



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**Sixty-eighth session**

Bangkok, 17-23 May 2012

Agenda item 1

Opening of the session**Draft report****Organization of the sixty-eighth session of the Commission****A. Attendance and organization of work^{*}**

1. The sixty-eighth session of the Commission was held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok from 17 to 23 May 2012. The session comprised two segments: the senior officials segment, which was held from 17 to 19 May 2012, and the ministerial segment, which was held from 21 to 23 May 2012.

2. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members:

Members

Armenia
Australia
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
Maldives
Marshall Islands
Micronesia (Federated States of)

* The list of countries/organizations attending the session is tentative and may be updated on 23 May 2012.

Mongolia
Myanmar
Nauru
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Pakistan
Palau
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

Hong Kong, China
Macao, China

3. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of Egypt, Germany, Morocco and South Africa also attended.

4. The session was attended by a representative of the following office of the United Nations Secretariat: Regional Commissions New York Office.

5. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: International Trade Centre; Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Human Settlements Programme; United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction; United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; and United Nations Population Fund.

6. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present in a consultative capacity: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Telecommunication Union; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; Universal Postal Union; World Health Organization; and World Meteorological Organization.

7. The following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: Asian and Pacific Coconut Community; Asian Development Bank; Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia; Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia;

International Organization for Migration; International Pepper Community; and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

8. Observers were present from the following non-governmental organizations: Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development; International Planned Parenthood Federation; International Trade Union Confederation; National Council of Women of Thailand; Working Group on Asia of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations; World Assembly of Youth; World Veterans Federation; Baha'i International Community; Disabled People's International; LDC Watch; Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association; and World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises.

9. Representatives of the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability also attended the session.

10. The list of participants is given in document E/ESCAP/68/INF/2.

11. In accordance with rule 13 of its rules of procedure, the Commission elected H.E. Mr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul (Thailand) Chair.

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

H.E. Mr. Abul Maal Abdul Muhith (Bangladesh)
 H.E. Dato Paduka Haji Ali Apong (Brunei Darussalam)
 H.E. Mr. Ly Thuch (Cambodia)
 H.E. Mr. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia (India)
 H.E. Mr. Davood Manzoor (Islamic Republic of Iran)
 H.E. Mr. Joe Nakano (Japan)
 Hon. Tom Murdoch (Kiribati)
 H.E. Mr. Alounkeo Kittikhoun (Lao People's Democratic Republic)
 Hon. Tony deBrum (Marshall Islands)
 H.E. Mr. Gonchigzeveg Tenger (Mongolia)
 H.E. Mr. Kan Zaw (Myanmar)
 Hon. Deependra Bahadur Kshetry (Nepal)
 H.E. Mr. Lee Si-hyung (Republic of Korea)
 H.E. Mr. Gennady Gatilov (Russian Federation)
 Hon. Sarath Amunugama (Sri Lanka)
 Hon. Sosefo Feaomoeata Vakata (Tonga)
 Hon. Lotoala Metia (Tuvalu)
 H.E. Mr. Bakhtiyer Abdusamatov (Uzbekistan)
 Hon. Alfred Rollen Carlot (Vanuatu)
 H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh (Viet Nam)

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:

Ms. Noumea Simi (Samoa)

Vice-Chairs:

Mr. Yuba Raj Bhusal (Nepal)

Mr. Math Sounmala (Lao People's Democratic Republic)

(b) *Committee of the Whole II:*

Chair:

Mr. Md. Ghulam Hussain (Bangladesh)

Vice-Chairs:

Mr. Meas Bora (Cambodia)

Ms. Swarna Pushpa Wellapili (Sri Lanka)

14. The Commission also constituted a Working Group on Draft Resolutions, under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Sohail Mahmood (Pakistan), to consider draft resolutions submitted during the session. Mr. Mohammad Ali Zarie Zare (Islamic Republic of Iran) 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 Pacific Island Developing Countries:
 - (a) Sustainable development and Pacific island developing countries: Preparation for Rio+20 and beyond;
 - (b) Other matters.
3. Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the ESCAP 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) Report on evaluation activities of ESCAP during the biennium 2010-2011;

- (b) Programme changes for the biennium 2012-2013;
 - (c) Draft strategic framework for the biennium 2014-2015;
 - (d) Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions.
5. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.
 6. Dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission (2013).

Ministerial segment

7. 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 2012.
8. Theme topic for the sixty-eighth session: “Enhancing regional economic integration in Asia and the Pacific”.
9. Other matters.
10. 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 17 May 2012. The Executive Secretary delivered a welcoming statement.

Ministerial segment

17. The Chair of the sixty-seventh session, Hon. Sarath Amunugama (Sri Lanka), declared open the ministerial segment of the sixty-eighth session of the Commission on 21 May 2012. The Executive Secretary read out the message of the Secretary-General and delivered her welcoming statement.

18. Keynote addresses were made by Hon. Tuilaepa Lufesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi (Samoa) and Tommy Koh (Singapore) at the first part of the inaugural meeting of the ministerial segment on 21 May 2012. H.E. Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand, delivered a welcoming statement at the second part of the inaugural meeting on 21 May 2012.