary delivered a welcoming statement.

Ministerial segment

17. The Acting Chair of the sixty-eighth session, H.E. Mr. Sarath Amunugama (Sri Lanka) presided over the opening session of the ministerial segment of the sixty-ninth session on 29 April 2013. Mr. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered the message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Executive Secretary delivered her welcome and policy statement.

18. Keynote addresses were made by H.E. U Thein Sein, President of Myanmar, and H.E. Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Security of Timor-Leste. H.E. Mr. Plodprasop Suraswadi, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, delivered the inaugural address on behalf of the Prime Minister of Thailand.