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

Bangkok, 11–16 May 2018

Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda*

**Management issues: programme changes for
the biennium 2018–2019****Programme changes for the biennium 2018–2019****Note by the secretariat***Summary*

The present document contains the proposed changes to the programme of work for the biennium 2018–2019 (A/72/6 (Sect. 19)) for which a legislative decision of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific is sought.

The proposed changes are designed mainly to address new mandates adopted after the Commission's endorsement of the programme of work for 2018–2019.

The Commission may note that the proposed changes will contribute to the achievement of the expected accomplishments and have no additional regular programme budget implications.

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.

* ESCAP/74/L.1/Rev.1.

Proposed programme changes for the biennium 2018–2019

<i>Output in the programme of work for the biennium 2018–2019</i>	<i>Proposed change</i>	<i>Justification</i>
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Subprogramme 2. Trade, investment and innovation

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat:

(a) Enhanced national evidence-based policies on trade, investment, enterprise development, science, technology and innovation for sustainable development

Technical materials:

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology Value Added Technology Information Service periodicals (1 each in 2018, 2019) (2)	<i>Deleted</i>	The Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, at its thirteenth session, held in Manila from 28 to 30 November 2017, recommended that the Centre discontinue the periodicals on biotechnology and new and renewable energy from January 2018 onwards. ¹
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Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat:

(c) Strengthened regional engagement to advance trade, investment, enterprise development, science, technology and innovation for sustainable development

Assistance to intergovernmental bodies and/or United Nations representatives/rapporteurs under their established mandates:

ESCAP Business Advisory Council and ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (including its task forces) (2)	<i>Modified to</i> ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (including its task forces) (2)	The decision was taken at the ESCAP Business Advisory Council meeting in October 2017 to consolidate the Advisory Council as the Executive Council of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network. Therefore, as of 2018 only the Sustainable Business Network will remain.
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Subprogramme 4. Environment and development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat:

(a) Enhanced evidence-based policies, strategies and frameworks that integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development, including gender perspectives, at the national level and in both urban and rural areas

¹ See ESCAP/74/7.

<i>Output in the programme of work for the biennium 2018–2019</i>	<i>Proposed change</i>	<i>Justification</i>
Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development:		
Substantive servicing of meetings: Plenary (2018, 2019) (6)	<i>Modified to</i> Substantive servicing of meetings: Plenary (2018, 2019) (12)	In its resolution 73/1, the Commission decided to include the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in the subsidiary structure of the Commission. It also decided that the Forum would be convened annually as an inclusive intergovernmental forum ahead of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, therefore the correct output quantity should read 12.

Subprogramme 5. Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat:

(a) Strengthened regional mechanisms to effectively address shared challenges and opportunities in information and communications technology, space technology applications and disaster risk reduction and management for resilient and sustainable development

Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies, and reports thereto:

<i>Added</i> Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific: Plenary (2018) (RB) (2)	In its resolution 69/11, the Commission endorsed the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012–2017, in which it recommended that a ministerial conference on space applications for disaster risk reduction and management and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific be organized in 2015 to evaluate the progress made in implementing the Plan of Action. It is proposed to hold the third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific in October 2018 considering the recommendation of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific that the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Space Applications (2018–2030) be adopted at the ministerial level in 2018.
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<i>Output in the programme of work for the biennium 2018–2019</i>	<i>Proposed change</i>	<i>Justification</i>
		The substantive scope of the third Ministerial Conference will be in line with the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and will cover space applications for disaster risk reduction and management.
	<p><i>Added</i></p> <p>Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific:</p> <p>Parliamentary documentation:</p> <p>Report of the third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (2018) (RB) (1)</p>	See above
	<p><i>Added</i></p> <p>Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific:</p> <p>Parliamentary documentation:</p> <p>Report on the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012–2017 (2018) (RB) (1)</p>	See above
	<p><i>Added</i></p> <p>Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific:</p> <p>Parliamentary documentation:</p> <p>Ministerial declaration on the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Space Applications for Sustainable Development (RB) (2018) (1)</p>	See above

<i>Output in the programme of work for the biennium 2018–2019</i>	<i>Proposed change</i>	<i>Justification</i>
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Subprogramme 7. Statistics

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat:

(a) Increased availability and use of quality and gender-sensitized statistical products and services for regional follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Technical materials:

ESCAP statistics portal (1)	<i>Modified to</i> ESCAP statistics portal (2018, 2019) (2)	Since the update and maintenance of the statistics portal is a yearly output, the correct output count should be two (2).
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Recurrent publications:

<i>Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific</i> (2018, 2019) (2)	<i>Deleted</i>	<p>The <i>Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific</i> comprises two components: statistical data and analytical narrative on development trends. Given that the revamped ESCAP statistics portal is regularly updated with user-friendly and searchable generic and Sustainable Development Goal indicator frameworks, the data component of the publication is more effectively provided online. The effort previously devoted to the analytical narrative on development trends for the <i>Yearbook</i> will instead be invested in enhancing the Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Goals Indicator-based Progress Report.</p> <p>Concentrating analytical work in one publication, namely the Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Goals Indicator-based Progress Report, allows deeper analysis and increased visibility of the publication and consequently better achieves the expected accomplishment.</p>
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