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Financing for Development**Second session**

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Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Subprogramme on macroeconomic policy, poverty
reduction and financing for development:
activities carried out in 2018 and 2019 under the
subprogramme in light of the recommendations of
the first session of the Committee****Report on the activities carried out in 2018 and 2019 under
the subprogramme on macroeconomic policy, poverty
reduction and financing for development in light of the
recommendations of the first session of the Committee****Note by the secretariat***Summary*

The current document provides an overview of the implementation by the secretariat of the requests and recommendations of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development, at its first session, held in December 2017. At that time, the Committee recommended and requested the secretariat to act on nine points in the following broad areas: (1) strengthening of analytical work on macroeconomic assessment, policies to reduce poverty and strategies to finance sustainable development; (2) supporting countries with special needs, including through capacity development, and synergizing the review of the implementation of global programmes of action for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States at the regional level with the 2030 Agenda; and (3) prioritizing and mainstreaming work on financing for development issues into the secretariat's work, such as domestic resource mobilization, infrastructure financing through public-private partnerships and capital market development, and financing of small and medium-sized enterprises, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

The Committee may wish to provide feedback to the secretariat with regard to the steps taken by the secretariat in response to the Committee's requests and recommendations. The Committee may also wish to provide guidance to the secretariat on further support for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in their efforts to reduce poverty and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee may also wish to provide guidance on the analytical work, research and capacity-building activities that members consider most useful for their specific circumstances, with the ultimate purpose of implementing the 2030 Agenda.

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** ESCAP/CMPF/2019/L.1.

I. Introduction

1. At its first session, the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development made five substantive requests to the secretariat in relation to the subprogramme on macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development for action.

2. **Request 1.** The Committee requested that the secretariat continue to provide capacity-building workshops on macroeconomic policy management to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. **Request 2.** The Committee requested that the secretariat continue to work to improve the technical capacities of policymakers in countries with special needs to address poverty, including its multidimensional aspects, through the provision of workshops.

4. **Request 3.** The Committee requested that the secretariat continue to prepare analytical studies and provide capacity-building activities that support graduation from the least developed country category and their adjustment to conditions after graduation; to facilitate the structural transformation of landlocked developing countries, including through regional cooperation; and to help to leverage international support measures to reduce the vulnerability of small island developing States.

5. **Request 4.** The Committee requested that the secretariat mainstream financing for development issues into its work, including in the following areas and with the following methods: (a) domestic resource mobilization, by strengthening collaboration with other multilateral organizations and relevant institutions to promote regional dialogue, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building, with a focus on countries with special needs; (b) infrastructure financing, including through public-private partnerships and capital market development; and (c) financing of small and medium-sized enterprises through the preparation of national studies in partnership with regional and global stakeholders working on promoting financial inclusion. In this context, the Committee highlighted the importance of avoiding duplication of efforts to maximize efficiency.

6. **Request 5.** The Committee requested that the secretariat consider developing a network on public-private partnerships and infrastructure financing to provide a regular platform on which experts could exchange best practices, share their experiences and knowledge products, and provide capacity-building support.

7. Furthermore, the Committee brought four substantive recommendations to the attention of the secretariat for its consideration.

8. **Recommendation 1.** The Committee recommended that the secretariat enhance synergies in its analytical work on macroeconomic assessment, policies to reduce poverty and strategies to finance sustainable development in an integrated manner to effectively support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in partnership with other relevant institutions, as appropriate.

9. **Recommendation 2.** The Committee recommended that the secretariat continue its analytical work on poverty reduction policies and strategies in a holistic manner, keeping in view country-specific contexts, to facilitate the efforts of member States to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere) in partnership with other relevant institutions as appropriate.

10. **Recommendation 3.** The Committee recommended that the secretariat synergize its review of the implementation of the global programmes of action of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States at the regional level with the 2030 Agenda.

11. **Recommendation 4.** The Committee recommended that the secretariat prioritize its work on financing for development issues in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and in partnership with other relevant institutions, as appropriate.

12. In addition, the Committee recommended that further discussions, including at the seventy-fourth session of the Commission and thereafter, as necessary, be held to review the Committee's terms of reference, as contained in annex II to the annual report of the Commission,¹ to better align them with the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific.

II. Implementation of requests 1-5

Response to request 1

13. To strengthen macroeconomic policy management in order to effectively support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific, the secretariat organized several policy dialogues and workshops in 2018 and 2019. During these activities, the secretariat shared the findings of its analytical research on economic policy contained in the annual *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific* for 2018 and 2019, as well as the *Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report* for 2018 and 2019. These activities took place in a number of locations across the region, in partnership with leading think tanks and government organizations (annex III). In addition, the electronic dissemination of the *Survey* served to increase knowledge among policymakers in the region as evidenced by more than 4,500 downloads. These policy dialogues and workshops were very well attended and participants evaluated them highly.

Response to requests 2 and 3

14. In the period 2018–2019, the secretariat conducted several capacity-building activities specifically targeting Asia-Pacific countries with special needs, in particular to support graduation from the category of least developed countries, to facilitate structural transformation of landlocked developing countries with a view to reducing poverty, and to reduce vulnerability in small island developing States. For example, a subregional workshop on preparing for a smooth graduation from the least developed country category was held in Vanuatu in November 2018, to provide support for those Asia-Pacific small island developing States preparing for graduation. This workshop was conducted at the request of the Government of Vanuatu and other small island developing States in the region that are concerned about the potential implications and risks of graduation from the category of least developed countries. A technical capacity-building workshop on the comprehensive regional midterm review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 was held in Kazakhstan in September 2018. At the workshop, the status of implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in Asia's landlocked developing countries was examined and tailored policy recommendations were provided. The summary report of the

¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 19 (E/2017/39-E/ESCAP/73/40).*

workshop was used as an input for the Euro-Asian Regional Midterm Review of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 in Bangkok in February 2019. Another capacity-building workshop was held in Bangladesh in April 2019, which focused on the graduation of South Asian least developed countries. This workshop included a needs assessment and capacity-building for policymakers from Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal and reviewed the impact of graduation from the category of least developed country status on existing flexibilities and other special and differential treatments for least developed countries in the World Trade Organization and regional trade agreements. At the workshop, future capacity-building needs for the effective and smooth transition to graduation from the category of least developed countries were also identified. Similar consultation meetings took place in Nepal (September 2019) and Bhutan (October 2019). A study tour to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) by government officials from Bangladesh was held in June 2019. The tour provided an opportunity for officials to gain knowledge of various aspects related to graduation from the category of least developed countries and the secretariat's work to support the graduation of Bangladesh. A workshop on least developed countries' graduation and smooth transition is being jointly organized in Solomon Islands in October 2019 with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the United Nations Development Programme and the Committee for Development Policy.

15. Keeping in view the guidance of the Committee on strengthening partnerships with other relevant institutions, the secretariat also contributed to capacity-building workshops organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to address development challenges in least developed countries and landlocked developing countries. These included a national technical capacity-building workshop on fostering productive capacities and structural economic transformation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the implications of graduation from the least developed country category in August 2018; a subregional workshop on fostering structural transformation and export diversification in selected Asian landlocked developing countries, in Ulaanbaatar in October 2018; a regional meeting on productive capacities, export diversification and structural economic transformation in African landlocked developing countries, including challenges, opportunities and the way forward, in Gaborone in November 2018; a national policy workshop on fostering productive capacities, export diversification and structural economic transformation and policies and strategies for the sustainable graduation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic from the category of least developed countries, in Vientiane in March 2019.

16. At the high-level political forum on sustainable development in July 2018 in New York, the secretariat organized a side event on supporting least developed countries for smooth transition towards sustainable graduation, in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh, the Permanent Mission of Maldives and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. Representatives of the Committee for Development Policy also participated in this event. Similarly, a side event on graduation, international support measures and leveraging inclusive and sustainable development was jointly organized with the Government of Bangladesh, during the seventy-fifth session of the Commission in May 2019. Moreover, in 2018, five policy dialogues on sustainable development and sustaining peace in countries with special needs were held: Bangladesh, June 2018; Bhutan, June 2018; Cambodia, June 2018; the Lao People's Democratic Republic, June 2018; and Nepal, July 2018. They were organized in partnership with local think tanks and government

organizations and explored the links between sustainable development and political stability.

17. The secretariat's analytical work addresses the priorities of countries with special needs. There was a focus on issues such as structural economic transformation, poverty reduction, sustainable development and peace. The secretariat's work also covered various aspects of the implications of graduation from the category of least developed countries and other development challenges that least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States face. Annex I contains a list of the specific titles of the studies prepared for this purpose.

18. Every year, together with the annual sessions of the Commission, the secretariat facilitates and supports the meeting of the Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries. In addition to discussing the status of the regional implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action), the Vienna Programme of Action and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, in 2018, the Special Body also exchanged views on linkages between sustainable development and sustaining peace and in 2019 reviewed the status of structural transformation in countries with special needs in the Asia-Pacific region and discussed its role in reducing poverty.

Response to request 4

19. The secretariat took a number of steps to mainstream financing for development issues into its work, while remaining focused on domestic resource mobilization; infrastructure financing; and financing of small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly in reference to countries with special needs.

20. To develop a deeper understanding of country-specific challenges and priorities related to various aspects of financing for development, the secretariat conducted scoping missions to Bhutan, Cambodia and Vanuatu in May and June 2018. These countries not only represent three different subregions but also belong to three categories of countries: least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small-island developing States. Engagement with government officials during these scoping missions helped the secretariat to shape the agenda for workshops and capacity-building activities, while keeping in view the priorities of the countries. Annex II contains a list of the capacity-building workshops on domestic resource mobilization in countries with special needs.

21. Analytical studies with regard to financing for development were also conducted. The publication *Financing for Development in Asia and the Pacific: Highlights in the Context of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda – 2019 Edition* contains an overview of progress in the region in implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. It also contains information on the status of the various areas of financing for development highlighted in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as well as the most significant policy actions in Asia and the Pacific in that regard. With regard to infrastructure financing, the publication *Infrastructure Financing for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific* was launched in China in September 2019. This publication provides insights on emerging issues related to sustainable infrastructure finance, namely the efficiency constraints of both the private and public sectors; the potential of capital markets as a source of infrastructure financing; capturing positive externality effects as a means to incentivize private sector participation in infrastructure; the complexities of cross-border infrastructure development; and the unique challenges and

opportunities of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in financing infrastructure projects. The secretariat also published the thematic policy brief entitled “Enhancing the policy environment for public-private partnerships”, as well as the working paper “Public-private partnerships for cross-border infrastructure development”.

22. Moreover, with regard to promoting regional cooperation on issues concerning financing for development, in 2018, the secretariat began a project addressing the transboundary dimensions of the 2030 Agenda through regional economic cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific. The aim of the project, which falls within the financing for development framework, is to strengthen policymakers’ capacity for and awareness of infrastructure financing options through regional dialogue to promote increased knowledge transfer between countries on infrastructure financing, to improve project preparation and implementation support in the form of regional platforms, to disseminate the findings of the assessments and to build consensus on policy recommendations. The secretariat held a meeting in Kazakhstan in October 2018 to introduce these objectives, activities and an implementation schedule for the project and to ensure that the proposed activities were in line with national priorities and needs. Subsequent meetings will take place in Kazakhstan in October 2019 and in Mongolia in November 2019 with the aim of disseminating the findings of the assessments and training modules on infrastructure financing challenges and modalities.

23. In the area of financing of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, stakeholders’ consultation meetings were held in Nepal in November 2018 and in Cambodia in January and February 2019. These events brought together policymakers and government officials from relevant agencies involved in micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises’ financing issues, as well as representatives from several business associations, financial institutions and development partners. Technical workshops on the topic were also organized in Fiji and Samoa in July 2019. Another workshop on the presentation of the preliminary results of the secretariat’s research on micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises finance will be held in Bangladesh in October 2019. This event represents the initial efforts to strengthen ecosystems that foster women’s entrepreneurial activities and increase women entrepreneurs’ capacities through the use of information and communications technology.

Response to request 5

24. The secretariat launched the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnership Network of Asia and the Pacific in September 2018 (see annex IV for the list of members). The Network provides a platform for member States to exchange best practices, share experiences and highlight their specific challenges and infrastructure financing needs. This, in turn, helps the secretariat to develop focused knowledge products and capacity-building support. The 1st meeting was held in China in September 2018; its main objective was to enhance the knowledge and capacity of public-private partnerships units in the region. The meeting brought together representatives from 22 member States and two development partners. The 2nd meeting was held in the Philippines in August 2019 and brought together participants from 20 member States, 9 development partners (including 2 representatives from Africa), and 8 representatives from the private sector. This meeting focused primarily on enhancing private sector participation in infrastructure financing issues, as well as on the development of a web-based knowledge resources platform. The members of the Network will meet for a third time in China in September 2019 with the aim of improving their institutional capacities concerning early-stage project development, among other topics.

III. Implementation of recommendations 1–4

Response to recommendation 1

25. The secretariat sought to enhance synergies in its analytical work on macroeconomic assessment, policies to reduce poverty and strategies to finance sustainable development in partnership with other relevant institutions. This work includes complementary analytical studies that take various perspectives into consideration as necessitated by policy demands. For instance, the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2019* contains information on the investment required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. This publication was a critical input to the work on financing strategies and policies to reduce poverty. In addition, analytical studies on financing strategies in Asia and the Pacific focused on the specific circumstances of countries with special needs, with a particular focus on poverty reduction.

26. The secretariat also published a study entitled *China's Economic Transformation: Impacts on Asia and the Pacific*, in which the potential impact of the structural changes in China on development in the region were analysed. The authors looked the paths that the Government could pursue to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, including innovative (Goal 9), inclusive (Goal 10) and sustainable development (Goals 7, 12 and 13) paths. Each path would have different spillover effects for the region. Other countries could incorporate such regional dimensions of structural transformation into their own policy packages to implement the 2030 Agenda, from enhancing education (Goal 4) to infrastructure and industrial upgrading (Goal 9) and from investing in advanced technology (Goal 9) to strengthening partnerships (Goal 17).

27. Examples of partnerships to enhance synergies include work on poverty reduction through the implementation of United Nations programmes of actions and strategies aimed at structural transformation with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Economic Commission for Europe, as illustrated by workshops in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (August 2018, March 2019), Kazakhstan (September 2018), Mongolia (October 2018), Vanuatu (November 2018), Botswana (November 2018) and the Euro-Asian Regional Midterm Review of the Vienna Programme of Action (Bangkok, February 2019).

28. While setting up the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnership Network of Asia and the Pacific, the secretariat partnered with the China Public-Private Partnerships Centre and more than 25 other public-private partnerships units in the region, as well as several development partners, such as the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and the United Nations Capital Development Fund. In 2019, the Network expanded to include the Economic Commission for Africa and one of its member States, Namibia. With regard to work on climate financing issues, the secretariat is collaborating with the United Nations Development Programme, the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific and the International Chamber of Commerce group.

29. While preparing the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2019*, the secretariat drew on expertise available within the United Nations system. Contributors to the study included the United Nations Children's Fund (which also provided additional funding), the International Energy Agency, the World Health Organization and the Sustainable Development Solutions

Network. Furthermore, two expert group meetings were held with policymakers and researchers from academia and think tanks across the region to discuss the preliminary findings of the *Survey* and obtain regional inputs for other documents. There were a total of 50 participants in the meetings, including representatives from 26 think tanks, including the International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance (Malaysia), the Cambodia Development Resource Institute, the Korea Institute of Public Finance (Republic of Korea), the Regional Centre for Development Studies (Uzbekistan), the China Centre for Public Finance, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (Nepal) and the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute of International Relations and Strategic Studies (Sri Lanka).

Response to recommendation 2

30. The secretariat continued its analytical work on poverty reduction policies to facilitate the efforts of member States to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere). For instance, in 2019, the secretariat published a ground-breaking study on comprehensive estimates of the additional investment requirements that are needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 1, in Asia and the Pacific. Specifically, the study estimated that an additional annual investment of \$1.5 trillion is required to attain the Goals by 2030. At \$1 per person per day, such an investment would enable 400 million people to escape extreme poverty and malnutrition. It would also deliver quality education for every child and young person; basic universal health care; improved access to transport, clean water and sanitation, and information and communications technology; universal access to electricity and clean cooking fuels; increased use of renewables; more energy-efficient transport, buildings and industry; climate and disaster-resilient infrastructure; fundamental changes to the way societies produce and consume; and stronger environmental protection.

31. In the *Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2018*, which was focused on poverty reduction, keeping in view country-specific contexts, the multidimensional links between peace and sustainable development were explored. Conflict risks in countries with special needs are rooted in a variety of factors, ranging from poverty to inequality of opportunities, resources, migration and climate change. At the same time, these countries exhibit limited capacities to cope with conflict risks. They are therefore more susceptible to conflict than other developing countries in the region. Investing in basic provisioning of public social services, promoting social cohesion and diversity, and providing equal opportunities across different ethnic groups are examples of appropriate policy responses and interventions to foster peace. Similarly, the *Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2019* was focused on the ways structural economic transformation contributes to poverty reduction in countries with special needs. Two in five people still live on incomes below \$3.20 a day, which is the standard poverty line for lower-middle income countries. One reason poverty is high in these countries is due to the fact that the transition to services has bypassed the relatively higher productive, employment-generating dynamism of the manufacturing sector in many countries. Also, little progress has occurred with regard to within-sector upgrading in the agriculture sector, and therefore value-added activities in rural areas have not been facilitated. Increasing productive employment is critical to increase real wages and thus facilitate a reduction in levels of poverty. In addition to these reports, 11 working papers and 39 policy briefs were published in 2018 and 2019 focusing on various aspects of poverty reduction (annex I).

Response to recommendation 3

32. The secretariat co-organized the Euro-Asian Regional Midterm Review of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the Economic Commission for Europe. The outcome document of the Euro-Asian Regional Midterm Review will serve as the regional contribution to the comprehensive high-level midterm review on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, to be held in New York in December 2019. The secretariat also provided inputs to the Secretary-General’s 2018 and 2019 reports on the progress of implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the Istanbul Programme of Action.

Response to recommendation 4

33. The secretariat prioritized its work on financing for development issues in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and worked closely with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat. In addition to the sectoral capacity-building workshops and scoping missions discussed above, the secretariat produced a number of analytical studies examining financial and fiscal policies to enhance domestic public resources (see annex I). Specifically, the secretariat is a regular contributor to the annual *Financing for Sustainable Development Report* produced by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development. This publication is produced in collaboration with more than 60 agencies of the United Nations system and international partner organizations.

34. To strengthen domestic public resources, the secretariat conducted a comprehensive regional review on municipal public finance in the Asia-Pacific region to improve the understanding of domestic resource mobilization at the subnational level. The review, entitled “Metropolitan city finances in the Asia and Pacific region: issues, problems and reform options” was published as a chapter in *Tax Policy for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific* in May 2018. Building on this work, the secretariat implemented a capacity-building project on strengthening subnational public revenue mobilization with a focus on city finance in Asia and the Pacific in 2018. The project comprised three in-depth case studies on fiscal governance and revenue mobilization in three representative metropolitan cities of the region – Beijing, Mumbai and Manila – and a training workshop which was held in Bangkok in November 2018. The three case studies explored concrete policy options and lessons learned on reform with regard to subnational revenue mobilization and were used as training materials in the later workshop. As a result of the workshop, there were additional requests for the secretariat to provide further capacity-building. Specifically, there were requests for assistance with regard to municipal revenue mobilization through tax and alternative options from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam; municipal fiscal governance reforms from Cambodia, Nepal, the Philippines and Sri Lanka; and coordination and cooperation between central and local governments and different authorities from Nepal and Sri Lanka.

35. Moreover, in the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2018*, the secretariat examined how Asia-Pacific countries could mobilize development finance by focusing on three areas. The first area is the strengthening of tax revenues, primarily by improving tax administration, rationalizing existing tax incentives and introducing new tax instruments. It was calculated that the potential impact of these policy changes on tax revenue was substantial, and the success of these policy changes would be greatly enhanced

by regional cooperation and integration. The second area is prudent sovereign borrowing from financial markets. Public debt sustainability analysis suggests that many Asia-Pacific economies could afford higher public debt, which would be appropriate insofar as it focuses on public goods and services that support sustainable development. In increasing the role of public bond issuance in enhancing public finances, maintaining an effective institutional framework is important. The third area is greater leveraging of private capital, primarily by enhancing a policy environment where public-private partnerships are a viable option, to increase investments in sustainable infrastructure.

IV. Issues for consideration by the Committee

36. The Committee may wish to provide feedback to the secretariat with regard to the steps taken by the secretariat in response to the Committee's requests and recommendations. The Committee may also wish to provide guidance to the secretariat on further support for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in their efforts to reduce poverty and implement the 2030 Agenda. Examples of topics that the Committee may wish to consider in this regard include the following:

(a) Continued support for countries with special needs in the review process for the implementation of their relevant programmes of action by:

(i) Strengthening capacity-building support to graduating least developed countries on the formulation and implementation of their graduation and transition strategy;

(ii) Providing support to least developed countries in the preparatory processes for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in Doha in 2021, including a final regional review of the Istanbul Programme of Action to be held in 2020;

(iii) Strengthening support to landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in integrating the priority areas identified at the regional and global midterm reviews of their respective global programmes of action into their national development strategies;

(b) Strengthening policymakers' capacity-building for the design and implementation of policies that nurture poverty reduction, financial inclusion, and access to finance by micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in countries with special needs;

(c) Providing focused support to countries with special needs for the development of domestic capital markets and strengthening their capacities in accessing and leveraging international financial resources, such as climate finance, blended finance and innovative financial instruments, such as green bonds.

37. The Committee may also wish to provide guidance on the analytical work, research and capacity-building activities that member States consider most useful to their specific circumstances, with the ultimate purpose of implementing the 2030 Agenda.

Annex I

Publications of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for 2018 and 2019

Analytical studies and reports

Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2019: Structural Transformation and Its Role in Reducing Poverty (Sales No. E.19.II.F.5).

China's Economic Transformation: Impacts on Asia and the Pacific. ST/ESCAP/2836.

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2019: Ambitions beyond Growth (Sales No. E.19.II.F.6).

Financing for Development in Asia and the Pacific: Highlights in the Context of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda – 2019 Edition. ST/ESCAP/2854.

Infrastructure Financing for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. ST/ESCAP/2866.

Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2018: Sustainable Development and Sustaining Peace (Sales No. E.18.II.F.15).

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2018: Mobilizing Finance for Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth (Sales No. E.18.II.F.16).

Financing for Development in Asia and the Pacific: Highlights in the Context of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. ST/ESCAP/2832.

Tax Policy for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (Sales No. E.18.II.F.7).

Working papers

“Hide-and-seek: can tax treaties reveal offshore wealth?” MPFD Working Papers, No. WP/19/07.

“Cheating the government: does taxpayer perception matter?” MPFD Working Papers, No. WP/19/06.

“Preparing to graduate: issues, challenges and strategies for Kiribati’s LDC graduation”. MPFD Working Papers, No. WP/19/05.

“LDC graduation: challenges and opportunities for Vanuatu”. MPFD Working Papers, No. WP/19/04.

“Metropolitan finances in India: the case of Mumbai City Corporation”. MPFD Working Papers, No. WP/19/03.

“Philippine (Metro Manila) case study on municipal financing”. MPFD Working Papers, No. WP/19/02.

“Financing metropolitan government in Beijing City”. MPFD Working Papers, No. WP/19/01.

“From school to work: does vocational education improve labour market outcomes? An empirical analysis of Indonesia”. MPFD Working Papers, No. WP/18/06.

“Public-private partnership for cross-border infrastructure development”. MPFD Working Papers, No. WP/18/05.

“Tapping capital markets and institutional investors for infrastructure development”. MPFD Working Papers, No. WP/18/04.

“Regulation of cryptocurrencies: evidence from Asia and the Pacific”. MPFD Working Papers, No. WP/18/03.

“Fostering peaceful sustainable development in the Pacific under the 2030 Agenda”. MPFD Working Papers, No. WP/18/02.

“Water security in Central Asia and the Caucasus: a key to peace and sustainable development”. MPFD Working Papers, No. WP/18/01.

Policy briefs

“Asia and the Pacific: shaping future tax policies in a digital era”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 102.

“Maintaining financial stability in Asia and the Pacific”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 101.

“Structural transformation in Asia-Pacific small island developing States”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 100.

“Structural transformation, backward and forward linkages and job creation in Asia-Pacific least developed countries”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 99.

“Structural transformation in Asia’s landlocked developing countries”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 98.

“Industrial policy for structural transformation to reduce poverty in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 97.

“Universal access to safe water and sanitation: how much would it cost”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 96.

“Investing in biodiversity and ecosystem”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 95.

“Fiscal space and national budgets for SDGs”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 94.

“Mind the gaps: SDG progress and SDG investment needs”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 93.

“Investing in sustainable infrastructure for all”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 92.

“Investment in climate action”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 91.

“Increasing access to information and communications technology (ICT)”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 90.

“Costing the transport infrastructure component of SDGs in Asia and the Pacific”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 89.

“Investment needs to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7: affordable and clean energy”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 88.

“Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 87.

“Providing quality education for every child and youth: how much would it cost?” MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 86.

“Investment needs for ambitiously moving towards universal health coverage”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 85.

“Ending hunger and malnutrition: how much would it cost?” MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 84.

“Investing in social protection floors”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 83.

“Fintech in the Pacific island countries: challenges and opportunities”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 82.

“Mobilize finance for social protection in ageing societies”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 81.

“Financing for peace in countries with special needs”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 80.

“Natural resource management for conflict risk mitigation”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 79.

“The nexus between peace and sustainable development in Asia-Pacific countries with special needs”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 78.

“Access of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to finance in North and Central Asia”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 77.

“Reforming tax systems in South and South-West Asia”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 76.

“Managing fiscal volatility in the Pacific”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 75.

“Developing local currency bond markets in South-East Asia”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 74.

“Potential of financial technology in East and North-East Asia”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 73.

“Enhancing the policy environment for public-private partnership”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 72.

“Leveraging private finance for sustainable development”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 71.

“Prudent sovereign borrowing from financial markets”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 70.

“Expanding the tax base”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 69.

“Improving tax administration”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 68.

“Leveraging technology in fiscal management”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 67.

“Universal basic income”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 66.

“Making effective use of fiscal space for sustainable development”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 65.

“Securing financial stability through macroprudential measures”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 64.

“Technology progress: Carpe Potestatem – seize the opportunities for the region”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 63.

“What explains divergent investment performances in Asia-Pacific?”. MPFD Policy Briefs, No. 62.

Annex II

Capacity-building workshops on domestic resource mobilization in countries with special needs

1. Supporting Cambodia in meeting the challenge of resource mobilization for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Cambodia, November 2018
2. Resource mobilization for sustainable development in Vanuatu, Vanuatu, November 2018
3. Resource mobilization for sustainable development in Asia-Pacific small island developing States, Vanuatu, November 2018
4. Supporting the least developed countries in Asia-Pacific in meeting the challenge of resource mobilization for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Cambodia, December 2018
5. Supporting Bhutan in mobilizing resources for the Sustainable Development Goals, Bhutan, December 2018
6. Supporting Asia-Pacific landlocked developing countries in mobilizing resources for the Sustainable Development Goals, Bhutan, December 2018 (including a field trip)
7. Formulating and implementing forward-looking policies and financing options: capital market development in Bhutan, Bhutan, October 2019
8. Formulating and implementing forward-looking policies and financing options: access to finance in Cambodia, Cambodia, October 2019
9. Formulating and implementing forward-looking policies and financing options for countries: domestic resource mobilization and external finance, Vanuatu, October 2019
10. Formulating and implementing forward-looking policies and financing options in least developed countries: access to finance by micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, Cambodia, October 2019
11. Formulating and implementing forward-looking policies and financing options in landlocked developing countries: infrastructure financing, Mongolia, October 2019
12. Formulating and implementing forward-looking policies and financing options in small island developing States: climate finance, Fiji, October 2019

Annex III

Policy dialogue locations and partnering organizations in 2018 and 2019

1. Policy dialogue in partnership with the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations on 8 May 2018, India.
2. Policy dialogue in partnership with the National Committee for ESCAP, on 4 June 2018, India.
3. Policy dialogues in partnership with the Centre for Policy Dialogue on 5 June 2018 and the South Asian Network on Economic Modelling on 6 June 2018, Bangladesh.
4. Policy dialogue in partnership with the Ministry of Finance on 6 June 2018, Bhutan.
5. Policy dialogue in partnership with the National Economic Research Institute on 29 June 2018, Lao People's Democratic Republic.
6. Policy dialogue in partnership with the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute on 3 July 2018, Sri Lanka.
7. Policy dialogue in partnership with the Korea Institute of Public Finance and the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy on 4 July 2018, Republic of Korea.
8. Policy dialogue in partnership with the University of the South Pacific School of Economics on 5 and 6 July 2018, Fiji.
9. Policy dialogue in partnership with the National Planning Commission on 6 July 2018, Nepal.
10. Policy dialogue in partnership with the Philippine Institute for Development Studies on 24 July 2018, Philippines.
11. Policy dialogues in partnership with the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia on 23 July 2018, Indonesia.
12. Policy dialogue in partnership with the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka on 4 April 2019, Sri Lanka.
13. Policy dialogue in partnership with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences on 11 April 2019, China.
14. Policy dialogues in partnership with the Secretariat of the United Nations, the World Bank, the Centre for Global Development, the International Monetary Fund and the Woodrow Wilson Centre on 16, 22, 24 and 25 April 2019, United States of America.
15. Policy dialogue in partnership with the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy on 18 April 2019, India.
16. Policy dialogue in partnership with Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on 30 April 2019, Bangladesh.

17. Policy dialogue in partnership with Subregional Office for North and Central Asia of ESCAP on 30 April 2019, Kazakhstan.
18. Policy dialogue in partnership with the Thailand Development Research Institute on 15 May 2019, Thailand.
19. Policy dialogues in partnership with the Asian Development Bank and the Philippine Institute for Development Studies on 16 May 2019, Philippines.
20. Policy dialogue in partnership with the United Nations Office at Geneva on 3 June 2019, Switzerland.
21. Policy dialogue in partnership with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on 6 June 2019, France.
22. Policy dialogues in partnership with the Centre for Global Development on 10 June 2019 and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development on 11 June 2019, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
23. Policy dialogues in partnership with the Institute for Development of Economics and Finance on 19 June 2019 and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia on 20 June 2019, Indonesia.

Annex IV

Members of the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnership Network of Asia and the Pacific

1. As of September 2018: Afghanistan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; Fiji; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nepal; Pakistan; Philippines; Samoa; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Thailand; and Vanuatu.

 2. As of August 2019: all of the above, plus India; Papua New Guinea; Uzbekistan; and Viet Nam.
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