



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

Bangkok, 11–16 May 2018

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the seventy-fourth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II).

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening addresses;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries.
3. Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions:
 - (a) Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development;
 - (b) Trade and investment;
 - (c) Transport;
 - (d) Environment and development;
 - (e) Information and communications technology, science, technology and innovation;
 - (f) Disaster risk reduction;
 - (g) Social development;
 - (h) Statistics;
 - (i) Energy;
 - (j) Subregional activities for development.
4. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.
5. Regional economic cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific.

6. Management issues:
 - (a) Changes to programme planning and budgeting;
 - (b) Programme changes for the biennium 2018–2019;
 - (c) Report on the evaluation activities of the Commission during the biennium 2016–2017;
 - (d) Overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development.
7. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.
8. Dates, venue and theme topic for the seventy-fifth session of the Commission (2019).
9. Policy issues for the Asia-Pacific region: theme topic for the seventy-fourth session of the Commission, “Inequality in the era of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the session

(a) Opening addresses

The detailed programme for the opening of the session will be made available upon finalization.

(b) Election of officers

Rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Commission states: “The Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, designated as First and Second Vice-Chairmen, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election.” If the plenary so decides, the rule may be applied differently to enable the Commission to elect more than two Vice-Chairs, as has been the practice at previous sessions, in which case the Commission may elect a bureau of officers composed of a Chair and several Vice-Chairs.

The senior officials segment may decide to meet in two committees of the whole and a working group on draft resolutions. It would then elect Chairs and Vice-Chairs for each.

The ministerial segment will elect the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Commission.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Provisional agenda (ESCAP/74/L.1/Rev.1)

Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/74/L.2)

2. **Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries**

Documentation

Summary of the Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2018 (ESCAP/74/1)

Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2018 focuses on the interdependency between peace, security and the three dimensions of sustainable development. In addition to social, economic and/or environment-related issues, factors such as weak institutions, low levels of governance and weak rule of law also contribute to conflict. Yet, early warning, prevention and effective policy responses are possible only if information and data analyses to identify patterns, broad social trends and latent problems are available to policymakers. This requires analytical work on the underlying causes of the vulnerability of countries with special needs in the region; advocacy and awareness regarding the impact of tensions, instability and conflict on sustainable development; and cooperative work and knowledge exchange on field-tested policies for peace, prevention and development. The *Report* contains economic policy recommendations to prevent and mitigate political and social instability in countries with special needs.

The Commission may wish to take note of the document and provide further guidance to the secretariat on issues identified therein.

3. **Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions**

The documents listed below contain information spanning all of the subprogrammes, and the relevant sections will be deliberated under each subprogramme as appropriate.

Documentation

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/74/2)

Programme performance report for the biennium 2016–2017 (ESCAP/74/3)

Item 3 of the provisional agenda focuses on (1) addressing the work of the nine subprogrammes, including the work of the regional institutions, in the context of recent globally agreed development agendas, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement; (2) the reports of subsidiary bodies of the Commission (of which sessions have been held since the most recent Commission session); (3) reports of other intergovernmental bodies; and (4) progress in the implementation of Commission mandates.

The expected outcomes under this agenda item are (1) identification of emerging development issues, including those emanating from the 2030 Agenda, that merit policy dialogue; (2) identification of progress made and gaps requiring priority attention, with regard to the implementation of Commission mandates; (3) follow-up actions to major global conferences; (4) articulation of Asian and Pacific perspectives on issues that will be addressed in major global forums in 2018; (5) endorsement of the reports of the subsidiary bodies that have held sessions since the seventy-third session of the Commission; and

(6) identification of key issues to be taken up in meetings of subsidiary bodies in 2018.

The Commission may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on how the work of the subprogrammes, including that of the regional institutions, can further support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by member States by identifying, for example, priorities, gaps in implementation and any required technical assistance at the subregional or regional level.

(a) Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development

Documentation

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/74/2, resolution 69/6)

Report of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development at its first session (ESCAP/74/4)

Summary of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2018 (ESCAP/74/41)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/74/2, resolution 69/6)

The document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 69/6 on the implementation of the Tehran Declaration to promote public-private partnerships in infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development.

The Commission may wish to review the progress made and provide the secretariat with further guidance for the effective implementation of the resolution.

Report of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development at its first session (ESCAP/74/4)

The Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development held its first session in Bangkok from 6 to 8 December 2017.

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Committee, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

Summary of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2018 (ESCAP/74/41)

In the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2018*, the authors assess the economic performance and prospects of the Asia-Pacific region and analyse the main risks that the region faces. The authors also argue that the region needs to go beyond traditional exports to rejuvenate trade and accelerate structural transformation. Reviving business investment and productivity growth will be particularly important for medium-term economic development. Also highlighted is the important insight that economic growth needs to be accompanied by targeted and sustained policies to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda. Effective macroeconomic policies, structural reforms and regional cooperation are required to increase the quality of

economic growth, by addressing issues such as vulnerable employment, rising inequality, population ageing and climate change.

The 2018 *Survey* also includes a focus on how the Asia-Pacific region could increase the availability of financing for an effective pursuit of the 2030 Agenda. The amount of financial investment needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda is estimated to far exceed current investment trends. Closing the wide investment gap requires stronger resource mobilization strategies, including greater public fiscal resources and greater participation from the private sector.

The Commission may wish to take note of the key messages and findings of the 2018 *Survey* as contained in document ESCAP/74/41.

(b) Trade and investment

Documentation

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/74/2, resolution 70/6)

Report of the Committee on Trade and Investment on its fifth session (ESCAP/74/5)

Report of the fourth meeting of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation (ESCAP/74/6)

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its thirteenth session (ESCAP/74/7)

Trade and investment in Asia and the Pacific: policy challenges and secretariat response (ESCAP/74/8)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/74/2, resolution 70/6)

The document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 70/6 on the implementation of the decision of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on a Regional Arrangement for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade.

The Commission may wish to review the progress made and provide the secretariat with further guidance for the effective implementation of the resolution.

Report of the Committee on Trade and Investment on its fifth session (ESCAP/74/5)

The Committee on Trade and Investment held its fifth session in Bangkok from 31 October to 2 November 2017. It reviewed recent trends and discussed the issue of channelling trade and investment into sustainable development. The Committee also discussed the role of trade and trade policy as drivers of regional integration and prosperity in an era of economic uncertainty; promoting trade facilitation, paperless trade and electronic commerce for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; and investment and enterprise development for sustainable development. The Committee considered the proposed strategic framework for the period 2020–2021 and modalities to strengthen private sector engagement in the delivery of the programme of work.

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Committee, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

Report of the fourth meeting of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation (ESCAP/74/6)

The fourth meeting of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation will be held in Bangkok on 22 and 23 March 2018.

The Commission may wish to take note of the decisions made by the Steering Group and provide the secretariat with further guidance on any other matters contained in the report.

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its thirteenth session (ESCAP/74/7)

The Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology held its thirteenth session in Manila from 28 to 30 November 2017. The Council reviewed the activities undertaken by the Centre since the Council's twelfth session and the Centre's proposed programme of work for 2018. The Council also discussed potential areas for collaboration between the Centre and member countries.

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council and provide the secretariat with guidance for the future work of the Centre.

Trade and investment in Asia and the Pacific: policy challenges and secretariat response (ESCAP/74/8)

The document contains a brief situation analysis of trade and investment in the region and of the main policy challenges for the years ahead, with particular reference to the role of trade and investment in achieving the 2030 Agenda. Also highlighted is a summary of the main activities of the secretariat in 2017 to address these challenges under the modalities of research and analysis, capacity-building and regional cooperation. The conclusion contains an outline of the main activities and initiatives of the secretariat in the years ahead and a summary of the principal issues for consideration by the Commission.

The Commission may wish to review the document and provide guidance for the future work of the secretariat.

(c) Transport

Documentation

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/74/2, resolution 72/5)

Strengthening regional efforts to improve road safety (ESCAP/74/9)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/74/2, resolution 72/5)

The document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 72/5 on strengthening regional cooperation on transport connectivity for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

The Commission may wish to review the progress made and provide the secretariat with further guidance for the effective implementation of the resolution.

Strengthening regional efforts to improve road safety (ESCAP/74/9)

Road crashes kill more than 730,000 people a year in the Asia-Pacific region. One of the aims of Sustainable Development Goal 3 is to halve road fatalities and injuries by 2020. However, current progress shows it is virtually impossible for the region to achieve this target.

The document contains a review of the overall status and the progress in the region as well as challenges to efforts to improve road safety. It also contains information on regional initiatives and efforts to assist member States in addressing the challenges in road safety.

(d) Environment and development

Documentation

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/74/2, resolution 72/9)

Report of the seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/74/10)

Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development for Asia and the Pacific, 2017 (ESCAP/74/10/Add.1)

Enhancing regional coordination of water-related activities (ESCAP/74/11)

Empowering cities to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda: mobilizing municipal finance for sustainable infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region (ESCAP/74/12)

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture on its fourteenth session (ESCAP/74/13)

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its thirteenth session (ESCAP/74/14)

Report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and South-East Asia (ESCAP/74/INF/1)

Report of the Mekong River Commission (ESCAP/74/INF/2)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/74/2, resolution 72/9)

The document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 72/9 on regional cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

The Commission may wish to review the progress made and provide the secretariat with further guidance for the effective implementation of the resolution.

Report of the seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/74/10)**Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development for Asia and the Pacific, 2017 (ESCAP/74/10/Add.1)**

The seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific was held in Bangkok from 5 to 8 September 2017. The Conference reviewed and deliberated on emerging issues related to environment and development, which led to the identification of priorities on policy actions and initiatives to enhance regional cooperation on environment for sustainable development. The Conference culminated in the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development for Asia and the Pacific.

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Conference, endorse the Ministerial Declaration and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

Enhancing regional coordination of water-related activities (ESCAP/74/11)

UN-Water coordinates the efforts of United Nations entities and international organizations working on water and sanitation issues. As regional coordination is an important success factor for its work, there is the UN-Water Task Force on Regional-level Coordination, which is co-chaired by ESCAP and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

In the past two years, there have been several evaluations and consultations to strengthen the coordination and maximize the efficiency of the work of UN-Water, with a special focus on clarifying the needs and mechanisms for regional follow-up to the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 6. In addition, it is important that UN-Water link to existing non-United Nations initiatives on water in the region to strengthen synergies and complementarities to achieve Goal 6. Such initiatives include the Asia-Pacific Water Forum and the Asia Water Council.

The document contains a description of the outcome of an Asia-Pacific consultation on the role of ESCAP in supporting regional-level coordination on water. The Commission may wish to review the document and provide guidance for the future work of the secretariat.

Empowering cities to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda: mobilizing municipal finance for sustainable infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region (ESCAP/74/12)

ESCAP and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) are collaborating to support member States and other stakeholders to implement the New Urban Agenda in Asia and the Pacific in a way that develops complementarities with the 2030 Agenda. These efforts follow similar cooperation efforts that took place in the process for regional engagement and input for the creation of the New Urban Agenda in advance of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in October 2016.

The document contains a review of the outcomes of the Regional Partners Forum, which was facilitated by ESCAP and the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in November 2017, to support monitoring of the commitments contained in and implementation of the New Urban Agenda in line with efforts to localize the Sustainable Development Goals. Policy actions to

support national and local governments' access to long-term adequate financing for cities to meet burgeoning infrastructure needs for the effective implementation of these agendas were prioritized as one of the outcomes of the Forum.

The Commission may wish to review the document and provide guidance for the future work of the secretariat.

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture on its fourteenth session (ESCAP/74/13)

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture, in particular the recommendation that the Centre transition to a new intergovernmental organization outside the United Nations system.

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its thirteenth session (ESCAP/74/14)

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization and provide the secretariat with guidance for the future work of the Centre.

Report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and South-East Asia (ESCAP/74/INF/1)

The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Report of the Mekong River Commission (ESCAP/74/INF/2)

The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

(e) Information and communications technology, science, technology and innovation

Documentation

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/74/2, resolution 72/10)

Report on the challenges and opportunities in the implementation of regional broadband connectivity for all in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/74/15)

Technology outlook for sustainable development (ESCAP/74/16)

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its twelfth session (ESCAP/74/18)

Emerging trends in innovation policy to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals: promoting inclusive innovation and supporting social enterprises (ESCAP/74/32)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/74/2, resolution 72/10)

The document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 72/10 on the regional review of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society action lines.

The Commission may wish to review the progress made and provide the secretariat with further guidance for the effective implementation of the resolution.

Report on the challenges and opportunities in the implementation of regional broadband connectivity for all in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/74/15)

The document contains key findings of the secretariat's analytical work and research on emerging challenges and opportunities in the implementation of regional broadband connectivity initiatives in Asia and the Pacific. In particular, the findings support the cross-sectoral aspects of implementation of Commission resolutions on the development of regional broadband connectivity and of the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

The Commission may wish to review the report and provide the secretariat with further guidance for the effective implementation of the appropriate resolutions and the regional road map.

Technology outlook for sustainable development (ESCAP/74/16)

As the world enters the era of the so-called fourth industrial revolution, frontier technological breakthroughs such as artificial intelligence, robotics, automation and 3D printing offer the potential to enhance productivity, provide solutions to social challenges and combat climate change. Frontier technology will have an impact on international trade and investment and in particular will reshape existing global value chains and make space for new ones. However, technological advances can also lead to disruptions in labour markets and create winners and losers in terms of wealth distribution. The document contains information on key policy options for the development of frontier technology, specifically relating to trade and investment policy.

The Commission may wish to take note of the report and provide the secretariat with further guidance on future work in this area.

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its twelfth session (ESCAP/74/18)

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development and provide the secretariat with guidance for the future work of the Centre.

Emerging trends in innovation policy to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals: promoting inclusive innovation and supporting social enterprises (ESCAP/74/32)

Traditionally, innovation policy in the Asia-Pacific region has focused on stimulating economic competitiveness and growth with the private sector as the key actor in the innovation system. However, to meet the ambitions of the 2030

Agenda, it will be critical for innovation policy, as well as the private sector, to focus on social and environmental concerns. The region is witnessing a growing social innovation movement stimulated by the implementation of enabling social enterprise and impact investing policies.

Additionally, to ensure that no one is left behind in the technological revolution, it will be important for innovation policies to be inclusive. The region is also witnessing an inclusive innovation movement with policies that include groups that are marginalized in some aspect of the innovation process and ensure that innovations are accessible to the very poorest people.

The document contains an introduction to the concepts of social enterprise, impact investment and inclusive innovation. Some policy approaches that Governments have implemented to catalyse these agendas are highlighted. The Commission's actions and proposed actions to support member States on these agendas are also outlined.

Members of the Commission are invited to share country experiences with regard to social enterprises, impact investing and inclusive innovation and to engage with the secretariat's projects on social enterprise and impact investing and on inclusive innovation.

(f) Disaster risk reduction

Documentation

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/74/2, resolutions 68/5 and 72/11)

Report of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction on its fifth session (ESCAP/74/17)

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management on its second session (ESCAP/74/19)

Report of the Typhoon Committee (ESCAP/74/INF/3)

Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (ESCAP/74/INF/4)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/74/2, resolutions 68/5 and 72/11)

The document contains summaries of the progress made in the implementation of the following resolutions:

(1) 68/5 on the Asia-Pacific Years of Action for Applications of Space Technology and the Geographic Information System for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012–2017;

(2) 72/11 on advancing disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific for implementation of internationally agreed development goals.

The Commission may wish to review the progress made and provide the secretariat with further guidance for the effective implementation of the resolutions.

Report of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction on its fifth session (ESCAP/74/17)

The Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction held its fifth session in Bangkok from 10 to 12 October 2017. It reviewed the challenges of disaster risks in the region and promoted regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction in development activities as guided by the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. The Committee expressed support for ESCAP initiatives in the area of disaster risk reduction and highlighted the importance of an Asia-Pacific disaster resilience network for cohesive policy actions, on a regional cooperative basis, that also includes initiatives on applications of space technology and geographic information systems for disaster risk reduction.

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Committee, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management on its second session (ESCAP/74/19)

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management and provide the secretariat with guidance for the future work of the Centre.

Report of the Typhoon Committee (ESCAP/74/INF/3)

The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (ESCAP/74/INF/4)

The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

(g) Social development

Documentation

Report of the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (ESCAP/74/20)

Report of the Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (ESCAP/74/21)

Chair's summary of the Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (ESCAP/74/21/Add.1)

Report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Midpoint Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022 (ESCAP/74/22)

Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy (ESCAP/74/22/Add.1)

Key social development challenges in the Asia-Pacific region in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (ESCAP/74/23)

Report of the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (ESCAP/74/20)

The Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing was held in Bangkok from 12 to 14 September 2017. The report contains a summary of the deliberations of the Meeting and its outcome document, with key areas for the further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing. Emerging issues are also stressed, such as the need to provide learning opportunities throughout the life course, provide access to technologies to older persons and strengthen the measures to collect age-disaggregated data, including data on the provision of unpaid care services to older people.

The Commission may wish to take note of the report and endorse the outcomes of the Meeting contained in annex II.

Report of the Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (ESCAP/74/21)

Chair's summary of the Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (ESCAP/74/21/Add.1)

The Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was held in Bangkok from 6 to 8 November 2017 in response to General Assembly resolution 71/280 on the modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact. The Chair's summary of the Meeting contains an outline of the perspectives and priorities identified by countries of the region with regards to the human rights of all migrants, social inclusion, cohesion and all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance; irregular migration and regular pathways, including decent work, labour mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications and other relevant measures; international cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions, including at borders, on transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration; contributions of migrants and diasporas to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and the portability of earned benefits; addressing drivers of migration, including adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crises, through protection and assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication, conflict prevention and resolution; and smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, including appropriate identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims.

The Commission may wish to take note of the report and the Chair's summary.

Report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Midpoint Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022 (ESCAP/74/22)

Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy (ESCAP/74/22/Add.1)

The High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Midpoint Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, was held in Beijing from 27 November to 1 December 2017.

The report and its addendum contain a summary of the deliberations of the Meeting and its outcome document, which includes policy recommendations to guide disability-inclusive development efforts for the remaining five years of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities.

The Commission may wish to consider endorsing the Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan, and the matters calling for action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report, and to provide the secretariat with further guidance.

Key social development challenges in the Asia-Pacific region in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (ESCAP/74/23)

The document contains a discussion of the key social development trends in the Asia-Pacific region, how investing in social development will accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the importance of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development for sustainable development, and the interrelationship between the 2030 Agenda and the Programme of Action.

The Commission may wish to review the document and provide guidance for the future work of the secretariat.

(h) Statistics

Documentation

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/74/2, resolution 72/11)

The Disaster-related Statistics Framework: results of the work of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/74/24)

Report on the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific on its third meeting (ESCAP/74/25)

Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its thirteenth session (ESCAP/74/26)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/74/2, resolution 72/11)

The document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 72/11 on advancing disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific for implementation of internationally agreed development goals.

The Commission may wish to review the progress made and provide the secretariat with further guidance for the effective implementation of the resolution.

The Disaster-related Statistics Framework: results of the work of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/74/24)

The Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific was established pursuant to Commission resolution 70/2 and received further guidance on its operations in Commission resolution 72/11 and Commission

resolution 73/7 on enhancing regional cooperation for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Asia and the Pacific.

The Commission may wish to review the document, in particular the recommendation that a regional advisory group be formed, take note of the Disaster-related Statistics Framework and provide guidance on future work in this area.

Report on the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific on its third meeting (ESCAP/74/25)

The Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific held its third meeting from 18 to 20 October 2017. The report contains a number of recommendations on actions to strengthen the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific. The Regional Steering Group reviewed the progress that countries have made in implementing the Regional Action Framework, as well as challenges in achieving the vision of the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade, 2015–2024.

The Regional Steering Group provided guidance on how to improve the reporting process for the Decade, adjusted its programme of work and established task forces to accelerate the implementation of the Regional Action Framework.

The Commission is invited to take note of the outcomes of the meeting and to consider its recommendations, in particular the recommendation to convene a midterm review of the implementation of the Regional Action Framework at the ministerial level in 2020. The Commission is also invited to express its views on ways to further support the achievement of the goals defined in the Framework.

Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its thirteenth session (ESCAP/74/26)

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and provide guidance for the future work of the Institute.

(i) Energy

Documentation

Report of the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (ESCAP/74/27)

Ministerial Declaration of the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (ESCAP/74/27/Add.1)

Report on energy transition in Asia and the Pacific: pathways for ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (ESCAP/74/28)

Report of the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (ESCAP/74/27)

Ministerial Declaration of the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (ESCAP/74/27/Add.1)

Pursuant to resolution 70/9 on the implementation of the outcomes of the First Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, held in 2013, the second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum will be convened, in April 2018. The Forum will review

the progress made in the region in addressing energy security challenges, assess the existing situation and discuss policy options for keeping the region on track towards Sustainable Development Goal 7, in order to allow for better prioritization of actions for sustainable and resilient societies. The Forum will also assess the interlinkages between energy and the other Goals. Energy connectivity as a catalyst for the attainment of Goal 7, and its benefits, will also be highlighted at the Forum.

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Forum, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

Report on energy transition in Asia and the Pacific: pathways for ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (ESCAP/74/28)

The aim of the report is to assess current and projected progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 in the region. It includes information on the status of energy access, renewable energy development and energy efficiency; trajectories and gaps in achieving Goal 7 targets by 2030, based on existing scenarios; existing policy approaches; cross-cutting social issues that may factor into energy policies; policy pathways to achieve the Goal 7 targets, while building towards achieving all the Goals by 2030.

The Commission may wish to review the report and provide guidance for the future work of the secretariat.

(j) Subregional activities for development

Documentation

Report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on its twelfth session (ESCAP/74/29)

Subregional perspectives on inequality in Asia and the Pacific and update on subregional activities for development (ESCAP/74/30)

Report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on its twelfth session (ESCAP/74/29)

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia and provide the secretariat with guidance on the future work of the Special Programme.

Subregional perspectives on inequality in Asia and the Pacific and update on subregional activities for development (ESCAP/74/30)

The document contains information on key issues and priority areas related to sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific and in particular to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The steps and activities undertaken and planned by the Subregional Offices of the Commission to support member countries through policy analysis, dialogue and capacity-building, in line with the subprogrammes of the Commission, are highlighted.

The Commission may wish to consider the document and provide guidance for the future work of the secretariat.

4. **Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific**

Documentation

Report of the Fifth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (ESCAP/74/31)

The Fifth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development will be held from 28 to 30 March 2018 as a preparatory event for the high-level political forum on sustainable development of the Economic and Social Council. The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development will benefit from the five subregional preparatory meetings held in each ESCAP subregion. As the primary regional platform for cohesive and coordinated implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Forum has the objective of (1) supporting countries, in particular countries with special needs, including by enhancing their capacity to implement the 2030 Agenda; (2) providing a regional perspective on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by identifying regional trends as well as by consolidating and sharing best practices and lessons learned, taking into account the contributions of other United Nations system bodies at the regional level, other regional and subregional organizations and relevant stakeholders; and (3) supporting the follow-up to and review of progress on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals at the regional level.

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Forum, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

5. **Regional economic cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific**

Documentation

Report of the Second Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/74/33)

Ministerial Declaration on Enhancing Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration to Support the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/74/33/Add.1)

Integrated and seamless connectivity for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific: progress and the way forward (ESCAP/74/34)

Report of the Second Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/74/33)

Ministerial Declaration on Enhancing Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration to Support the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/74/33/Add.1)

The Second Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific was held in Bangkok from 21 to 24 November 2017. The Conference reviewed and deliberated on the emerging issues on the topic and made recommendations on policy actions and initiatives to enhance regional economic cooperation and integration to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Conference culminated in the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration on Enhancing Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration to Support the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific.

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Conference, endorse the Ministerial Declaration and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

Integrated and seamless connectivity for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific: progress and the way forward (ESCAP/74/34)

In accordance with resolution 73/3 on advancing integrated and seamless connectivity for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, the document contains a review of the state of regional connectivity in the areas of trade, transport, information and communications technology, and energy, as well as an outline of a way forward towards integrated and seamless regional connectivity for sustainable development.

The Commission may wish to consider the document and provide guidance for the future work of the secretariat.

6. Management issues

Under this agenda item, the secretariat is submitting, for the consideration of the Commission, documents on a range of management issues relevant to the continued effectiveness of the work of ESCAP.

(a) Changes to programme planning and budgeting

Documentation

Changes to programme planning and budgeting (ESCAP/74/35)

The document contains the changes to programme planning and budgeting at the United Nations, which were approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/266 and will be implemented starting in 2020.

The Commission may wish to review and take note of the changes to programme planning and budgeting to inform their deliberations.

(b) Programme changes for the biennium 2018–2019

Documentation

Programme changes for the biennium 2018–2019 (ESCAP/74/36)

Programme changes for the biennium 2018–2019 may be required following the identification of emerging global priorities by the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and global conferences since the endorsement of the draft programme of work by the Commission at its seventy-third session.

The Commission may wish to consider the proposed changes with a view to endorsing them for incorporation into the programme of work for 2018–2019.

(c) Report on the evaluation activities of the Commission during the biennium 2016–2017

Documentation

Report on the evaluation activities of the Commission during the biennium 2016–2017 (ESCAP/74/37)

The purpose of the biennial reporting on the evaluation activities of ESCAP is to strengthen accountability to member States and facilitate organizational improvement by providing evidence-based information on the performance and result of the Commission's work. The report includes a summary of the main findings and recommendations contained in evaluations conducted during the biennium 2016–2017 and the steps taken by the secretariat to address those recommendations. It also contains an outline of the efforts made by the secretariat to further strengthen the evaluation function.

The Commission may wish to review the report and recommend actions to further enhance the performance and results of the Commission's work and to strengthen its evaluation function.

(d) Overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development

Documentation

Overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development (ESCAP/74/38)

The document contains an overview of the secretariat's partnerships in 2017, including with regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations, which facilitate the efforts of the United Nations to work together as one at the regional level in support of its capacity development work. It also provides an overview of the extrabudgetary resources mobilized to implement the programme of work. The delivery of the Commission's capacity development work in 2017 is discussed.

Individual members and associate members may wish to announce their intended contributions for 2018.

The Commission may wish to take note of the document and provide the secretariat with further guidance on the development of partnerships and mobilizing resources.

7. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

Documentation

Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ESCAP/74/39)

The report includes a summary of the main activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission since the seventy-third session of the Commission, including its support to the Executive Secretary on matters related to programme planning, implementation and monitoring.

The Commission may wish to comment on the role of the Advisory Committee and provide further guidance regarding its work.

8. Dates, venue and theme topic for the seventy-fifth session of the Commission (2019)

Documentation

Dates, venue and theme topic for the seventy-fifth session of the Commission (2019) (ESCAP/74/40)

Unless the Commission decides otherwise, the seventy-fifth session of the Commission will be held in Bangkok in April or May 2019.

The Commission may wish to confirm the theme topic for the seventy-fifth session, “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality,” which has been proposed in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Commission.

9. Policy issues for the Asia-Pacific region: theme topic for the seventy-fourth session of the Commission, “Inequality in the era of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

Documentation

Inequality in Asia and the Pacific in the era of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (ESCAP/74/42)

The 2030 Agenda contains an overall pledge to leave no one behind, while the aim of Sustainable Development Goal 10 is to reduce inequality within and among countries. However, reaching the furthest behind first also requires addressing inequalities in access to basic needs and services captured in several other Goals (1–5, 8, 9 and 11) and a better understanding of how different external shocks impact population groups differently, in particular the vulnerable. The document contains a call for member States in Asia and the Pacific to act to reduce these inequalities to achieve all the Goals.

It contains an analytical framework that can be used to identify various underlying and emerging drivers of rising inequalities. The document contains analyses of the impact inequalities have on people, society and the three dimensions of sustainable development, as well as policy lessons that can assist member States in the region to build more inclusive and equitable societies.

The Commission may wish to take note of the document and endorse its recommendations.

10. Other matters

The result of elections for the Governing Councils of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development and of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization will be announced.

The Commission also may wish to consider other matters brought to its attention.

11. Adoption of the report of the Commission

The Commission will consider and adopt the report on its seventy-fourth session. Pursuant to paragraph 7 of annex II, entitled “Conference structure of the Commission”, to the annual report of ESCAP, 20 May 2016–19 May 2017 (E/2017/39–E/ESCAP/73/40), the report of the Commission will be composed of its decisions and resolutions. The draft record of proceedings of the Commission session, prepared by the secretariat, will be circulated among members and associate members for comments within 15 days of the conclusion of the session.
