



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**Seventy-fifth session**

Bangkok, 27–31 May 2019

Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

Activities of the Advisory Committee of**Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives****Designated by Members of the Commission****Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent
Representatives and Other Representatives Designated
by Members of the Commission*****Summary*

The present document is submitted to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for its consideration. It covers the activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission during the period June 2018 to March 2019. The Commission may wish to provide comments on the report.

I. Introduction

1. The present document covers the activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission during the period June 2018 to March 2019. The Advisory Committee appointed Ms. Suchitra Durai (India) to serve as Rapporteur of the Advisory Committee, with the responsibility of presenting its report to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) at its seventy-fifth session.

II. Activities of the Advisory Committee

2. During the period under review, the Advisory Committee held six regular sessions.

* ESCAP/75/L.1.

** The present document was submitted late owing to the need to take into account the consideration by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission of this report at its 381st session, which was held on 21 March 2019.

3. Three informal consultations of the Advisory Committee were held to initiate discussions about the midpoint review of the conference structure of the Commission, in line with Commission resolution 73/1. The informal consultations were informed by a non-paper prepared by the secretariat.

4. The secretariat provided the Advisory Committee with briefings on the work of the Commission and the secretariat, its role and work, and its position in the United Nations development system to help orient representatives of the Advisory Committee.

5. At its regular sessions, the Advisory Committee discussed, inter alia, the following subjects:

(a) Preparations for the seventy-fifth session of the Commission: the Advisory Committee was briefed by the secretariat on the preparations for the seventy-fifth session of the Commission and provided useful guidance, including in relation to the midpoint review of the conference structure of the Commission;

(b) Outcome of the seventy-fourth session of the Commission: in its review of the outcome of the seventy-fourth session of the Commission, the Advisory Committee considered the major achievements of the session, such as the adoption of 11 resolutions by the Commission, including resolution 74/11 on the theme topic of the session, to guide the work of the Commission in strengthening regional cooperation to tackle inequality in all its forms in Asia and the Pacific;

(c) Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its seventy-fourth session: the Advisory Committee extended advice and provided useful guidance on the implementation by the secretariat of resolutions adopted by the Commission;

(d) Proposed calendar of ESCAP meetings and training activities during the period January 2019 to December 2019: the Advisory Committee noted the proposed calendar;

(e) Review of the preparations for and the outcomes of the following meetings:

(i) Second session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation;

(ii) Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific;

(iii) Sixth session of the Committee on Statistics;

(iv) Fifth session of the Committee on Transport;

(v) Fifth session of the Committee on Environment and Development;

(vi) Midterm Review of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development;

(vii) Fifth session of the Committee on Social Development;

(f) Review of the preparations for the following meetings:

(i) Sixth session of the Committee on Trade and Investment;

(ii) Sixth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development;

(g) Review of the outcomes of the following meetings of the regional institutions:

(i) Thirteenth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development;

(ii) Fourteenth session of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;

(iii) Fourteenth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology;

(iv) Fourteenth session of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization;

(v) Third session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management;

(h) Review of the outcomes of the thirteenth session of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.

6. The secretariat briefed the Advisory Committee on the proposed changes to the programme planning and budgeting processes in the Secretariat of the United Nations and presented to the Advisory Committee the proposed programme plan for 2020.

7. The Executive Secretary and, prior to her appointment, the Officer-in-Charge of the secretariat regularly informed the Advisory Committee of activities relating to the priority issues of the United Nations and of ESCAP, as well as the outcome of their missions to ESCAP members and associate members and to other countries, their attendance at major meetings, cooperation between member States and the secretariat, and administrative and programme matters concerning ESCAP. Moreover, regular updates on the reform of the United Nations development system were provided. The Advisory Committee expressed its continued appreciation for the briefings of the Executive Secretary, noting that it found them useful and informative.

8. A briefing by the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for members of the Advisory Committee was convened by the ESCAP secretariat on the margins of the Bangkok Climate Change Conference to provide an update on the negotiations leading up to the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Katowice, Poland, as well as on the role of ESCAP members and regional partners in Asia and the Pacific in the negotiation process and in addressing climate change.

9. As part of an ongoing effort to share knowledge about the work of ESCAP, the secretariat organized briefings for the Permanent Missions of ESCAP member States to the United Nations in New York on the sidelines of major events, such as the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Commission for Social Development.

III. Conclusions

10. The members of the Advisory Committee actively contributed to strengthening its deliberative and advisory role during the reporting period. The Advisory Committee provided advice and guidance on important issues concerning the Commission and the secretariat, including the implementation

of resolutions adopted by the Commission and the organization of various intergovernmental meetings and initiatives of the secretariat, and initiated discussions about the midpoint review of the conference structure of the Commission.

11. With 2019 marking the end of the first four-year cycle of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and against the backdrop of the repositioning of the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda, continued constructive cooperation and mutual support between the Advisory Committee and the secretariat will be instrumental in strengthening the contribution of the Commission towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific.
