

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

Bangkok, 27–31 May 2019

Item 6 (c) of the provisional agenda\*

**Management issues****Overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions  
and capacity development****Note by the secretariat***Summary*

The present document contains an overview of the secretariat's partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and technical cooperation work in 2018. The steps taken by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to strengthen its relations with partners and donors are highlighted, and a summary of extrabudgetary contributions made available to the secretariat in 2018 is provided. The report also elaborates upon the delivery of the Commission's technical cooperation work in 2018 using examples of results achieved in cooperation with some of the key partners of the secretariat. The effective use of partnerships by the secretariat in implementing its programme of work and mandates is highlighted, with a particular focus on the Commission's partnerships with other United Nations entities and its role in facilitating the work of the United Nations to deliver as one at the regional level and through engagement with regional and subregional partners.

The Commission may wish to take note of the document and provide the secretariat with further guidance on the development, direction and priorities of its partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and technical cooperation work.

**I. Introduction**

1. In its resolution 72/279 on repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, adopted in May 2018, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to implement, as part of a first phase, "the proposed measures to optimize functions and enhance collaboration at the regional and subregional levels", as defined in the Secretary-General's December 2017 report on repositioning the United Nations development system.

2. This first phase built upon the statement of collaboration between the regional commissions and the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, signed in 2016. Several actions were implemented during the first phase to

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\* ESCAP/75/L.1.

optimize collaboration between the regional commissions and the rest of the United Nations development system at the regional level, as well as with the United Nations country teams. The actions taken will inform the second phase, which is ongoing, and is expected to provide options on a region-by-region basis for longer-term reprofiling and restructuring of the regional assets for consideration by the operational activities for development segment of the 2019 session of the Economic and Social Council.

3. It is expected that the recommendations of the Secretary-General, after approval by Member States, will pave the way for effective and efficient delivery of mandates to Member States in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development both at the country and regional levels. It is also expected to result in better integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, and to provide greater visibility to the regional and subregional dimensions of sustainable development.

4. Having taken comprehensive action to align its work in all its dimensions with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is strongly placed to take advantage of the reform process to enhance its support to countries in the region in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

5. Preparatory work has been undertaken with regard to the second phase of the Umoja enterprise resource planning system. Its implementation in the areas of strategic planning and portfolio and project management may lead to better monitoring of implementation and budget utilization of programmes funded through regular and extrabudgetary resources.

## **II. Partnership developments in 2018**

### **A. Introduction**

6. Partnerships lie at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In adopting in the 2030 Agenda, Member States recognized that its achievement would not be possible without bringing together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizing all available resources. In this context, ESCAP has continued to expand partnerships with all relevant stakeholders, including government at all levels, entities within the United Nations development system, development banks, civil society, communities and the business sector. Examples of ESCAP partnerships are given below:

(a) Partnerships in support of technical cooperation with different categories of development partners, including United Nations Member States, which provide both financial and in-kind contributions to ESCAP;

(b) Partnerships with United Nations development system entities, including facilitation of system-wide coherence through the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism;

(c) Partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Eurasian Economic Commission and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation;

(d) Partnerships with civil society, including through the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development;

(e) Partnerships with the private sector, through modalities such as the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network and its associated task forces.

## **B. Facilitating the efforts of the United Nations to work as one at the regional level**

7. ESCAP convenes and serves as the secretariat of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism, which comprises 34 United Nations and affiliated entities, including ADB and the World Bank. The role of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism is to strengthen policy and programme coherence of the United Nations at the regional level, and foster and enhance inter-agency collaboration, as mandated by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1998/46. The Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism seeks to focus on common areas and interests through seven thematic working groups, which correspond to the relevant clusters of the Sustainable Development Goals.

8. In May 2018, the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism held a joint session with the regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group in Asia and the Pacific, which, inter alia, discussed the future strategic direction and cooperation of both regional coordination platforms and the linkages between regional and operational work, enhanced coordination on regional publications, and cooperation on the Sustainable Development Goals week organized by ESCAP. The Commission also participated in the meeting of the regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group in Asia and the Pacific, where an update was provided on the call for United Nations country team proposals to establish pilot “Sustainable Development Goal integrated solutions platforms” at the country level.

9. Some of the most noteworthy deliverables of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism thematic working groups during 2018 are listed below:

(a) The Thematic Working Group on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment initiated a report providing a regional review of gender data and situation analysis for girls in Asia and the Pacific and delivered a series of training workshops on gender statistics;

(b) The Thematic Working Group on Inclusive Development and Poverty Eradication developed a think piece entitled “Innovations of the fourth industrial revolution: opportunities and challenges for inclusive development and poverty eradication in Asia and the Pacific”, which was disseminated through several national and regional workshops;

(c) The Thematic Working Group on Resource Efficient Growth developed Sustainable Development Goal profiles for Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15; and organized round tables to deliberate on top priorities to make further progress on these Goals. The round tables were organized as part of the Fifth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, held in March 2018;

(d) The Thematic Working Group on Sustainable Societies conducted mapping exercises on regional or multi-country activities related to youth, population ageing, international migration and urbanization. Members of the thematic working group also provided support to a regional conference on population ageing organized by HelpAge International in October 2018.

10. The Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations (2016–2020) is an example of how ESCAP and other United Nations entities, under the auspices of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism, provide a unified and cohesive policy voice at the regional level and coordinate support for ASEAN member States in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

11. In 2018, ESCAP continued to invest in the effective and coordinated implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations (2016–2020) under the economic cooperation and sociocultural cooperation pillars as well as the cross-sectoral cooperation section. The Commission's value added was in coordinating the preparation of the implementation matrix of the Plan of Action and the preparation of a joint report on the comprehensive partnership, which were presented at the ASEAN-United Nations Secretariat-to-Secretariat Meeting and the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting.

12. Positive progress had been made, with 88 percent of the action lines under the Plan of Action being addressed. Some of the most important accomplishments in 2018 included:

(a) The ASEAN leaders' endorsement of the report entitled *Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: A Framework for Action*;

(b) Thailand's commitment to set up the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue, which is one of the recommendations contained in the report;

(c) Collaboration between ESCAP and the ASEAN Centre for Energy to promote energy connectivity and accessibility in the subregion, including the development of energy transition policy road maps for each ASEAN country.

13. ESCAP also contributed to the formulation of common country assessments, and to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes. This was carried out jointly through the Peer Support Group mechanism managed by the regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group, and also through the provision of direct inputs to United Nations country teams.

### **C. Working with regional and subregional partners**

14. Recognizing that partnerships can be a way to increase the Commission's impact and effectiveness in the region, partnerships with regional and subregional organizations remained a key element of work during the past year. In this context, ESCAP worked with a range of regional and subregional partners, including under formal cooperation agreements. These partners include ADB, ASEAN, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Electric Power Council of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Eurasian Development Bank, the Eurasian Economic Commission, the Greater Tumen Initiative, the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail, the Islamic Development Bank, the Pacific Islands Forum secretariat, the secretariat of the Integration Committee of the Eurasian Economic Community (under a trilateral arrangement also including the Economic Commission for Europe), the Organisation for Co-operation between Railways, the Pacific Community, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

15. ESCAP and ADB continued working together to deliver the joint events, projects and knowledge products in the agreed priority areas under the memorandum of understanding. In 2018, ESCAP and ADB jointly organized several policy dialogues, including side events associated with the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, and events on e-commerce, trade facilitation, transport facilitation, economic statistics, climate change and energy access and financing. Other joint outputs included a thematic report on transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies in Asia and the Pacific, a report on Asia-Pacific progress in the area of sustainable energy, a report on embracing the e-commerce revolution in Asia and the Pacific, and the *Asian Water Development Outlook*. ESCAP and ADB also continued collaborating on a regional survey on Sustainable Development Goal data compilation to take stock of data disaggregation practices in member States.

16. ESCAP and ASEAN continued to collaborate on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations (2016–2020). In order to identify areas and modality of cooperation, ESCAP led the preparation of the publication entitled *Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: A Framework for Action*. The report is the first outcome of an initiative to support ASEAN member States to implement the two agendas in an integrated way. The report presents a framework for identifying complementarities and proposes a number of flagship initiatives to support ASEAN countries to translate simultaneously the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda from political aspiration to practical implementation. The ESCAP-led *Complementarities* report has contributed to the further strengthening of regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development.

17. ESCAP, the Islamic Development Bank and the Economic Cooperation Organization entered into partnership to undertake a study on the commercialization of the regional railway corridor between the Islamic Development Bank and the Eurasian Economic Community common member countries. The collaboration will result in a corridor action plan and draft intergovernmental agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan.

18. Together with the Pacific Islands Forum, the secretariat has played a key coordination and cooperation role in the development and implementation of the Pacific road map for sustainable development and in consolidating a subregional approach in support of the 2030 Agenda. The Pacific road map for sustainable development helps establish regional and national coordination mechanisms; embeds the Sustainable Development Goals into national planning, budgets, monitoring and reporting processes; and identifies regional Sustainable Development Goal indicators in line with Pacific regional priorities to jointly monitor progress on the 2030 Agenda, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. Technical assistance, mapping of subregional priorities, preparation of policy briefs and documentation and servicing of subregional meetings and workshops have been undertaken. The result has been meaningful regional policy alignment and a reduced reporting burden for Pacific small island developing States.

19. ESCAP, with the support of the Economic Commission for Europe, has paved the way for participating countries, namely the five Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as Afghanistan and Azerbaijan, to reaffirm ownership of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia. Convening national experts to discuss action-oriented recommendations based on the

evaluation conducted, the ESCAP secretariat identified ways to strengthen the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the Special Programme for consideration by its participating countries. This has resulted in the reinvigoration of the countries' ownership of the Special Programme.

#### **D. Partnerships for the implementation of the programme of work**

20. The ongoing development of a diverse and wide range of partnerships, involving funding and other forms of cooperation, is a critical foundation for the Commission's ability to deliver its programme of work efficiently and effectively.

21. The secretariat implemented a number of measures and actions in 2018 to further develop relations and cooperation with development partners and donors.

22. These included the following:

(a) Implementation of a partnership with the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation, through a multi-donor trust fund administered jointly by ESCAP and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), to support interregional cooperation between East Asia and Latin America;

(b) Annual consultation meeting with the Republic of Korea, held in February 2018 in Seoul, which reviewed the achievements of projects funded by the Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund and other partners from the country, and agreed on the future priority areas under this partnership;

(c) Consultation meeting with China to review the achievements of and future priorities for the China-ESCAP Cooperation Programme;

(d) Regular formal and informal engagements and discussions with other existing and potential new donors, including Canada, Germany, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union;

(e) Engagement in platforms for South-South cooperation, including the Global South-South Development Expo held at United Nations Headquarters in November 2018 and the Inter-Agency Coordination Mechanism on South-South Cooperation, convened by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation;

(f) Results-based management training for the ESCAP project managers, leading to higher quality of projects and outputs and the maintenance and updating of ESCAP donor profiles.

23. The importance of the business sector and civil society organizations in the advocacy and capacity-development work of the secretariat has been increasing. The secretariat continued to pursue new partnership opportunities in 2018 with a range of global and regional business sector entities, including the signing of a memorandum of understanding with Google on the use of artificial intelligence for social good in the region. ESCAP also participated in the annual meeting of the United Nations System Private Sector Focal Points, held in New York in July 2018.

#### **E. South-South cooperation**

24. South-South and triangular cooperation is one of the important drivers of regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific and has emerged as one of the key modalities for delivering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

25. ESCAP in partnership with the Government of Thailand and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation organized the Regional Consultation on South-South Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific: Towards the Buenos Aires Plan of Action 40th Anniversary, which was held from 27 to 29 June 2018 in Bangkok. The Regional Consultation addressed various South-South cooperation issues, including trends, challenges and opportunities in the region in support of the 2030 Agenda. It also provided countries with a platform to share their experiences as providers or users of South-South and triangular cooperation, their institutional arrangements, policies and lessons learned, and ways to leverage multi-stakeholder partnerships. The outcomes of the meeting, in the form of a Chair's summary, served as input into the outcome document adopted at the Buenos Aires Plan of Action 40th Anniversary Conference.

26. In conjunction with the Regional Consultation, ESCAP, the Government of Thailand and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation also launched the first Asia-Pacific Directors-General Forum for South-South and Triangular Cooperation. The Forum provides a platform for the heads of the development cooperation and South-South cooperation agencies in developing member States in the ESCAP region to exchange knowledge, experience, lessons learned and good practices in South-South cooperation. It will also help to coordinate information-sharing between providers and users to match solutions with demand for South-South cooperation. The second session of the Asia-Pacific Directors-General Forum organized jointly by ESCAP, the Government of Indonesia and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, was held in the margins of the Global South-South Development Expo 2018 held at United Nations Headquarters.

27. The South-South cooperation work promoted by ESCAP was featured in the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation (A/73/321) and the publication entitled *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development: Volume 2*, issued by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

### III. Extrabudgetary contributions in 2018

28. ESCAP receives extrabudgetary contributions for its Technical Cooperation Trust Fund and its General Trust Fund. In 2018, the total extrabudgetary contributions amounted to \$19.7 million (table 1).

Table 1  
Summary of extrabudgetary contributions in 2018, by component

<i>Component</i>	<i>Contributions (United States dollars)</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<b>Technical Cooperation Trust Fund</b>	<b>18 457 398</b>	<b>93.5</b>
<b>General Trust Fund</b>		
Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia: Republic of Korea	1 141 000	5.8
Subregional Office for North and Central Asia: Kazakhstan	150 000	0.8
<b>Subtotal, General Trust Fund<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>1 291 000</b>	<b>6.5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>19 748 398</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>a</sup> The contribution from the Government of India for the Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia for the year 2018 was received in January 2019 and will be reflected in the report covering 2019.

29. It should be noted that the contribution of the Republic of Korea to the Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia covers the institutional costs of the office and contributes to the implementation of its programme of work. The contributions of Kazakhstan and India to the Subregional Office for North and Central Asia and Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, respectively, cover the institutional costs of these offices.

#### **IV. Delivering the Commission's technical cooperation programme in 2018**

##### **A. Contributions to the Commission's technical cooperation programme**

30. In 2018, the secretariat's technical cooperation programme continued to focus on capacity development that encompassed the following: (a) policy advocacy and dialogue on critical and emerging issues, including follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development; (b) regional knowledge networking aimed at enabling the members and associate members of ESCAP to share and discuss information and experiences on good and innovative practices; and (c) training, advisory services and other forms of technical assistance aimed at strengthening the capacity of the members and associate members of ESCAP to formulate and implement effective policies and programmes in a range of key development areas related to the 2030 Agenda.

31. The ESCAP technical cooperation work in 2018 was funded from both the regular budget of the United Nations and extrabudgetary resources. The regular budget comprised (a) the regular programme of technical cooperation (section 23) and (b) the Development Account (section 35). Extrabudgetary resources included voluntary contributions provided by individual Governments, entities of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, the business sector and other organizations. Such contributions were provided as cash (funds-in-trust) and in kind.

32. The total cash contributions received by ESCAP in 2018 for technical cooperation, from sources within and outside the United Nations, amounted to \$27.4 million. Bilateral voluntary cash contributions by ESCAP member and non-member States remained the main extrabudgetary source of funding. A summary of the financial contributions by source in both dollars and percentage terms is provided in table 2.

33. Representing 63.6 per cent of the total financial contributions in 2018 for technical cooperation, bilateral donor country contributions amounted to \$17.5 million. Further details on the extrabudgetary resources (funds-in-trust) received from bilateral sources are provided in annex I to the present document. The largest overall bilateral donor contributions were received from the Republic of Korea, Japan, China, Canada, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden and India. The United Nations contributed \$8.6 million, representing 31.2 per cent of the total funds received for technical cooperation in 2018 (see table 2).



Table 2  
**Summary of financial contributions for technical cooperation in 2018, by source**

<i>Source</i>	<i>Contributions (United States dollars)</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<b>(a) Donor countries (see annex I)</b>	<b>17 463 842</b>	<b>63.6</b>
<b>(b) United Nations system (see annex II)</b>		
1. United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation (section 23)	3 279 900	12.0
2. United Nations Development Account (section 35)	4 417 263	16.1
3. United Nations programmes, funds and specialized agencies	874 319	3.2
<b>Subtotal (b)</b>	<b>8 571 481</b>	<b>31.2</b>
<b>(c) Other organizations (see annex II)</b>	<b>1 410 237</b>	<b>5.1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>27 445 560</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Regular budget ((b) 1 + (b) 2)	7 697 163	28.0
Extrabudgetary contributions ((a) + (b) 3 + (c))	19 748 398	72.0

34. Intergovernmental organizations, the business sector and other organizations contributed approximately \$1.4 million of the total funds received in 2018. Some of the largest contributors under this category were the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation, the Korea Disabled People's Development Institute, ADB and the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, Inc. (Vital Strategies). More detailed information on contributions from other intergovernmental organizations, the business sector and other organizations for technical cooperation is given in annex II.

35. The Commission's technical cooperation work in 2018 was further facilitated by contributions in kind, such as the services of experts and the provision of host facilities and equipment. The former included a total 67.5 work-months of services of experts in various disciplines provided by ESCAP member States on a non-reimbursable loan basis (see annex III).

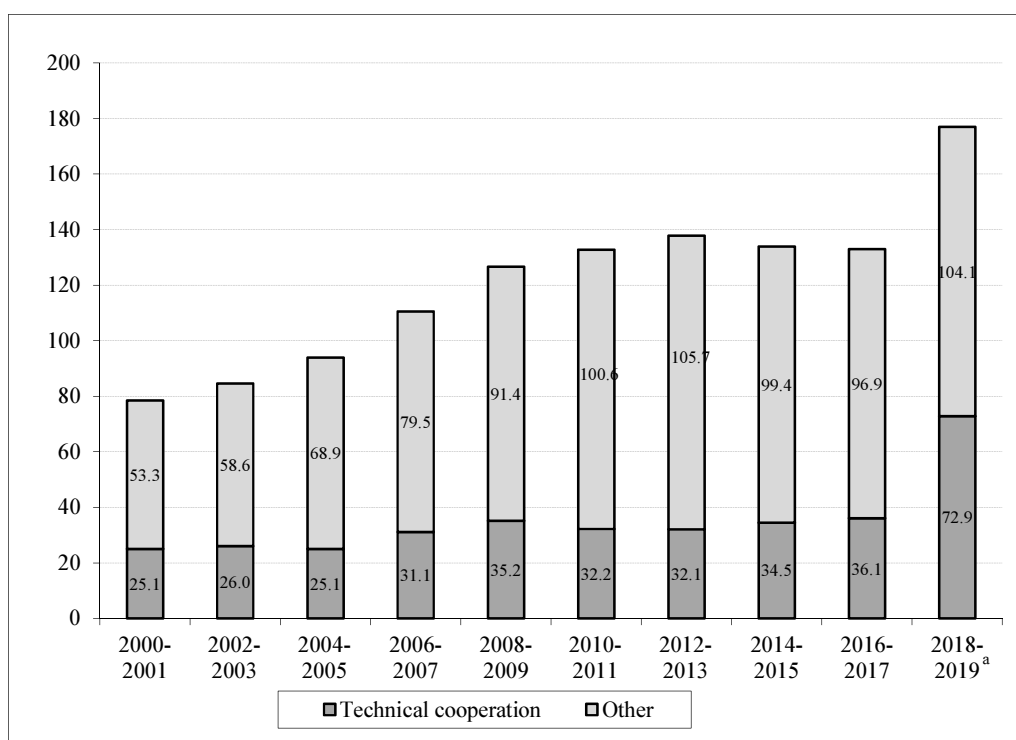
36. The volume of the secretariat's technical cooperation delivery in 2018 in financial terms totalled approximately \$18.7 million.

37. The distribution of extrabudgetary resources over the Commission's nine subprogrammes in 2018 is shown in table 3, and the evolution of ESCAP expenditure over the period 2000–2018 is shown in the figure.

Table 3  
**Distribution of extrabudgetary allocations to Commission’s subprogrammes  
in 2018**  
(Percentage)

<i>Subprogramme</i>	<i>Proportion</i>
Subprogramme 1: Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development	3.4
Subprogramme 2: Trade, investment and innovation	25.9
Subprogramme 3: Transport	3.3
Subprogramme 4: Environment and development	4.0
Subprogramme 5: Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management	22.9
Subprogramme 6: Social development	6.8
Subprogramme 7: Statistics	20.1
Subprogramme 8: Subregional activities for development	10.5
Subprogramme 9: Energy	3.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Evolution of expenditure by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia  
and the Pacific, 2000–2018**  
(Millions of United States dollars)



<sup>a</sup> Estimated expenditure.

## B. Highlights of technical cooperation work in 2018

38. With the newly established partnership with Canada, ESCAP initiated a comprehensive project on catalysing women's entrepreneurship. In 2018, the project focused on laying the foundation for the work ahead by completing several scoping missions and engaging in partnerships with the United Nations Capital Development Fund in the area of financial inclusion and innovative financing for women's economic empowerment.

39. In partnership with China, ESCAP has pursued projects in the areas of regional connectivity and integration in support of the 2030 Agenda. The initiatives have included: structural growth and transformation; public-private partnerships; cross-border trade; information and communications technology connectivity; regional cooperation frameworks on energy security and the sustainable use of energy; and gender-responsive budgeting. In addition, with funding from China, ESCAP produced *Social Outlook for Asia and the Pacific: Poorly Protected* (2019), a flagship report on social development in the Asia-Pacific region, which is now included in the regular programme of work of subprogramme 6 and will henceforth be produced on a biennial basis.

40. Collaboration with Germany continued to promote the implementation of the urban nexus approach. Technical advice provision to national and local governments in developing countries and support to regional policy dialogues on designing, planning and implementing integrated initiatives for the sustainable management of energy, water and food, to encourage the long-term sustainable development of rapidly growing cities was undertaken.

41. With support from Japan, the secretariat continued its work on the development of standards for testing of agricultural equipment. In 2018, with the second round of funding provided for this project, Japanese experts were deployed to the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization. These experts contributed to the technical development of mechanization codes and the review of capacity development reports related to the testing of the codes for agricultural equipment. In 2018, Japan also continued its support for the work to strengthen multi-hazard risk assessment and early warning systems in Pacific island countries that are vulnerable to the impact of natural disasters. In 2018, the final year of the project, substantial results were achieved as Pacific countries built and operated their own geoportals to assist with their early warning systems.

42. With support from the Republic of Korea, both through the Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund and through partnerships with various line ministries in the country, the secretariat has supported member States in the areas of regional connectivity and trade facilitation, particularly supporting the ongoing work on the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement. The secretariat also continued supporting the implementation of the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. New initiatives on transport connectivity were established, namely on the development of dry ports, policies for efficient coastal shipping and enhancing the Eurasian transport corridors. Existing initiatives have continued on developing guidelines for implementing intelligent transport systems in urban areas and in supporting countries in the preparation of their voluntary national reviews and in achieving environment-related Sustainable Development Goals through policy dialogues and pilot projects.

43. A new partnership was established with Sweden to improve the understanding of target stakeholders on the impacts and value of empowerment, including public participation, for strengthening implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific, particularly on the environment-related Goals.

44. The ongoing commitment from the Russian Federation has facilitated the continuous support of projects in the energy and transport sectors. Some key achievements in transport include strengthening integrated intermodal transport systems, consolidating interregional sustainable transport connectivity between Asia and Europe, achieving road safety targets, establishing a Regional Framework for the Planning, Design, Development and Operation of Dry Ports of International Importance and the harmonization of rules and regulations for facilitation of international railway transport in the region. In the area of energy, key achievements include the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Energy Transition towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies in Asia and the Pacific at the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum. Other priority areas have included statistics, trade facilitation, disaster risk reduction through early warning systems, ageing and natural resource management.

45. In partnership with the United Kingdom, ESCAP through the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, continued to improve the quality and availability of economic statistics by strengthening the capacity of national statistics systems in Asia and the Pacific. The Regional Programme covers 10 countries with special needs, namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. In 2018, ESCAP organized the Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week in which 21 countries and 9 international organizations took part. This event facilitated major knowledge sharing opportunities as countries showcased how they are producing their economic statistics. The Programme facilitated targeted capacity-building work and technical assistance in a few countries in the region, including Cambodia and Myanmar.

46. In collaboration with ECLAC, ESCAP commenced two interregional projects under the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation fund on: (a) reducing inequality within the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation member countries by advocating for innovative policymaking that leaves no one behind; and (b) the Value Chain Development for Deeper Integration of East Asia and Latin America.

## **V. Conclusion**

47. In 2018, the secretariat was able to expand its partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Efforts were made to create synergies and multiplier effects, by identifying new sources of funding and focusing on delivering results through better monitoring of projects. The enhanced collaboration with United Nations country teams has allowed ESCAP to be more responsive to the demands of member States and ensure that its projects and programmes have a stronger impact at the national level.

48. The technical cooperation work of ESCAP has been aligned directly with the regional road map adopted by member States. ESCAP knowledge products and normative frameworks and agreements have also been aligned with its technical cooperation function to ensure maximum impact. In this regard, special attention will continue to be paid to the capacity development needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

49. The Commission is requested to take note of the present document and provide the secretariat with further guidance on the direction and priorities of its partnerships and technical cooperation work.

## Annex I

### Extrabudgetary resources provided by bilateral donors in cash for technical cooperation in 2018 (funds-in-trust)

(United States dollars)

<i>Donors</i>	<i>Resources</i>
Bangladesh	27 000
Brunei Darussalam	32 000
Cambodia	10 000
Canada	2 965 800
China	3 120 072
Fiji	9 510
Germany	324 213
Hong Kong, China	30 000
India	291 745
Indonesia	40 000
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	978 515
Japan	3 208 163
Kazakhstan	155 000
Macao, China	43 000
Malaysia	15 000
Maldives	2 000
Micronesia (Federated States of)	5 000
Mongolia	12 160
Myanmar	2 000
New Caledonia	4 872
Pakistan	37 436
Palau	5 000
Philippines	60 000
Republic of Korea	3 818 517
Russian Federation	1 200 000
Singapore	15 000
Sri Lanka	20 000
Sweden	298 704
Thailand	54 000
Tuvalu	1 121
United Kingdom	651 015
Viet Nam	27 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>17 463 842</b>

**Annex II**

**Technical cooperation resources provided by the United Nations system  
and by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in 2018**  
(United States dollars)

<i>Entity</i>	<i>Contributions</i>
<b>United Nations system</b>	
<b>Regular budget resources</b>	
Regular programme of technical cooperation (section 23)	3 279 900
Development Account (section 35)	4 417 263
<b>Subtotal, regular budget resources</b>	<b>7 697 163</b>
<b>Extrabudgetary resources</b>	
Department of Economic and Social Affairs	392 328
Other United Nations agencies and bodies	481 991
<b>Subtotal, extrabudgetary resources</b>	<b>874 319</b>
<b>Total, United Nations system</b>	<b>8 571 481</b>
<b>Other organizations</b>	
Asian Development Bank	215 153
Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation	502 341
International Association for Public Participation – Australasia	27 721
International Development Research Centre	9 195
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	323
International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, Inc. (Vital Strategies)	200 000
Islamic Development Bank	84 097
Korea Disabled People's Development Institute	261 030
Korea Maritime Institute	44 000
Korea Ports and Harbours Association	34 800
Rockefeller Foundation	30 000
Shanghai Forum	1 576
<b>Total, other organizations</b>	<b>1 410 237</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>9 981 718</b>

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## Annex III

### Extrabudgetary assistance in kind (non-reimbursable loans) in 2018

#### Republic of Korea

(Total 67.5 work-months)

Mr. Go Eung Kim  
Expert on Environment Policy  
Environment and Development Division  
12 work-months

Mr. Dongjung Lee  
Expert on Information and Communications Technology  
Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division  
11.5 work-months

Mr. Gunsub Han  
Expert on Regional Cooperation in North-East Asia, with particular focus on the  
Democratic People's Republic of Korea  
Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division  
12 work-months

Ms. Hyun Soo Yeob  
Expert on Social Policy  
Social Development Division  
2.5 work-months

Ms. Jeon-kyoung Cha  
Expert on Social Policy  
Social Development Division  
5.5 work-months

Mr. Dong Oh Nam  
Expert on Regional Trade and Monetary Cooperation  
Trade, Investment and Innovation Division  
12 work-months

Mr. Sunwoo Jung  
Expert on Land Transport Infrastructure  
Transport Division  
12 work-months

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