

# **ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**27 April 2024–25 April 2025**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 2025**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 19**



**UNITED NATIONS**



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**New York, 2025**

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Sales No.:	E.25.II.F.6
Copyright © United Nations	2025
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ISBN:	9789210035422
eISBN:	9789211073287
Print ISSN:	2411-9040
Online ISSN:	2411-9067
Symbol:	E/2025/39-ESCAP/81/32

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## Introduction

1. The eighty-first session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) was held in Bangkok from 21 to 25 April 2025. The present report covers the period from 27 April 2024 to 25 April 2025 and contains the conclusions reached by the Commission. The account of proceedings of the session is contained in a separate document (ESCAP/81/33).

## Chapter I

### Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

2. At its eighty-first session, the Commission adopted four resolutions and 29 decisions, which are reproduced below. The resolutions are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

#### A. Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its eighty-first session

##### Resolution 81/1

##### Advancing the sustainable development of middle-income countries in Asia and the Pacific

*The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

*Recalling also* its resolution 78/1 of 27 May 2022 entitled “Bangkok Declaration Commemorating the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: a Common Agenda to Advance Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific”,

*Welcoming* the convening of the Summit of the Future on 22 and 23 September 2024 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, at which General Assembly resolution 79/1 entitled “The Pact for the Future” and its annexes were adopted,

*Recalling* the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, including the outcomes of the international conferences on development cooperation with middle-income countries,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolutions 70/215 of 22 December 2015, 72/230 of 20 December 2017, 74/231 of 19 December 2019, 76/215 of 17 December 2021 and 78/162 of 19 December 2023 on development cooperation with middle-income countries,

*Recognizing* that connectivity through sustainable and resilient infrastructure, with a focus on affordable, inclusive and equitable access for all, contributes to the sustainable development of middle-income countries,

*Noting* that the General Assembly has stressed that middle-income countries continue to face challenges related to, inter alia, job creation, natural resource management, reliance on primary commodity exports, the adverse effects of disaster risks and climate change, high levels of external debt and the volatility of exchange rates and capital flows,

*Reaffirming* General Assembly resolutions 71/243 of 21 December 2016, 75/233 of 21 December 2020 and 79/226 of 19 December 2024 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which the Assembly recognized that middle-income countries still faced specific challenges,

*Noting* that, over the past 15 years, 29 low-income countries have transitioned to middle-income country status, reflecting the sustained economic growth achieved in most parts of the developing world,

*Noting also* that, despite notable progress in reducing poverty levels in both absolute and relative terms, poverty remains a problem in many middle-income countries, as they are still home to 62 per cent of the world's people living in poverty,

*Noting with concern* that some particularly vulnerable countries may not be able to access sufficient affordable financing to meet their needs and that they require assistance that best addresses the opportunities and challenges presented by the diverse circumstances of middle-income countries,

*Noting* the expected establishment of an independent high-level expert group by the Secretary-General and, following the completion of its work, the initiation of a United Nations-led intergovernmental process on measures that complement and go beyond gross domestic product, in close consultation with Member States and relevant stakeholders, including the Statistical Commission, acknowledging the potential for the development of measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond gross domestic product to improve the support provided by the United Nations development system to programme countries,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on development cooperation with middle-income countries,<sup>1</sup> which contains information on the ongoing work of the other regional commissions, among other United Nations bodies, on middle-income countries,

*Noting* that the General Assembly has encouraged all United Nations entities, funds and programmes to further develop specific strategies to engage and provide tailored support to middle-income countries, including for leveraging and mobilizing finance for sustainable development,

*Recognizing* that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific has ongoing initiatives across its programme of work relevant to middle-income countries,

1. *Calls upon* its members and associate members to continue to collaborate to support developing countries in their sustainable development efforts, taking into account measures that complement and go beyond per capita income, such as vulnerability, when extending support to middle-income countries;

2. *Also calls upon* its members and associate members to continue to share best practices with middle-income countries in a manner that helps to address their specific challenges while mindful of their diversity and specific needs, including their need for support in leveraging partnerships and financing;

3. *Welcomes* the support being provided by middle-income countries, particularly to the least developed countries, including through South-South and triangular cooperation, while stressing that South-South cooperation is a complement to, and not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations development system to continue its ongoing efforts to collaborate and

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<sup>1</sup> A/78/224.



mainstream support to South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in the spirit of global solidarity;

4. *Notes* that multilateral development banks could bring forward actions within their mandates to support developing countries, in particular vulnerable countries, including middle-income countries, in their development efforts;<sup>2</sup>

5. *Welcomes* the offer of the Government of the Philippines to host a high-level conference on middle-income countries in Asia and the Pacific, to be held on 28 and 29 April 2025 and to be organized with the support of the secretariat and other partners, as a platform to facilitate contributions towards a possible strategic plan of action on middle-income countries;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, within existing mandates and resources, supplemented by voluntary contributions as necessary:

(a) To promote regional cooperation and dialogue to address the specific challenges, concerns and needs of countries such as middle-income countries, including on issues related to the process of graduating to a higher income status, through the programme of work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, as applicable;

(b) To continue to provide analysis and context-specific capacity-building support on issues relevant to middle-income countries in Asia and the Pacific, such as South-South cooperation, resource mobilization, including financing for development, measures that complement or go beyond gross domestic product and other issues, without duplicating efforts, and to submit its findings to the relevant committees subsidiary to the Commission;

(c) To take into account the work done by the other regional commissions on middle-income countries, as applicable;

(d) To report to the Commission at its eighty-third session on progress made in implementing the present resolution.

*9th plenary meeting  
25 April 2025*

## **Resolution 81/2**

### **Regional cooperation for resilient and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific**

*The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 71/256 of 23 December 2016 on the New Urban Agenda, and noting Assembly resolution 79/1 of 22 September 2024 on the Pact for the Future,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 78/1 of 27 May 2022 entitled “Bangkok Declaration Commemorating the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: a Common Agenda to Advance Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific”, and 79/7 of 19 May 2023 on advancing regional cooperation for sustainable urban development and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific,

*Recognizing* its role in fostering regional and subregional cooperation for sustainable urban development in the light of the megatrend of urbanization and its implications for the Asia-Pacific region, including demographic changes, shifting urban, peri-urban and rural dynamics, a rising demand for resources and persisting gaps in the provision and quality of basic services, and the increasing vulnerability of

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<sup>2</sup> See also General Assembly resolution 79/233, annex, para. 17.

urban areas to natural disasters and environmental challenges, which requires enhanced efforts for sustainable and resilient urban development,

*Acknowledging* the importance of localizing the Sustainable Development Goals to make progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Welcoming* the contributions of national, subnational and local authorities and city networks to the sharing of best practices and urban solutions, including through regional, subregional and national urban forums,

1. *Encourages* all its members and associate members to strengthen regional and subregional cooperation to promote resilient and sustainable urban development and foster inclusive and sustainable economic growth, in accordance with their priorities and circumstances, by:

(a) Sharing information and promoting policy dialogues on urban sectoral policies, including but not limited to policies pertaining to environmental management, social protection, energy transition, urban mobility and transport, transit-oriented development, disaster risk reduction and resilience-building, digitalization, finance, and sustainable consumption and production;

(b) Promoting dialogue and cooperation to accelerate the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of Goal 11, which is aimed at making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;

(c) Developing or enhancing urban policies, in coordination with local authorities and with the involvement of stakeholders, as appropriate, to enhance local action and foster investment in sustainable urban development;

(d) Empowering subnational and local authorities to plan, finance and implement sustainable urban solutions that are aligned with their urban policies and development strategies;

2. *Recognizes* the need for innovative urban solutions to be tailored to national, subnational and local contexts to improve quality of life, reduce environmental impacts, spur inclusive and sustainable economic growth and enable people to live healthy, productive, prosperous and fulfilling lives;

3. *Encourages* members and associate members to utilize technologies that provide equitable access to urban services, including for vulnerable and marginalized populations, increase gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, improve the efficiency and resilience of city operations and create opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship;

4. *Recognizes* the need for urban and territorial planning systems to manage growth and development in a manner that balances objectives such as conserving biodiversity and natural resources, safeguarding food systems, enhancing urban-rural dynamics and generating benefits for urban and rural populations;

5. *Also recognizes* the need to integrate climate action and disaster risk reduction into urban planning, promote nature-based solutions and develop climate- and disaster-resilient infrastructure to build sustainable, adaptable and resilient cities and human settlements capable of withstanding the impacts of climate change, in line with national circumstances and priorities;

6. *Further recognizes* the role of local and subnational authorities in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and notes the role of voluntary local and subnational reviews in contributing to the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, within existing mandates and resources, supplemented by voluntary contributions as necessary:

(a) To continue to facilitate regional and subregional cooperation among members and associate members to promote resilient and sustainable urban development, including through regional and subregional multi-stakeholder dialogues and urban forums;

(b) To strengthen the support provided to members and associate members, including local authorities, upon request and in accordance with their needs and priorities and in collaboration with relevant United Nations entities and partners, to build their capacities to localize the Sustainable Development Goals for resilient and sustainable urban development;

(c) To provide technical assistance, policy analysis and capacity-building support to members and associate members, including local authorities, in accordance with their needs and priorities, on enabling frameworks aimed at enhancing and accelerating local actions and supporting voluntary initiatives to strengthen resilient urban content in their climate and sustainable development strategies;

(d) To promote the sharing of best practices and resources on localization through the Asia-Pacific SDG Localization Platform and to enhance partnerships in support of localization efforts;

(e) To continue to engage with local authorities, cities and human settlements, including megacities, as appropriate, with a view to promoting resilient and sustainable urban development and facilitating the sharing of knowledge, innovative approaches, solutions and best practices;

(f) To report to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its eighty-fourth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*9th plenary meeting  
25 April 2025*

### **Resolution 81/3**

#### **Strengthening cooperation on the water and climate change nexus for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific**

*The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 77/334 of 1 September 2023 on the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028,

*Noting with concern* that climate change is one of the factors that can exacerbate the global water stress and increase the frequency and intensity of water-related disasters in Asia and the Pacific,

*Noting also with concern* the retreat of mountain glaciers, permafrost thaw, mass loss of ice sheets and the decline in the depth, extent and duration of snow cover,

*Noting further with concern* the findings contained in the special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C* and *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*,

*Taking into account* the links between the water and climate agendas, and the opportunity to promote them by building on actions on water adaptation and resilience and fostering early warning systems providing accessible, timely, reliable, disaggregated and fit-for-purpose data and monitoring,

*Taking note* of the final declaration of the third High-level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, held in Dushanbe from 10 to 13 June 2024,<sup>3</sup>

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 77/158 of 14 December 2022 on the International Year of Glaciers’ Preservation, 2025, and Assembly resolution 78/321 of 13 August 2024 on the Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences, 2025–2034,

*Taking note* of General Assembly resolution 78/327 of 6 September 2024 on the modalities of the 2026 United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, which will be held in the United Arab Emirates from 2 to 4 December 2026,

*Noting* that 2025 has been declared the International Year of Glaciers’ Preservation, that 21 March of each year has been proclaimed the World Day for Glaciers, the observation of which started in 2025,<sup>4</sup> and that the Government of Tajikistan will convene, in Dushanbe in 2025, an international conference on glaciers’ preservation, and that these are opportunities for strengthening international solidarity,

*Taking note* of its resolutions 69/8 of 1 May 2013 on enhancing knowledge-sharing and cooperation in integrated water resources management in Asia and the Pacific and 71/9 of 29 May 2015 on strengthening cooperation on sustainable management of water resources in Asia and the Pacific,

*Emphasizing* that there is a need to further strengthen international and regional cooperation and national actions to address the water and climate change nexus, while noting available technologies and the best practices developed in the region,

1. *Encourages* its members and associate members to strengthen collaboration, dialogue and efforts to address the water-related challenges and risks facing the Asia-Pacific region, including by:

(a) Addressing the water and climate change nexus and related integrated water resource management with a view to strengthening institutional capacity, operational, regulatory and legal frameworks, investment strategies and adaptation plans and scaling up best practices for managing water-related challenges and risks;

(b) Promoting an integrated approach to water resource management, planning and policymaking, across sectors and at all levels, using scientific data, to address water-related challenges and risks, including those induced by climate, giving due consideration to leaving no one behind;

(c) Conserving and restoring ecosystems, supporting climate adaptation and mitigation, combating deforestation, land degradation, desertification and sand and dust storms, promoting biodiversity conservation, tackling water pollution and reducing the risk of water-related disasters;

(d) Strengthening resource mobilization measures for the effective management of water resources for sustainable development, managing the risk of water-related disasters and encouraging the adoption of innovative, cost-effective and compatible technologies for efficient water use and water quality improvement;

(e) Promoting multi-stakeholder dialogues and capacity-building and educational opportunities, including for youth and civil society, to strengthen engagement, as appropriate, in addressing the water and climate change nexus;

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<sup>3</sup> A/78/955, annex.

<sup>4</sup> See General Assembly resolution 77/158, para. 1.

2. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups, other relevant stakeholders and donors to voluntarily contribute to the trust fund in support of activities for glaciers' preservation,<sup>5</sup> to be coordinated by the Secretary-General, in partnership with relevant agencies of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Meteorological Organization, to support countries in addressing issues related to accelerated melting of glaciers and its consequences;

3. *Welcomes* the generous offer of the Government of Tajikistan to convene an international conference dedicated to glaciers' preservation, to be held in Dushanbe in 2025, and to assume the costs of the conference, and encourages Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other relevant stakeholders to participate actively in the conference with a view to promoting action for the preservation of glaciers and measures to address the implications of melting glaciers;

4. *Also welcomes* the offer of the Government of Tajikistan to host the Asia-Pacific regional preparatory meeting ahead of the 2026 United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;<sup>6</sup>

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, within existing mandates and available resources:

(a) To strengthen collaboration between the secretariat and relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, regional and subregional organizations and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, with a view to continuing to support dialogue and the exchange of experiences on scientific collaboration on the water and climate change nexus with such organizations in order to avoid duplication of efforts;

(b) To promote regional cooperation and the exchange of experiences on addressing the water and climate change nexus through the sharing of expertise and best practices, in particular for countries and subregions experiencing acute water-related challenges and risks;

(c) To convene in Dushanbe an Asia-Pacific regional preparatory meeting for the 2026 United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6;

(d) To report to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its eighty-fourth session on progress made in implementing the present resolution.

*9th plenary meeting  
25 April 2025*

#### **Resolution 81/4**

#### **Astana Ministerial Declaration on Digital Inclusion and Transformation in Asia and the Pacific**

##### *The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific*

1. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Government of Kazakhstan to host the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation, which was held in Astana from 3 to 5 September 2024;

<sup>5</sup> The trust fund to support the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

<sup>6</sup> See General Assembly resolution 78/327.

2. *Takes note* of the Astana Ministerial Declaration on Digital Inclusion and Transformation in Asia and the Pacific,<sup>7</sup> which was the outcome of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation;

3. *Notes* the process initiated for the further consideration of the proposal of the Government of Kazakhstan for the establishment of an Asia-Pacific digital solutions centre for sustainable development, in Kazakhstan, as a regional institution of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;

4. *Also notes* in this regard that, through voluntary funding contributions, an independent feasibility study on the role, structure and financing of the proposed digital solutions centre for sustainable development has been commissioned and that an ad hoc working group open to all members and associate members has been established, with online participation available, to review in a transparent manner the outcome of the independent feasibility study and recommend a road map for strengthening the sharing of practical digital solutions for the Asia-Pacific region.

*9th plenary meeting  
25 April 2025*

## **B. Decisions adopted by the Commission at its eighty-first session**

### **Decision 81/1**

#### **Current and emerging policy issues for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific took note of the note by the secretariat on current and emerging policy issues for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/81/2).

### **Decision 81/2**

#### **Subregional perspectives on current and emerging policy issues for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific took note of the note by the secretariat on subregional perspectives on current and emerging policy issues for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/81/3).

### **Decision 81/3**

#### **Summary of the theme study on regional cooperation for resilient and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific took note of the note by the secretariat containing a summary of the theme study on regional cooperation for resilient and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/81/4).

### **Decision 81/4**

#### **Summary of the *Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2025: Harnessing a New Generation of Programmes of Action for Sustainable Development Ambitions***

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific took note of the note by the secretariat containing a summary of the *Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report*

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<sup>7</sup> ESCAP/MCDIT/5/Add.1.

*2025: Harnessing a New Generation of Programmes of Action for Sustainable Development Ambitions (ESCAP/81/5).*

**Decision 81/5**

**Decisions taken by the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia at its nineteenth session**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific took note of the note by the secretariat transmitting the decisions taken by the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia at its nineteenth session (ESCAP/81/7).

**Decision 81/6**

**Twelfth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the report<sup>8</sup> on the Twelfth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (ESCAP/RFSD/2025/6) and took note of the note by the secretariat containing a summary of the round-table discussions (ESCAP/RFSD/2025/6/Add.1).

**Decision 81/7**

**Eighth session of the Committee on Social Development**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the report<sup>8</sup> of the Committee on Social Development on its eighth session (ESCAP/CSD(8)/6).

**Decision 81/8**

**Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the report<sup>8</sup> on the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review (ESCAP/MCBR/2024/5) and took note of the Chair's summary of the Ministerial Conference (ESCAP/MCBR/2024/5/Add.1).

**Decision 81/9**

**Second Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the report<sup>8</sup> on the Second Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (ESCAP/GCM/2025/5).

**Decision 81/10**

**Eighth session of the Committee on Environment and Development**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the report<sup>8</sup> of the Committee on Environment and Development on its eighth session (ESCAP/CED(8)/6).

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<sup>8</sup> The word "report" is used to refer to the text adopted in session only.

**Decision 81/11**

**Twentieth session of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the report<sup>8</sup> of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its twentieth session (ESCAP/81/10).

**Decision 81/12**

**Ninth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the report<sup>8</sup> of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management on its ninth session (ESCAP/81/12).

**Decision 81/13**

**Eighth session of the Committee on Transport**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the report<sup>8</sup> of the Committee on Transport on its eighth session (ESCAP/CTR(8)/9).

**Decision 81/14**

**Twentieth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the report<sup>8</sup> of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its twentieth session (ESCAP/81/17).

**Decision 81/15**

**Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific took note of the report<sup>8</sup> on the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation (ESCAP/MCDIT/5).

**Decision 81/16**

**Nineteenth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the report<sup>8</sup> of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its nineteenth session (ESCAP/81/19).

**Decision 81/17**

**Ninth session of the Committee on Statistics**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the report<sup>8</sup> of the Committee on Statistics on its ninth session (ESCAP/CST(9)/6).



### **Decision 81/18**

#### **Twentieth session of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the report<sup>8</sup> of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its twentieth session (ESCAP/81/21).

### **Decision 81/19**

#### **Other documents on the review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific took note of the following documents:

- (a) Key social development priorities for Asia and the Pacific in the context of the Second World Summit for Social Development (ESCAP/81/9);
- (b) Regional cooperation to enhance multilevel action and raise climate ambitions (ESCAP/81/11);
- (c) Advancing multi-hazard early warnings for all through regional cooperation (ESCAP/81/13);
- (d) Promoting just energy transitions to support sustainable urban development (ESCAP/81/14);
- (e) Enhancing the resilience and sustainability of urban public transport systems in Asia-Pacific cities (ESCAP/81/15);
- (f) Macroeconomic prospects, challenges and policy issues for the Asia-Pacific region (ESCAP/81/16);
- (g) Reimagining private sector engagement for urban development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/81/18);
- (h) Strengthening cooperation on emerging digital technologies through the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative and the Astana Ministerial Declaration on Digital Inclusion and Transformation in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/81/20);
- (i) Whole-of-society approach to building agile statistical systems (ESCAP/81/22);
- (j) Summary of progress made in the implementation of the resolutions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/81/6);
- (k) Annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/81/8);
- (l) Note verbale dated 13 February 2025 from the Embassy of Nepal in Bangkok addressed to the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific transmitting the Chair's summary of the high-level Regional Consultation on Financing for Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok and online on 17 and 18 December 2024 in preparation for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (ESCAP/81/31).

### **Decision 81/20**

#### **Proposed programme plan for 2026**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the proposed programme plan for 2026 (ESCAP/81/23).

## Decision 81/21

### Overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific took note of the note by the secretariat on the overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development (ESCAP/81/24) and expressed its appreciation for the following contributions pledged by members and associate members for 2025:

1. **Brunei Darussalam.** The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Brunei Darussalam would make the following contributions:

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	\$15 000
Pacific trust fund	\$1 000

2. **Cambodia.** The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Cambodia would make the following contributions:

ESCAP programme of work	\$2 000
Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development	\$2 000
Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management	\$2 000
Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization	\$2 000
Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	\$2 000

3. **China.** The delegation of China announced that its Government would make contributions to the China-ESCAP Cooperation Programme, the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization and other subsidiary bodies and support work in relevant specialized areas. The amount of the contributions had yet to be approved.

4. **Japan.** The delegation of Japan provided written notification to the secretariat and announced that its Government would make the following contributions for the period from April 2025 to March 2026:

Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	\$10 803
Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	\$1 841 565

In addition, the Government of Japan would make an in-kind contribution equivalent to \$992,620 to the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific for the period from April 2025 to March 2026. Furthermore, as part of its technical cooperation programme, the delegation announced its Government's intention to provide fellowships for participants to attend a three-month training course through the Japan International Cooperation Agency, in cooperation with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

5. **India.** The delegation of India provided written notification to the secretariat and announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	\$870 000
Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development	\$20 000
Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	\$25 000
Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia	\$79 000
ESCAP multi-donor trust fund for tsunami, disaster and climate preparedness	\$500 000

6. **Malaysia.** The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Malaysia would make the following contributions:

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	\$6 000
Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	\$20 000

7. **Republic of Korea.** The delegation of the Republic of Korea provided written notification to the secretariat and announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	\$225 181
ESCAP programme of work	\$212 380
North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation	\$95 861
Capacity-development trust fund for the promotion of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement and trade facilitation activities	\$220 000
Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth	\$94 512
Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development	\$1 489 259
Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	\$20 252
Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization	\$10 000
Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	\$45 111
Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia	\$1 141 000

In addition, the Government of the Republic of Korea would provide an in-kind contribution in the form of the services of seven experts, on a non-reimbursable loan basis, in 2025.

8. **Singapore.** The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Singapore would make the following contribution:

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	\$15 000
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9. **Thailand.** The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Thailand would make the following contributions:

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	\$15 000
Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization	\$15 000
Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	\$23 000
Pacific trust fund	\$1 000

10. **Macao, China.** The secretariat had received written notification that the government of Macao, China, would make the following contributions:

Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development	\$5 000
Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	\$5 000
Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management	\$10 000
Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	\$20 000

**Decision 81/22**

**Evaluation of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the recommendations contained in the note by the secretariat on the evaluation of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (ESCAP/81/25).

**Decision 81/23**

**Evaluation of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the recommendations contained in the note by the secretariat on the evaluation of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (ESCAP/81/26).

**Decision 81/24**

**Evaluation of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the secretariat's response to the recommendations contained in the note by the secretariat on the evaluation of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/81/27).

**Decision 81/25**

**Midpoint review of the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific took note of the note by the secretariat on the midpoint review of the conference structure of the Commission (ESCAP/81/28).

**Decision 81/26**

**Clarifying the working methods of the committees subsidiary to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, recalling its resolution 80/4 of 26 April 2024, decided that, without prejudice to rules 31 and 32 of its rules of procedure, members of the Commission intending to submit draft decisions and draft recommendations to be considered by its subsidiary bodies, in particular the committees, are strongly encouraged to submit them to the Executive Secretary at least one month prior to the commencement of the session, in order to allow sufficient time for review by the members and associate members of the Commission.

**Decision 81/27**

**Renaming the Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, recalling its resolution 78/2 of 27 May 2022, decided to rename the Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States as the Special Body on Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

**Decision 81/28**

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

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific took note of the report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ESCAP/81/29).

**Decision 81/29**

**Dates and venue of and theme for the eighty-second session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (2026)**

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific took note of the note by the secretariat on the dates and venue of and theme for the eighty-second session of the Commission (2026) (ESCAP/81/30) and decided that its eighty-second session would be held in Baku from 20 to 24 April 2026. The Commission also decided that the theme for its eighty-second session would be “Leaving no one behind: advancing a society for all ages in Asia and the Pacific”.

## Chapter II

### Organization of the eighty-first session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

#### A. Attendance and organization of work

3. The eighty-first session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific was held in Bangkok from 21 to 25 April 2025.

4. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members:

##### *Members*

Armenia  
Australia  
Azerbaijan  
Bangladesh  
Bhutan  
Brunei Darussalam  
Cambodia  
China  
Democratic People's Republic of Korea  
Fiji  
France  
Georgia  
India  
Indonesia  
Iran (Islamic Republic of)  
Japan  
Kazakhstan  
Lao People's Democratic Republic  
Malaysia  
Maldives  
Marshall Islands  
Mongolia  
Nepal  
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)  
New Zealand  
Pakistan  
Papua New Guinea  
Philippines  
Republic of Korea  
Russian Federation  
Singapore  
Solomon Islands  
Sri Lanka  
Tajikistan  
Thailand  
Timor-Leste  
Türkiye  
Turkmenistan  
Tuvalu  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
United States of America  
Vanuatu  
Viet Nam

*Associate members*

Cook Islands  
Hong Kong, China  
Macao, China

5. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of Germany, Mexico, Morocco, Romania, South Africa, Spain and Switzerland attended. Representatives of the Holy See also attended.

6. Representatives of the following offices of the Secretariat attended: Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the secretariat of the Special Envoy for Road Safety, the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office in India and the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office in Thailand.

7. Representatives of the following United Nations specialized agencies, funds, programmes and other United Nations entities attended: International Atomic Energy Agency, International Labour Organization, International Organization for Migration, secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Population Fund and World Meteorological Organization.

8. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: Asia Cooperation Dialogue, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia, ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee, Eurasian Economic Commission, International Coconut Community, International Pepper Community, International Transport Forum, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, Mekong Institute, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat.

9. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations and other entities attended as observers: Asian Coalition for Housing Rights; Bloomberg Philanthropies; Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation; Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations; Habitat for Humanity International; International Committee of the Red Cross; International Federation of Business and Professional Women; International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; Malaysian Medical Relief Society; Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company; Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association; Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George; Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta; Stichting The Ocean Cleanup; Thammasat University; and Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform. Representatives of local authorities also attended.

10. The list of participants is available online.<sup>9</sup>

11. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 21 April 2025, and in accordance with rule 13 of its rules of procedure, the Commission elected Ms. Arzu Rana Deuba (Nepal) as Chair of the eighty-first session.

12. At the same meeting, the Commission also elected the following Vice-Chairs:

Mr. Panapasi Nelesone (Tuvalu)  
Mr. Ly Thuch (Cambodia)  
Mr. Maciu Katamotu Nalumisa (Fiji)  
Mr. Tumur Amarsanaa (Mongolia)

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<sup>9</sup> See [www.unescap.org/events/commission81](http://www.unescap.org/events/commission81).

Ms. Millicent Cruz-Paredes (Philippines)  
Ms. Rukhsana Afzaal (Pakistan)  
Mr. Faiyaz Murshid Kazi (Bangladesh)  
Mr. Elchin Bashirov (Azerbaijan)

13. The Commission constituted the Working Group on Draft Resolutions to consider the draft resolutions and draft decisions submitted prior to the session. Mr. Faiyaz Murshid Kazi (Bangladesh) was elected Chair and Ms. Cataleya Phatoomros (Thailand) was elected Vice-Chair of the Working Group.

14. In accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure of the Commission, the Chair and Vice-Chairs examined the credentials of all the representatives and reported upon them to the Commission. The credentials of 43 member States were found to be in order. Acknowledging the report of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session,<sup>10</sup> and in line with Assembly resolution 396 (V) of 14 December 1950, the bureau decided to defer any action on the credentials pertaining to the representatives of Myanmar at the eighty-first session of the Commission.

15. The Commission took note of the report of the Chair and Vice-Chairs on credentials.

## **B. Agenda**

16. The Commission adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session:
  - (a) Opening addresses;
  - (b) Election of officers;
  - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Current and emerging policy issues for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific:
  - (a) General debate;
  - (b) Subregional perspectives.
3. Theme: “Regional cooperation for resilient and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific”.
4. Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States.
5. Review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific:
  - (a) Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development;
  - (b) Social development;
  - (c) Environment and development;
  - (d) Disaster risk reduction;
  - (e) Energy;

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<sup>10</sup> A/79/613.



- (f) Transport;
  - (g) Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development;
  - (h) Trade, investment, enterprise and business innovation;
  - (i) Information and communications technology, science, technology and innovation;
  - (j) Statistics.
6. Management issues:
- (a) Proposed programme plan for 2026;
  - (b) Overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development;
  - (c) Evaluation of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management;
  - (d) Evaluation of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization;
  - (e) Evaluation of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.
7. Midpoint review of the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.
8. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.
9. Dates and venue of and theme for the eighty-second session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (2026).
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on its eighty-first session.

### **C. Opening of the session**

17. The Chair presided over the opening of the eighty-first session, on 21 April 2025. A statement was delivered by the Prime Minister of Thailand, Ms. Paetongtarn Shinawatra. Video messages were played from the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session, Mr. Philemon Yang; the eightieth President of the Economic and Social Council, Mr. Bob Rae; and the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Executive Secretary of the Commission delivered her own welcoming remarks and a policy statement.

18. A video message was played from the Chief Adviser of Bangladesh, Mr. Muhammad Yunus. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Tuvalu, Mr. Panapasi Nelesone, delivered a statement.

### **D. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its eighty-first session**

19. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 April 2025, the Commission adopted the report on its eighty-first session.

## Chapter III

### Work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific since its eightieth session

#### A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

20. During the period under review, the following intergovernmental meetings and meetings of subsidiary bodies were held:

- (a) Committees:
  - (i) Committee on Social Development (eighth session);
  - (ii) Committee on Environment and Development (eighth session);
  - (iii) Committee on Transport (eighth session);
  - (iv) Committee on Statistics (ninth session);
- (b) Governing councils:
  - (i) Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (nineteenth session);
  - (ii) Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (twentieth session);
  - (iii) Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (twentieth session);
  - (iv) Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (twentieth session);
  - (v) Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (ninth session);
- (c) Other intergovernmental meetings:
  - (i) Paperless Trade Council of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (third session);
  - (ii) Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation;
  - (iii) Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review;
  - (iv) Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (nineteenth session);
  - (v) Second Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration;
  - (vi) Twelfth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

21. The dates, bureaux and document symbols of the reports of the meetings are given in annex II. The reports reflect the discussions held, the agreements reached and the decisions taken.

#### B. Publications

22. The list of publications issued since the eightieth session of the Commission and pre-session documents submitted to it at its present session are listed in annex III.

**C. Relations with other United Nations bodies**

23. The secretariat maintained close and regular contact with various divisions at Headquarters and with the secretariats of the other regional commissions on projects of common interest.

## Annex I

### **Statement of programme budget implications of actions and proposals of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

1. The requests contained in the resolutions listed below will have no programme budget implications for the approved programme budget for 2025<sup>1</sup> and the proposed programme budget of the United Nations for 2026;<sup>2</sup>

(a) Resolution 81/1: Advancing the sustainable development of middle-income countries in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) Resolution 81/2: Regional cooperation for resilient and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific;

(c) Resolution 81/3: Strengthening cooperation on the water and climate change nexus for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific;

(d) Resolution 81/4: Astana Ministerial Declaration on Digital Inclusion and Transformation in Asia and the Pacific.

2. As appropriate, extrabudgetary resources will be sought for the implementation of the activities required under the above-mentioned resolutions.

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 79/259 A–C.

<sup>2</sup> A/80/6 (Sect. 19).

## Annex II

### Meetings of subsidiary bodies and other intergovernmental bodies held since the eightieth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

<i>Subsidiary bodies and officers</i>		<i>Session</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>
<i>Committees</i>			
<b>I. Committee on Social Development</b>		Eighth session Bangkok 8–10 October 2024	ESCAP/CSD(8)/6
Chair:	Mr. Maliki (Indonesia)		
Vice-Chairs:	Mr. Prakash Kumar Shrestha (Nepal) Mrs. Serap Ersoy (Türkiye)		
<b>II. Committee on Environment and Development</b>		Eighth session Bangkok 16–18 October 2024	ESCAP/CED(8)/6
Chair:	Ms. Norliza Hashim (Malaysia)		
Vice-Chairs:	Mr. Amenatave Yauvoli (Fiji) Mr. Hyungsup Lee (Republic of Korea)		
<b>III. Committee on Transport</b>		Eighth session Bangkok 5–7 November 2024	ESCAP/CTR(8)/9
Chair:	Mr. Abdul Latheef Mohamed (Maldives)		
Vice-Chairs:	Mrs. E.A.S. Wijayanthi Edirisinghe (Sri Lanka) Mr. Faiyaz Murshid Kazi (Bangladesh)		
<b>IV. Committee on Statistics</b>		Ninth session Bangkok 11–13 December 2024	ESCAP/CST(9)/6
Chair:	Mr. Eng Chuan Koh (Singapore)		
Vice-Chairs:	Ms. Jianhong Ruan (China) Mr. Olzhas Tuleuov (Kazakhstan) Mr. Bakhodir Begalov (Uzbekistan)		
Member	Ms. Aritita Tekaieti (Kiribati)		
Rapporteur:	Ms. Aishath Hassan (Maldives)		

<i>Subsidiary bodies and officers</i>		<i>Session</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>
<i>Governing councils of regional institutions</i>			
<b>I. Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development</b>		Nineteenth session Astana 4 September 2024	ESCAP/81/19
Chair:	Ms. Somaly Nguon (Cambodia)		
Vice-Chair:	Mr. Jimmicio Daoaten (Philippines)		
<b>II. Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology</b>		Twentieth session Tehran and online 27 and 28 November 2024	ESCAP/81/17
Chair:	Mr. Alireza Bassiri (Islamic Republic of Iran)		
Vice-Chair:	Ms. Nongnuch Chunbandhit (Thailand)		
<b>III. Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization</b>		Twentieth session Tashkent 27 November 2024	ESCAP/81/10
Chair:	Mr. Anuchit Chamsing (Thailand)		
Vice-Chair:	Ms. Mst. Zohra Khatoon (Bangladesh)		
<b>IV. Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific</b>		Twentieth session Bangkok 9 and 10 December 2024	ESCAP/81/21
Chair:	Mr. Saurabh Garg (India)		
Vice-Chair:	Mr. Masakazu Nagata (Japan)		
<b>V. Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management</b>		Ninth session Tehran and online 22 January 2025	ESCAP/81/12
Chair:	Mr. Mohammad Ghasemi (Islamic Republic of Iran)		
Vice-Chair:	Mr. Kuldeep Srivastava (India)		
<i>Other intergovernmental meetings</i>			
<b>I. Paperless Trade Council of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific</b>		Third session Bangkok and online 6 and 7 June 2024	ESCAP/PTA/PTC(3)/3
Chair:	Mr. Sanzharbek Bolotov (Kyrgyzstan)		
Vice-Chair:	Mr. Juvençio Martins (Timor-Leste)		

<i>Subsidiary bodies and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>
<b>II. Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation</b>  Chair: Mr. Zhaslan Madiyev (Kazakhstan)  Vice-Chairs: Ms. Millicent Cruz-Paredes (Philippines) Mr. Sanghoon Song (Republic of Korea) Mr. Poumulinuku Onesemo (Samoa)	Astana 3–5 September 2024	ESCAP/MCDIT/5
<b>III. Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review</b>  Chair: Ms. Ing Kantha Phavi (Cambodia)  Vice-Chairs: Ms. Sharmeen S. Murshid (Bangladesh) Ms. Lin Yi (China) Ms. Lynda Diseru Tabuya (Fiji) Ms. Zahra Behrouz Azar (Islamic Republic of Iran) Ms. Aly Vongnorbountham (Lao People's Democratic Republic) Mr. Jess Gasper, Jr. (Marshall Islands) Mr. Munkhtushig Lkhanaajav (Mongolia) Ms. Charmaine E. Scotty (Nauru) Mr. Gustav N. Aitaro (Palau) Mr. Jason Peter (Papua New Guinea) Ms. Ermelita V. Valdeavilla (Philippines) Ms. Mulipola Anarosa Ale - Molio'o (Samoa) Mr. Varawut Silpa-archa (Thailand) Ms. Elvina Sousa Carvalho (Timor-Leste) Mr. Lord Vaea (Tonga) Mrs. Oguljennet Berdiliyeva (Turkmenistan) Mr. Monise Laafai (Tuvalu) Mrs. Nguyen Thi Ha (Viet Nam)	Bangkok 19–21 November 2024	ESCAP/MCBR/2024/5
<b>IV. Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia</b>  Chair: Mr. Ahliddin Nuriddinzoda (Tajikistan)	Nineteenth session Dushanbe 28 November 2024	ESCAP/81/7

<i>Subsidiary bodies and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>
<b>V. Second Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration</b>  Chair: Mr. Viliame Naupoto (Fiji)  Vice-Chairs: Ms. Chou Bun Eng (Cambodia) Mr. Faiyaz Murshid Kazi (Bangladesh) Ms. Indah Nuria Savitri (Indonesia)	Bangkok 4–6 February 2025	ESCAP/GCM/2025/5
<b>VI. Twelfth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development</b>  Chair: Mr. Suman Bery (India)  Vice-Chairs: Mr. Chencho (Bhutan) Mr. Florian J. Yatilman (Federated States of Micronesia) Mr. Shigemi Ando (Japan) Mr. Shiva Raj Adhikari (Nepal)	Bangkok 25–28 February 2025	ESCAP/RFSD/2025/6



## Annex III

### Publications and documents issued by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

#### I. Publications issued since the eightieth session

##### Executive direction and management

*Annual report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, 20 May 2023–26 April 2024 (E/2024/39).*

*What's Ahead @ ESCAP.\**

*Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2025: Harnessing a New Generation of Programmes of Action for Sustainable Development Ambitions (Sales No. E.25.II.F.5).*

*Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Journal, vol. 31, No. 1, May 2024 (Sales No. E.24.II.F.4).*

*Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Journal, vol. 31, No. 2, November 2024 (Sales No. E.24.II.F.5).*

*Delivering a Just Transition: Advancing Decent Work, Gender Equality, and Social Protection (Bangkok, Asian Development Bank, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and United Nations Development Programme, 2025).*

*Urban Transformation in Asia and the Pacific: From Growth to Resilience (Sales No. E.25.II.F.2).*

*CSS Policy Briefs:\**

No. 24-1, April 2024: “Gender-responsive financing solutions for sustainable and resilient energy and food systems in Asia-Pacific”.

No. 24-2, May 2024: “Leveraging digitalization to foster sustainable development in LLDCs”.

No. 24-3, May 2024: “Decent work solutions at the intersection of climate change and poverty in Asia and the Pacific”.

No. 24-4, May 2024: “Combating climate change and poverty in Asia-Pacific least developed countries: a call for integrated approaches”.

No. 24-5, May 2024: “Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries: key features and its alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals”.

No. 24-6, September 2024: “The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS): A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity – key features and its alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals”.

No. 25-1, January 2025: “The Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2024–2034: key features and its alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals”.

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\* Available online only.

**Subprogramme 1**  
**Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development**

*Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2025: Understanding the Macroeconomic Implications of Climate Change* (Sales No. E.25.II.F.3).

*MPFD Policy Briefs:*\*

- No. 128, July 2024: “Beyond inclusion: building people’s financial resilience”.
- No. 129, December 2024: “Unlocking the potential of multilateral development banks: boosting lending capacity and operational efficiency”.
- No. 130, December 2024: “Tax compliance: rationale and behavioral aspects of taxpayer motives”.
- No. 131, December 2024: “Managing the risks of foreign currency financing in Asia and the Pacific”.

*MPFD Working Papers:*\*

- WP/24/01, April 2024: “Increasing domestic resource mobilization through the digitalization of tax administrations in Asia and the Pacific: progress, challenges, and opportunities”.
- WP/24/02, April 2024: “Towards an integrated national financing framework for Pakistan”.

**Subprogramme 2**  
**Trade, investment and innovation <sup>1</sup>**

*Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Trends 2024/2025:*\*

- December 2024: “Trade in goods and services outlook in Asia and the Pacific”.
- December 2024: “Preferential trade agreements”.
- December 2024: “Foreign direct investment”.

*Studies in Trade, Investment and Innovation Series:*\*

- No. 99, *Navigating Digital Trade towards Sustainable Development: Empirical Insights and Policy Implications*. ESCAP/2-TR/33.
- No. 100, *Advancing the Green Transition of SMEs: Insights for SME Development Agencies to Support Sustainability Practices and Reporting*. ESCAP/2-TR/34.

*Trade, Investment and Innovation Working Paper Series:*\*

- January 2024: “Trade digitalization index: a new tool for assessing the global state of play in the digitalization of trade procedures”.
- September 2024: “Impact of disaggregated trade facilitation indicators and individual measures on trade using a structural gravity model”.
- January 2025: “Impact of trade facilitation, digitalization and sector-specific measures on agricultural trade”.

**Subprogramme 3**  
**Transport**

*Review of Developments in Transport in Asia and the Pacific 2024: Transition towards Sustainable Transport Solutions* (Sales No. E.24.II.F.13).

*Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific: No. 94.*

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<sup>1</sup> Including the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology.

**Subprogramme 4**  
**Environment and development**

*2024 Review of Climate Ambition in Asia and the Pacific: From Ambitions to Results – Sectoral Solutions and Integrated Action*. ESCAP/4-TR/32.

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

*Asia-Pacific Digital Transformation Report 2024: Digital Innovation for Smarter Climate Action* (Sales No. E.24.II.F.10).

*Geospatial Practices for Sustainable Development in East and North-East Asia 2024: A Compendium* (Sales No. E.24.II.F.11).

*Study on the Necessity, Viability and Modalities for the Establishment of the United Nations Special Programme for the Aral Sea Basin*. ESCAP/5-TR/43.

**Subprogramme 6**  
**Social development**

“2024 ESCAP population data insights”.

*Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2024: Assessing Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration*.

*Charting New Paths for Gender Equality and Empowerment: Asia-Pacific Regional Report on Beijing+30 Review* (Sales No. E.24.II.F.12).

*Readiness to Implement the Action Plan to Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Social Protection: Nepal*.

*Social Outlook for Asia and the Pacific 2024: Protecting Our Future Today – Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific* (Sales No. E.24.II.F.8).

*Social Development Division Working Paper Series*:\*

October 2024: “The price of inaction on social protection in Asia and the Pacific: a CGE model for 27 countries in Asia and the Pacific”.

December 2024: “Stepping stones towards social protection and climate resilience in the Maldives”.

January 2025: “Leaving no one behind: child labour in Asia and the Pacific”.

January 2025: “Leaving no one behind: slum households in Asia”.

**Subprogramme 7**  
**Statistics**

*Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2025: Engaging Communities to Close the Evidence Gap* (Sales No. E.25.II.F.1).

*Stats Briefs*:\*

No. 34, March 2024: “Data governance: practices in Asia and the Pacific”.

No. 35, September 2024: “Understanding and improving adult mortality measurement in a changing demographic landscape”.

No. 36, February 2025: “Alternative data sources for price statistics: Uzbekistan’s experience modernizing the consumer price index”.

**Subprogramme 8**  
**Subregional activities for development**

*Leveraging Digital Technologies to Improve Quality of Life for Older Persons.*  
ESCAP/8.2-TR/27.

**Subprogramme 9**  
**Energy**

“Digitalization and artificial intelligence for achieving SDG 7 and the energy transition in Asia and the Pacific”. ESCAP/9-WP/95.

*Passive Design in Cambodian Architecture: A Look at Past and Current Use of Passive Cooling Strategies.* ESCAP/9-TR/23.

*Power Market Road Map for Central and West Asia: Promoting Cross-Border Electricity Connectivity for Sustainable Development.* ESCAP/9-TR/29.

*Regional Trends Report 2024: Energy Connectivity for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific – Implementing the Regional Road Map on Power System Connectivity.* ESCAP/9-TR/37.

**II. Documents submitted to the Commission at its eighty-first session**

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Document title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
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ESCAP/81/L.1	Draft report: Organization of the eighty-first session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	11
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ESCAP/GCM/2025/5	Report on the Second Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	5 (b)
ESCAP/CED(8)/6	Report of the Committee on Environment and Development on its eighth session	5 (c)
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ESCAP/MCDIT/5	Report on the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation	5 (i)
ESCAP/MCDIT/5/Add.1	Astana Ministerial Declaration on Digital Inclusion and Transformation in Asia and the Pacific	5 (i)
ESCAP/CST(9)/6	Report of the Committee on Statistics on its ninth session	5 (j)

B25-00147

ISBN: 9789210035422



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