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Agenda item 4 (d)

Management issues: Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions

Draft report

Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions

1. The Commission had before it the overview of technical cooperation activities and extrabudgetary contributions (E/ESCAP/68/18).
2. Representatives of the following countries made statements: China; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Malaysia; Mongolia; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; and Thailand.
3. In her introductory remarks, the Executive Secretary highlighted three key drivers underpinning the mandate and role of ESCAP: results, partnerships and building ESCAP as a learning organization. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission about the steps the secretariat had initiated to strengthen the results-oriented focus of its technical cooperation work, which included: (a) larger, longer-term and better aligned capacity development projects, with emphasis on improved performance through strengthened results-based management; (b) a resource mobilization strategy that provides a framework for a more proactive approach to partnerships and donor relations, and the establishment of a Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Section; (c) continued efforts to strengthen relations with partners through meetings with a number of member States and donor agencies; and (d) enhanced engagement with some private sector counterparts as partners in promoting and delivering capacity development. The Executive Secretary also highlighted examples of how the secretariat's technical cooperation programme was implemented, with capacity development, knowledge-sharing and South-South cooperation as central features.
4. The Commission noted that total contributions received by the secretariat for technical cooperation activities in 2011 from the regular budget of the United Nations as well as voluntary sources amounted to approximately \$15.5 million, with the total volume of technical cooperation delivery in 2011 being approximately \$18.2 million.
5. The delegation of China emphasized the priority attached by its Government to technical cooperation activities jointly conducted with

ESCAP. Noting that ESCAP and China had undertaken more than 200 projects, the delegation highlighted the priority given to South-South cooperation in that context. The delegation underscored its Government's relationship with the secretariat, which was trust and efficient communication, as well as the importance of increasing communication between the secretariat and member States generally, listening to the priorities of member States, fully utilizing available resources and promoting innovation. The delegation affirmed its Government's continued funding support for the technical cooperation programme of ESCAP and for the work of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM) specifically.

6. The delegation of the Russian Federation welcomed the high level of results achieved through cooperation between ESCAP and its Government. It pointed out that secretariat projects funded from voluntary contributions of the Russian Federation had been implemented in accordance with the expectations of recipient countries. The delegation expressed appreciation for the efforts of the secretariat to work out administrative arrangements for cooperation with the Russian Federation.

7. The delegations of India and the Republic of Korea specifically highlighted the performance and importance of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT) in human and institutional capacity development. The delegation of the Republic of Korea reiterated the importance of information and communications technology (ICT) as a key enabler of development which contributed to progress across all sectors. It noted that the work of APCICT had been adopted and institutionalized in many countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

8. The Commission noted the following contributions pledged by members and associate members for 2012.

9. *Bangladesh.* The secretariat received written notification that the Government of Bangladesh would make the following contributions:

APCICT	\$5,000
APCTT	\$5,000
CAPSA	\$1,000
SIAP	\$3,000
UNAPCAEM	\$3,000

10. *China.* The delegation of China indicated that its Government would make the following contributions:

China-ESCAP Cooperation Programme	\$200,000 and RMB 1,500,000
SIAP	\$50,000

In addition, the delegation of China informed the Commission that its Government would make an annual contribution to UNAPCAEM in an amount to be specified later, and to APCTT in the amount of \$30,000, pending confirmation.

11. *India.* The delegation of India indicated that its Government would make the following contributions:

APCICT	\$20,000
APCTT	\$200,000
Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia	\$79,000

The delegation informed the Commission of its active consideration to provide enhanced contributions to SIAP and UNAPCAEM. It noted that the Government of India had released the sum of \$154,000 during 2011 and 2012 to support the establishment of the Subregional Office for South and South West Asia in New Delhi.

12. *Indonesia.* The delegation of Indonesia indicated that its Government would make the following contributions:

APCTT	\$10,000
SIAP	\$30,000
UNAPCAEM	\$29,982

In addition, the delegation of Indonesia informed the Commission of its intention to make in-kind contributions equivalent to \$230,000 to APCICT and equivalent to \$100,000 to the Centre for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA) and to strive to maintain its overall level of contributions to ESCAP.

13. *Iran (Islamic Republic of).* The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran indicated that its Government would make the following contributions:

ESCAP programme of work	\$40,000
APCTT	\$10,000
SIAP	\$15,000
UNAPCAEM	\$15,000

The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran further informed the Commission of its intention to contribute to the third Ministerial Conference on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific to be held in Tehran in November 2012.

14. *Japan.* The delegation of Japan indicated that its Government would make the following contributions for the period April 2012 to March 2013:

Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	\$72,250
SIAP	\$1,652,000

The delegation indicated that its Government intended to make a contribution in-kind equivalent to \$1,283,000 to the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) for the period from April 2012 through March 2013. In addition, the delegation informed the Commission of its Government's intention to provide fellowships for 67 participants in specific training courses on official statistics as part of its technical cooperation programme through the Japan International Cooperation Agency, in cooperation with SIAP.

15. *Macao, China.* The secretariat received written notification that the Government of Macao, China, would make the following contributions:

APCICT	\$5,000
APCTT	\$5,000
CAPSA	\$3,000
SIAP	\$20,000

16. *Malaysia.* The delegation of Malaysia informed the Commission that its Government would continue to support the regional institutions of ESCAP by making the following contributions:

APCTT	\$15,000
SIAP	\$20,000
CAPSA	\$10,000

17. *Mongolia.* The delegation of Mongolia indicated that its Government would make the following contributions:

ESCAP programme of work	\$5,000
APCICT	\$2,000
SIAP	\$10,000

18. *Pakistan.* The delegation of Pakistan indicated that its Government would make the following contribution:

SIAP	\$15,000
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In addition, the delegation indicated that contributions to other regional institutions were under consideration and would be notified in due course.

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

SIAP	\$17,500
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20. *Republic of Korea.* The delegation of the Republic of Korea indicated that its Government would make the following contribution:

Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	\$300,000
APCICT	\$2,200,000
Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia	\$1,426,000

In addition, the delegation informed the Commission of its Government's intention to make an in-kind contribution equivalent to \$300,000 to support the work of APCICT in building human and institutional capacity in ICT in the region.

21. *Russian Federation.* The delegation of the Russian Federation indicated that its Government intended to make a voluntary contribution of \$1,200,000 for the year 2012 for the implementation of mutually agreed technical cooperation projects.

22. *Thailand.* The delegation of Thailand indicated that its Government would make the following contributions:

APCTT	\$15,000
CAPSA	\$10,000
SIAP	\$30,000
UNAPCAEM	\$15,000

The delegation of Thailand also noted that its Government might provide in-kind support to CAPSA through best practice sharing and by sending experts to assist in the fields of production and production control.

23. In concluding, the Executive Secretary thanked the Commission for its wisdom and support of the secretariat's technical cooperation programme. The Executive Secretary expressed appreciation to the members and associate members which had pledged financial support for 2012 for their generosity and assured the Commission that the secretariat would use the financial resources available to it efficiently and effectively to achieve results which would enhance the lives and prospects of people across the region. The Executive Secretary emphasized the value of peer learning in a changing world and the importance of putting such learning into practice in order to improve the work of the secretariat in support of member States.

24. The Commission expressed its appreciation and support for the technical cooperation work of the secretariat, including the five regional institutions.