

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

ANNUAL REPORT
30 April 2021–27 May 2022

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 2022**

SUPPLEMENT No. 19



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List of abbreviations

APCICT	Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development
APCTT	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
APTA	Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement
CSAM	Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
NEASPEC	North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Notes: Values are in United States dollars unless specified otherwise.
The term “billion” signifies a thousand million.

Introduction

1. The seventy-eighth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) was held in Bangkok and online from 23 to 27 May 2022. The present report covers the period from 30 April 2021 to 27 May 2022 and contains the conclusions reached by the Commission. The account of proceedings of the session is contained in a separate document (ESCAP/78/35).

Chapter I

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

2. At its seventy-eighth session, the Commission adopted four resolutions and 14 decisions, which are reproduced below. Resolution 78/2, on a conference structure of the Commission to advance sustainable development, requires action by the Economic and Social Council. The remaining three resolutions are brought to the attention of the Council.

A. Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its seventy-eighth session

Resolution 78/1

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

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Adopts the following declaration:

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

1. We, the members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, have gathered in Bangkok from 23 to 27 May 2022 for the seventy-eighth session of the Commission.

2. We recognize the historic significance of the current session of the Commission in the year that marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Commission.

3. We celebrate a period of seven and a half decades during which membership in the Commission has grown from 10 in 1947 to 62 today and during which the region has made extraordinary socioeconomic progress, in the spirit of unity, solidarity and multilateralism and international cooperation, lifting millions out of poverty, and is now home to some of the world's largest and most dynamic economies and is characterized by a rich diversity of cultures and economic and social systems.

4. At the same time, we recognize the need to address outstanding and emerging development challenges of persisting poverty and inequalities, vulnerability to shocks, natural disasters and climate change and environmental degradation, and reaffirm our commitment to accelerate progress towards a more equal, more resilient and more sustainable world and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹

¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

5. Deeply concerned by the significant adverse health, social and economic effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, particularly on the most vulnerable, we reiterate the need to ensure universal and equitable access to safe, effective, quality and affordable vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, particularly in developing countries and least developed countries, recognizing the role of extensive immunization against COVID-19 as a global public good to get the pandemic under control and invest in people and the planet to build resilience against future pandemics, natural disasters, climate change and other shocks.

6. Recalling the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations,² we reaffirm our commitment to promoting multilateralism and international cooperation, strengthening partnerships for sustainable development, upholding the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations and advancing sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

7. Recognizing the unique challenges of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in the region, who find themselves in increasingly vulnerable situations, we resolve to accelerate the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries,³ the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024⁴ and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,⁵ which will further enhance the overall connectivity of such countries.

8. We take note of the theme study for the seventy-eighth session of the Commission,⁶ in which the secretariat presents research on possible pathways and means to advance sustainable development in the region and identifies elements for a common agenda for our region.

9. We reaffirm the centrality of the United Nations system, and the vital role of the Commission as the main economic and social development arm in the region within this system, in fostering regional and subregional cooperation as well as in assisting members and associate members of the Commission in our efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and commit ourselves to supporting and working collaboratively through the Commission.

10. On this historic occasion, we pledge our strong and continuing support for the leadership role of the Commission in catalysing regional cooperation and supporting actions to confront regional, transboundary and common challenges faced by its membership, and we reaffirm our commitment to advancing sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific and realizing the future we want, in particular the following commitments.

11. We commit to leave no one behind. The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected our livelihood and disrupted societies and economies, particularly the most vulnerable. We reaffirm the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, we wish to see the Sustainable Development Goals met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of societies, and we recommit to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first. In building forward better, we emphasize the importance of implementing equal, sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

12. We commit to put people at the centre of all our efforts while making sustainable development in all its dimensions a priority in the region. Millions in the region have yet to benefit from social protection and are left unprotected against any

² Assembly resolution 75/1.

³ Assembly resolution 76/258, annex.

⁴ Assembly resolution 69/137, annex II.

⁵ Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

⁶ ESCAP/78/1.

form of contingency throughout their lives. Many more have been pushed back into extreme poverty. We need to invest in inclusive national social protection systems that promote access to essential services, resources, human capital development, poverty reduction, education, employment and decent jobs and to strengthen health resilience, including by accelerating efforts towards the achievement of universal health coverage by 2030. In this regard, the Action Plan to Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific⁷ provides an important framework to prevent poverty and reduce vulnerability.

13. We commit to protect our planet. Without more determined actions, we will be more affected by multiple challenges to our common environment, inter alia, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and all types of natural disasters. Small island developing States, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries are among the most affected. We recognize that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is important for the enjoyment of human rights and for sustainable development in all its dimensions. Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to healthy and productive lives in harmony with nature. The well-being of humanity depends on the health of nature and hence on our ability to sustainably use, restore and protect the ecosystem services. Recalling the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁸ and the Paris Agreement,⁹ we need to immediately curb greenhouse gas emissions and pursue an effective and progressive response to the urgent threat of climate change on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge and achieve a more balanced growth, including through sustainable consumption and production patterns, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We also need to take urgent actions to enhance international collaboration for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources and reduce pollution of air, oceans and fresh water, mitigate the impacts of pollution on human health and halt the global decline of biodiversity.

14. We need to mobilize financial resources from all sources and promote the provision and the transfer of appropriate forms of environmentally sound technology on voluntary and mutually agreed terms and build capacity and provide support to help countries to achieve low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development in Asia and the Pacific. We recognize that ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions, among others, play an essential role in the overall global effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, including by effectively and efficiently addressing major social, economic and environmental challenges. We commit to promoting sustainable urban development to enhance quality of life, develop healthy environments and better manage environmental risks and resources.

15. We commit to place all women and girls at the centre of development. Women and girls play a vital role as agents of development, and the achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied its full human rights and opportunities. We will accelerate action to achieve women's active, equal and equitable participation and the empowerment of women and girls in all domains and to strengthen policies and legislation for the promotion of gender equality.

16. We commit to work together to enhance regional connectivity. Integrated and seamless regional connectivity plays an important role in promoting sustainable and inclusive development, eradicating poverty and tackling inequality in Asia and the Pacific. We will work on developing integrated and seamless connectivity across the region and strengthen regional cooperation in infrastructure, trade, finance, human exchange, transport, energy, and information and communications technology, among other areas, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encourage all member States to cooperate in closing connectivity gaps, strengthening digital

⁷ ESCAP/CSD/2020/3, annex III.

⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

⁹ See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

connectivity, promoting the digital economy and sustainable, disaster resilient infrastructure and investment, and enhancing regional supply chain connectivity and diversification, as well as to facilitate recovery and to ensure resilient connectivity during crises.

17. We commit to improve digital cooperation. We recognize that science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technology, are critical in the pursuit of sustainable development and are among the key driving forces of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The fourth industrial revolution, driven by the impact of digital technology, data processing and the development of artificial intelligence, offers unprecedented opportunities and new challenges and has tremendous potential to accelerate the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We endeavour to ensure safe, affordable and equitable digital access for all. We intend to cooperate at all levels, including the ministerial level, in closing the digital connectivity divide, ensuring digital skills training, strengthening digital connectivity, addressing digital trust and security, and promoting an inclusive digital economy and society. In this regard, the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative could be one of the useful regional platforms for the promotion of digital cooperation.

18. We reaffirm that international trade is an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction and that it contributes to the promotion of sustainable development. We, as part of the world's most dynamic and interconnected regional economy, reaffirm our commitment to keep markets open. We will continue to promote a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, with special and differential treatment provisions for developing countries. We note the significance of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement and the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific.¹⁰

19. We underscore the importance of enhancing sustainable financing for development goals. We commit to align public and private financial resources to effectively pursue our sustainable development aspirations. We reaffirm the importance of financing for development as a critical means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in this regard the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.¹¹ We commit to strengthen our fiscal positions, promote regional cooperation where needed and explore various innovative financing instruments and mechanisms, including public and private financing as well as fiscal, market and regulatory mechanisms, as appropriate, that can help to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, based on multilateralism and international cooperation.

20. We reaffirm the commitments set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encourage member States to strengthen statistical departments to deliver data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, as well as other characteristics relevant in national contexts, to support measurement of progress of sustainable development and decision-making.

21. We commit to boost partnerships that strengthen multilateralism and international cooperation. Today's challenges require cooperation across borders as well as across the whole of society. We emphasize the importance of multilateralism and international cooperation and partnership in advancing sustainable development in the region, including by leveraging synergies between the work of the Commission and its parent body, the Economic and Social Council. We encourage the Commission to foster regional cooperation by strengthening linkages with subregional organizations. We encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil

¹⁰ Commission resolution 72/4, annex.

¹¹ General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

society partnerships and commit ourselves to listen to and work with major groups and other stakeholders as appropriate. We recognize the role of the Commission in supporting North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation and note the role of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network.

22. We will listen to and work with youth, who are essential to sustainable development and will have to live with the consequences of our action and inaction. Thus, we will ensure their meaningful engagement.

23. We commit to build our resilience. The COVID-19 pandemic served as a wake-up call for improving our preparedness for not only health-related shocks but also other challenges and crises. We need to advance international and regional cooperation to strengthen the resilience of our economies and societies against wide-ranging socioeconomic effects of pandemics, natural disasters, climate change and other shocks. We recognize the value of an integrated One Health approach that fosters cooperation on issues relevant to human health, animal health and plant health, as well as environmental and other relevant sectors. We also recognize the health aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030¹² and stress the need for resilient health systems. We need to scale up investments in people and planet to build resilience by focusing on providing social and health services, closing the digital divide and pursuing sustainable development.

24. We therefore request the Executive Secretary to reinvigorate the role of the Commission as a regional development platform by identifying, advocating and analysing innovative, integrated, action-oriented and multisectoral approaches to address sustainable development challenges, coordinating region-wide inclusive policy dialogues, in close collaboration with the rest of the United Nations development system, and engaging relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, in order to respond effectively to the changing and emerging needs of the region, and taking into account national considerations.

*10th plenary meeting
27 May 2022*

Resolution 78/2

A conference structure of the Commission to advance sustainable development

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 73/1 of 19 May 2017 on a conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in which it decided, inter alia, to conduct a review of its conference structure at its seventy-eighth session, in 2022, with a midpoint review at its seventy-fifth session, in 2019, and requested the Executive Secretary to submit a report in both cases, with a focus on the programme areas of the Commission, which would serve as a basis for that review,

Recalling also its decisions 75/16 of 31 May 2019 on the organization of the annual sessions of the Commission and 75/17 of 31 May 2019 on the review of the conference structure of the Commission,¹³

Recalling further its resolution 74/5 of 16 May 2018 on the transition of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture to an intergovernmental organization outside the United Nations system,

¹² Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

¹³ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 19 (E/2019/39–ESCAP/75/35), chap. I, sect. B.*

Highlighting the importance of accelerated action to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹⁴ and emphasizing that the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic provides an opportunity to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific,

Having considered the note by the secretariat on the review of the conference structure of the Commission pursuant to resolution 73/1,¹⁵

Having also considered the reports of the governing councils of the regional institutions and of the committees, as well as the reports on the Asia Pacific Forums on Sustainable Development and the ministerial conferences held since the seventy-third session of the Commission,

1. *Decides* to revise with immediate effect its conference structure to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular to update the terms of reference and issues to be considered by the committees subsidiary to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, as contained in the annex to the present resolution;

2. *Also decides* to reconstitute the Committee on Trade and Investment as the Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation, meeting biennially;

3. *Recalls* its resolutions 48/2 of 23 April 1992 and 64/1 of 30 April 2008 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission and 69/1 of 1 May 2013 on a conference structure of the Commission for the inclusive and sustainable development of Asia and the Pacific, and decides to rename the Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries as the Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States and to hold the deliberations of the Special Body during the ministerial segment of the Commission sessions;

4. *Reaffirms* that the conference structure of the Commission shall conform to the pattern outlined in the annex to the present resolution;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to strengthen and promote cooperation and collaboration among the relevant organizations of the United Nations development system in Asia and the Pacific and other stakeholders, as appropriate, in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by members and associate members of the Commission in order to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of that implementation;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to conduct systematic monitoring and evaluation of the conference structure and its congruence with the programme priorities of the Commission with a view to increasing the efficiency, effectiveness and synergies of its work;

7. *Decides* to conduct a review of its conference structure at its eighty-third session, in 2027, with a midpoint review at its eighty-first session, in 2025, and requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission a report in each instance, with a focus on the programme areas of the Commission, which will serve as a basis for that review.

*10th plenary meeting
27 May 2022*

¹⁴ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

¹⁵ ESCAP/78/31.

Annex
Conference structure of the Commission

I. The Commission

1. The Commission shall meet annually under an overarching theme selected by member States, with each session comprising a senior officials segment followed by a ministerial segment, for a total of five working days, and the duration of each segment shall be decided by the secretariat in consultation with member States, to discuss and decide on important issues pertaining to inclusive and sustainable development in the region, decide on the recommendations of its subsidiary bodies and of the Executive Secretary, review and endorse the proposed strategic framework and programme of work and take any other decisions required in conformity with its terms of reference.
2. Deliberations of the Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States shall be held for a maximum of one day during the ministerial segment.
3. The Commission session may include a distinguished person's lecture and high-level representatives of United Nations agencies may be invited to participate in panel discussions held during the session, and corporate leaders and civil society organizations may be invited to participate in the session as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission.
4. The Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, which convenes prior to the Commission session, shall be reconstituted as the Working Group on Draft Resolutions during the senior officials segment and shall have a status commensurate with the Committees of the Whole.
5. The number of simultaneous meetings of the Committees of the Whole, including their commensurate bodies, held during the senior officials segment of the annual session of the Commission shall not exceed two.
6. Draft resolutions shall reflect the substantive deliberations of member States; furthermore, without prejudice to rule 31 of its rules of procedure, members of the Commission intending to submit draft resolutions to the Commission are strongly encouraged to submit them to the Executive Secretary at least one month prior to the commencement of the session of the Commission in order to allow sufficient time for review by members and associate members of the Commission, and the Commission shall not consider draft resolutions submitted within one week of the first day of the Commission session.
7. The report of the Commission will be composed of the decisions and resolutions of the Commission. The draft record of proceedings of the Commission, prepared by the secretariat, will be circulated among members and associate members for comment within 15 days after the conclusion of the session. Members and associate members will be requested to provide comments within 15 days of receiving the draft record of proceedings. The secretariat's final record of proceedings of the Commission session will be issued within two months of the conclusion of the session, taking into account the relevant comments of members and associate members.
8. The Commission shall serve as the regional platform for integrating the sectoral streams of the Committees, with a view towards promoting sustainable development equitably through all of its three dimensions.

9. As a general principle and without prejudice to rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Commission, the Chair of the Commission shall rotate among its five subregions.¹⁶

II. Subsidiary structure

10. The subsidiary structure of the Commission shall consist of the following nine committees:

- (a) Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development;
- (b) Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation;
- (c) Committee on Transport;
- (d) Committee on Environment and Development;
- (e) Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation;
- (f) Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction;
- (g) Committee on Social Development;
- (h) Committee on Statistics;
- (i) Committee on Energy.

11. The nine committees shall each meet biennially for a maximum duration of three days for each session, with joint plenary sessions between multiple committees to discuss cross-cutting issues, when possible and desirable.

12. The Commission may mandate a specific committee or multiple committees to meet in the gap year where a particular topic becomes an urgent issue for the region.

13. Within their respective areas of purview, the committees shall:

- (a) Review and analyse regional trends in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- (b) Identify, in consultation with member States, their priorities and emerging issues with regard to resilient, inclusive and sustainable development, and consult on regional approaches, taking into consideration subregional aspects;
- (c) Promote regional and, as appropriate, interregional dialogue, including on subregional synergies, and an exchange of experiences on policies and programmes;
- (d) Consider common regional positions as inputs to global processes and promote regional follow-up to their outcomes;
- (e) Propose issues for consideration by the Commission as the basis for possible resolutions;
- (f) Monitor the implementation of Commission resolutions;
- (g) Promote a collaborative approach to addressing the development challenges of the region, where appropriate, between Governments and civil society, the private sector, as well as the United Nations and other international organizations at the regional and subregional levels.

14. Further, within their respective areas of purview, the committees shall provide the secretariat, including its regional institutions, with guidance in reviewing the proposed strategic framework and programme of work.

¹⁶ The five subregions of the Commission are: East and North-East Asia; North and Central Asia; South and South-West Asia; South-East Asia; and the Pacific (A/62/708, para. 321).

15. The following areas shall be mainstreamed into the work of all committees:
- (a) Implementation and monitoring the achievement of the relevant internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals, and a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development;
 - (b) Poverty reduction and sustained recovery from large shocks for a more equitable Asia and the Pacific;
 - (c) Gender equality;
 - (d) The priority needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;
 - (e) Science, technology and innovation and, in particular, digital technology for a safe and inclusive digital transformation.
16. Representatives of civil society and the private sector may, upon consultation with member States, be invited to join the Committee sessions as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission.
17. The specific issues to be addressed by each of the nine committees in carrying out the above functions are listed in appendix I to the present document.
18. The subsidiary structure of the Commission shall also include the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development. The terms of reference of the Forum are listed in appendix II to the present document.

III. Ad hoc ministerial conferences and other intergovernmental meetings

19. Subject to the approval of the Commission, ad hoc ministerial conferences and other intergovernmental meetings may be organized on specific and cross-sectoral issues.
20. No more than eight ad hoc ministerial conferences and other intergovernmental meetings shall be held in addition to the regular calendar of intergovernmental meetings during each biennium, and the total number of days shall not exceed 16, unless the Commission decides otherwise.
21. In those years when a ministerial conference or intergovernmental meeting is held covering issues normally discussed in a committee, the corresponding committee need not be convened. Subject to the approval of the Commission, a committee may be convened at the ministerial level on an ad hoc basis to ensure high-level engagement on the issues to be addressed.

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

22. The functions of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall be in accordance with the terms of reference contained in appendix III to the present document.
23. The Advisory Committee may, if necessary, establish its own working groups on consideration of specific issues.
24. The Advisory Committee shall meet with sufficient frequency both in formal and informal meetings on topical subjects, especially prior to the Commission session. The number of formal meetings of the Advisory Committee per calendar year shall not be less than six or more than twelve. Any additional meetings, formal or informal, will be held in consultation with the Advisory Committee and the Executive Secretary, and may not require documentation by the secretariat, unless otherwise requested by the Advisory Committee.

25. Should the need arise to seek the views of United Nations entities or other intergovernmental organizations on subjects of interest to the Advisory Committee, members of the Advisory Committee can, if consensus has been reached, request the secretariat to invite representatives of particular United Nations entities or other intergovernmental organizations to attend a subsequent session of the Advisory Committee.

26. The Advisory Committee shall periodically review the work of subregional offices and regional institutions, and actively follow up and report on the implementation of resolutions by member States. The secretariat shall facilitate the reporting on resolutions by preparing the requisite guidelines and templates.

V. Regional institutions under the auspices of the Commission

27. The following institutions under the auspices of the Commission shall continue to function as prescribed in their respective statutes and terms of reference:

- (a) Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology;
- (b) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;
- (c) Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization;
- (d) Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development;
- (e) Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management.

28. The Commission may constitute additional regional institutions that support the achievement of its strategic and programmatic objectives.

VI. General provisions

A. Rules of procedure

29. Unless otherwise specified by the Commission, the rules of procedure of the Commission, including those pertaining to the decision-making process, shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the committees and other meetings and conferences convened under its conference structure.

B. Informal session

30. An informal session among the heads of delegations during the ministerial segment of each Commission session may be organized but shall not be institutionalized. The agenda for the informal session shall be decided by consensus and the annotated agenda shall reach members at least 30 days before the opening of the session to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the session. Simultaneous interpretation shall be provided.

Appendix I Issues to be addressed by committees subsidiary to the Commission

The issues listed below are the primary issues to be addressed by each committee. The Commission may adjust the list of issues for any committee at any time, as appropriate; the committees shall likewise retain the flexibility to address new or emerging issues brought to their attention by the secretariat, upon consultation with member States.

1. Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development:

(a) Macroeconomic policies to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and poverty reduction;

(b) Regional cooperation on macroeconomic and financing for development issues and developing common regional positions as inputs to global processes while ensuring regional follow-up to their outcomes;

(c) Financing for development, including financing strategies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals such as domestic fiscal resources, innovative, sustainable and digital financing instruments and mechanisms, and capital market development.

2. Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation:

(a) International trade and investment as an engine for development, including regional cooperative mechanisms and agreements on trade and trade facilitation, such as the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement and the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) Domestic and international public-private partnerships, business partnerships, investment, and small and medium-sized enterprise development and finance;

(c) Innovation, including the digital economy, inclusive business, impact investing, and innovation policies and regulations;

(d) Development, transfer, adaptation and application of technologies relevant to the region.

3. Committee on Transport:

(a) Efficient and resilient transport, logistics, mobility and connectivity, including through international transport agreements such as the Intergovernmental Agreements on the Asian Highway Network, Trans-Asian Railway Network and Dry Ports, and shipping and maritime transport;

(b) Sustainable, efficient and environmentally friendly transport systems and services, as well as policies and strategies, sustainable urban mobility, and application of smart transport technologies;

(c) Safe and inclusive transport and mobility, including policies and strategies for improving road safety, gender-responsive transport and enhancing inclusiveness and universal accessibility of transport systems;

(d) Harmonization of transport standards and documents.

4. Committee on Environment and Development:

(a) Enhancing environmental sustainability of development in a holistic and integrated manner, including through, but not limited to, climate action, air pollution reduction, sustainable use of the oceans and seas, and sustainable management of water resources;

(b) Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources;

(c) Promoting inclusive and sustainable urban development;

(d) Promoting sustainable production and consumption, including through sustainable agricultural mechanization and technology transfer, for the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals.

5. Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation:

(a) Access to information and communications technology and digital technology and innovation including through universal internet connectivity and a

digital society, digital transformation and inclusion, including through the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative;

(b) Application of space technology and integrated geospatial information for sustainable development;

(c) Development of human skills and institutional capacity in the use of information and communications technology and digital technology applications for the digital age in support of sustainable development.

6. Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction:

(a) Regional cooperation for multi-hazard disaster risk reduction and mitigation, climate adaptation, and resilience;

(b) Regional cooperation mechanisms for strengthening disaster risk management and resilience-building;

(c) Integrated multi-hazard risk assessment, preparedness, early warning and response to disaster risks, including mitigating cascading risks related to biological and other natural hazards, including through the use of innovative technology tools;

(d) Disaster information management and multi-hazard early warning, including for sand and dust storms.

7. Committee on Social Development:

(a) Review the regional implementation of the internationally agreed goals and commitments on social development;

(b) Assess population and development trends, including international migration and population ageing, and their impacts on development;

(c) Address issues of inequality and strengthen social protection and health systems;

(d) Promote gender equality and women's empowerment;

(e) Promote the social inclusion of older persons, persons with disabilities and other people in vulnerable situations.

8. Committee on Statistics: enable and empower national statistical systems to lead development of and to deliver innovative, trusted and timely products and services, recognizing the importance of urgent and evolving statistical requirements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development while bearing in mind the action areas of the document entitled "Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: a collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community".

9. Committee on Energy:

(a) Energy transition in Asia and the Pacific, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 7, and the Paris Agreement;

(b) Regional cooperation to promote access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, including through energy connectivity;

(c) Regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy through regional agreements and mandates, including the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum;

(d) Assess and review implications of the energy transition.

Appendix II

Terms of reference of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

I. Overall functions

1. The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development is an annual, inclusive intergovernmental forum. It supports preparations for the high-level political forum on sustainable development in the context of both the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

2. The Forum will serve as a regional platform for:

(a) Supporting countries, in particular countries with special needs, including through enhancing their capacity for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(b) Providing a regional perspective on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by identifying regional trends, and 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;

(c) Supporting follow-up and review of progress on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals at the regional level through: assessing progress and providing opportunities for peer learning related to the theme and goals that will be reviewed at the high-level political forum; supporting the presentation of voluntary national reviews; and undertaking periodic reviews of progress of the road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

3. These functions will benefit from inter-agency support, including through the United Nations Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism.

II. Conduct of the Forum

4. As part of the conference structure of the Commission, the Forum will be convened annually as an inclusive intergovernmental forum ahead of the high-level political forum. The theme of the Forum should be consistent with that of the high-level political forum and the cluster of goals to be reviewed in-depth should be identical to the cluster of goals under the high-level political forum.

5. The Forum will not get ahead of or pre-judge the decisions of the high-level political forum, increase the reporting burden of member States or increase the regular budget of the Commission beyond what has already been approved by the General Assembly.

6. The current format, including the election of the bureau for each session, could be maintained and provide space for multi-stakeholder engagement for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in consultation, as appropriate, with member States.

7. The outcome of the Forum will be in the form of a report with a chair's summary annexed to the report.

8. The Forum may consider subregional perspectives on the themes addressed by the Forum. Preparatory meetings of stakeholders may be convened, within existing resources.

9. The Forum, including stakeholder engagement, will be conducted in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission as well as the modalities of the high-level political forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, as long as there is no conflict between them.

10. During each session, a member of the bureau of the previous session could report on the discussions at the intervening high-level political forum and on the conclusions of the previous session of the Forum.

11. The conduct of the Forum will avoid duplication with other regional forums and platforms; in the interest of efficiency, where appropriate, the Forum will be convened in coordination or collaboration with other forums and platforms.

III. Relationship of the Forum with the conference structure of the Commission

12. The report of the Forum as defined in paragraph 7 will be brought to the attention of the subsequent session of the Commission by the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Forum.

13. The Forum could receive inputs from the committees that are subsidiary to the Commission as well as other relevant stakeholders.

14. The Forum could benefit from advice provided by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission as a modality for consulting member States between sessions of the Forum.

15. In the years when the high-level political forum meets under the auspices of the General Assembly at the summit level, which is every four years, the Forum may converge with the Commission session in April/May, and the Commission and the Forum will share the same theme, where appropriate. In other years, when the high-level political forum meets under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, the Forum shall meet at the senior technical level.

16. If requested by member States, the terms of reference of the Forum may be revised upon recommendation of the Forum and endorsement by the Commission, taking into account new inputs from the high-level political forum and based on periodic reviews by member States.

Appendix III

Terms of reference of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall have the following functions:

(a) To strengthen close cooperation and consultation between the member States and the secretariat, including by providing advice and guidance to be taken into account by the Executive Secretary while undertaking the respective activities;

(b) To serve as a deliberative forum for substantive exchange of views and provide guidance on the formulation of the agenda of the Commission and in connection with economic and social developments that have an impact on the Asia-Pacific region;

(c) To advise and guide the Executive Secretary in drawing up proposals for the strategic framework, programme of work and theme topics for sessions of the Commission consistent with the guidance provided by the Commission;

(d) To receive, on a regular basis, information on the administrative and financial functioning of the Commission;

(e) To advise and guide the Executive Secretary in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Commission's programme of work and resource allocation;

(f) To review the draft calendar of meetings prior to its submission to the Commission at its annual session;

(g) To advise and guide the Executive Secretary on the provisional agenda for sessions of the Commission and committees subsidiary to the Commission, consistent with the need to ensure a results-oriented and focused agenda that is aligned with the developmental priorities of member States, as defined by them, as well as chapter II of its rules of procedure;

(h) To advise and guide the Executive Secretary on the identification of emerging economic and social issues and other relevant issues for incorporation into the provisional agendas and on the formulation of the annotated provisional agendas for Commission sessions;

(i) To be informed of collaborations and related arrangements between the secretariat and other international and regional organizations, in particular on long-term cooperation programmes and joint initiatives, including those to be proposed by the Executive Secretary and conducted under the aegis of the Regional Coordination Mechanism;

(j) To carry out any other tasks entrusted to it by the Commission.

Resolution 78/3
Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 73/4 of 19 May 2017 on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific,

Welcoming the successful outcome of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Transport, held in Bangkok and online from 14 to 17 December 2021,¹⁷

1. *Endorses* the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific¹⁸ and the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026);¹⁹

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To accord priority to the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) To support members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026), in cooperation with other entities concerned;

(c) To carry out, in 2026, an evaluation of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme and to submit to the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Transport a report with recommendations on that basis;

(d) To report to the Commission at its eighty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

10th plenary meeting
27 May 2022

¹⁷ ESCAP/78/15.

¹⁸ ESCAP/78/15/Add.1.

¹⁹ ESCAP/78/15/Add.2.

Resolution 78/4
Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Building a More Resilient Future with Inclusive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 74/8 of 16 May 2018 on accelerating the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, in which it decided to convene a second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific,

Welcoming the successful outcome of the Second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok and online from 16 to 19 November 2021,²⁰

1. *Endorses* the Ministerial Declaration on Building a More Resilient Future with Inclusive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics;²¹

2. *Emphasizes* the urgent need to improve civil registration and vital statistics systems for sustainable and inclusive development in the region;

3. *Decides* to convene a third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, in 2025, to conduct a final regional review of progress made in the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific²² and to mark the conclusion of the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade (2015–2024);

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To accord priority to the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Building a More Resilient Future with Inclusive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics;

(b) To continue to support members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, in cooperation with other entities concerned;

(c) To support the convening of a third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific to mark the conclusion of the Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade (2015–2024), as appropriate;

(d) To report to the Commission at its eighty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

10th plenary meeting
27 May 2022

²⁰ ESCAP/78/26.

²¹ ESCAP/78/26/Add.1.

²² Commission resolution 71/14, annex, sect. B.

B. Decisions adopted by the Commission at its seventy-eighth session

Decision 78/1

Report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia

At its 10th plenary meeting, on 27 May 2022, the Commission endorsed the report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on its sixteenth session (ESCAP/78/2).

Decision 78/2

Subregional cooperation to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

At its 10th plenary meeting, on 27 May 2022, the Commission took note of the note by the secretariat on subregional cooperation to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/78/3).

Decision 78/3

Summary of the Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2022: Financing a Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19 and Beyond

At its 10th plenary meeting, on 27 May 2022, the Commission took note of the summary of the Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2022: Financing a Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19 and Beyond (ESCAP/78/4).

Decision 78/4

Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention emanating from the meetings of its subsidiary bodies held in the period 2021–2022

At its 10th plenary meeting, on 27 May 2022, the Commission endorsed the matters calling for its action or brought to its attention emanating from the meetings of its subsidiary bodies held in the period 2021–2022 (ESCAP/78/6).

Decision 78/5

Reports of intergovernmental bodies and meetings held in the period 2021–2022

At its 10th plenary meeting, on 27 May 2022, the Commission endorsed the following documents:

(a) Report of the Ninth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (ESCAP/78/7);

(b) Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its seventeenth session (ESCAP/78/10);

(c) Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its seventeenth session (ESCAP/78/18);

(d) Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its sixteenth session (ESCAP/78/23);

(e) Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its seventeenth session (ESCAP/78/25).

Decision 78/6
Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management

At its 10th plenary meeting, on 27 May 2022, the Commission endorsed the report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management on its sixth session (ESCAP/78/12), as well as the Regional Plan of Action on Sand and Dust Storms in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/78/12/Add.1).

Decision 78/7
Report of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Transport

At its 10th plenary meeting, on 27 May 2022, the Commission endorsed the report of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Transport (ESCAP/78/15).

Decision 78/8
Report of the Second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific

At its 10th plenary meeting, on 27 May 2022, the Commission endorsed the report of the Second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/78/26).

Decision 78/9
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 Commission

At its 10th plenary meeting, on 27 May 2022, the Commission took note of the following documents:

- (a) Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/78/5);
- (b) Key social development issues for consideration in 2022 (ESCAP/78/8);
- (c) Report on the seventh session of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022 (ESCAP/78/9);
- (d) Opportunities for reaching carbon neutrality in the Asia-Pacific region (ESCAP/78/11);
- (e) Asia-Pacific riskscape at 1.5°C: subregional pathways for adaptation and resilience (ESCAP/78/13);
- (f) Implementing the global road map for accelerated action on Sustainable Development Goal 7 in the Asia-Pacific region (ESCAP/78/14);
- (g) An efficient and resilient transport and logistics network in support of supply chain connectivity (ESCAP/78/16);
- (h) Economic policies for inclusive recovery and development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/78/17);
- (i) Report on the 7th meeting of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation (ESCAP/78/19);
- (j) Report of the Paperless Trade Council of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific on its first session (ESCAP/78/20);
- (k) Leveraging trade and investment to address climate action in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/78/21);

- (l) Policies to enable business innovation for inclusive and sustainable development (ESCAP/78/22);
- (m) Digital cooperation for an inclusive digital society (ESCAP/78/24);
- (n) From gross domestic product to well-being and sustainability: means and measures (ESCAP/78/27);
- (o) Annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission (ESCAP/78/INF/1).

Decision 78/10
Proposed programme plan for 2023

At its 10th plenary meeting, on 27 May 2022, the Commission endorsed the proposed programme plan for 2023 (ESCAP/78/28).

Decision 78/11
Overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development

At its 10th plenary meeting, on 27 May 2022, the Commission took note of the note by the secretariat on the overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development (ESCAP/78/29) and expressed its appreciation for the following contributions pledged by members and associate members for 2022:

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

SIAP	\$15 000
Pacific Trust Fund	\$1 000

2. *China*. The delegation of China announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

China-ESCAP Cooperation Programme	\$1 000 000 and RMB 1 500 000
APCTT	RMB 180 900
CSAM	\$1 600 000
SIAP	\$70 000
Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities	\$10 000

3. *India*. The delegation of India announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

APCICT	\$20 000
APCTT	\$870 000
SIAP	\$25 000
Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia	\$79 000

4. *Japan*. The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Japan would make the following contributions for the period from April 2022 to March 2023:

Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	\$24 840
SIAP	\$1 818 465

In addition, the Government of Japan would make a contribution in kind equivalent to \$1,119,759 to SIAP for the period from April 2022 to March 2023.

5. *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	\$250 442
ESCAP Programme of Work	\$782 016
Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities	\$353 982
NEASPEC	\$150 442
Capacity Development Trust Fund for APTA Promotion and Trade Facilitation Activities	\$220 000
Seoul Initiative on Green Growth	\$100 000
Korea Maritime Institute-ESCAP Trust Fund Agreement	\$20 000
APCICT	\$1 601 769
APCICT (programme of work)	\$44 247
APCTT	\$26 548
CSAM	\$10 000
SIAP	\$58 458
SIAP (training programmes)	\$58 407
Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia	\$1 141 000

6. *Viet Nam*. The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Viet Nam would make the following contribution:

SIAP	\$20 000
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Decision 78/12
Report on the evaluation activities of the Commission during the biennium 2020–2021

At its 10th plenary meeting, on 27 May 2022, the Commission took note of the report on the evaluation activities of the Commission during the biennium 2020–2021 (ESCAP/78/30).

Decision 78/13
Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

At its 10th plenary meeting, on 27 May 2022, the Commission took note of the report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ESCAP/78/32).

Decision 78/14

Dates and venue of and theme topic for the seventy-ninth session of the Commission (2023)

At its 10th plenary meeting, on 27 May 2022, the Commission decided that its seventy-ninth session would be held in Bangkok from 15 to 19 May 2023. The Commission also decided that the theme topic for its seventy-ninth session would be “Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development” (ESCAP/78/33).

Chapter II

Organization of the seventy-eighth session of the Commission

A. Attendance and organization of work

3. The seventy-eighth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific was held in Bangkok and online from 23 to 27 May 2022.

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
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Malaysia
Maldives
Marshall Islands
Micronesia (Federated States of)
Mongolia
Nauru
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Pakistan
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Samoa
Singapore
Solomon Islands
Sri Lanka
Tajikistan
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Tonga
Türkiye
Turkmenistan
Tuvalu
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

United States of America
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Viet Nam

Associate members

Hong Kong, China
Macao, China

5. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of Belgium, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Morocco, Nigeria, San Marino and Switzerland attended. Representatives of the Holy See also attended.

6. Representatives of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and of the Office of Legal Affairs attended.

7. Representatives of the following United Nations specialized agencies, funds, programmes and other United Nations entities attended: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Atomic Energy Agency; International Labour Organization; Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; United Nations Capital Development Fund; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; United Nations Population Fund; World Health Organization; and World Meteorological Organization.

8. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: Asian Development Bank; Asian Productivity Organization; Association of Southeast Asian Nations; Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation; Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and South-East Asia; Economic Cooperation Organization; Eurasian Economic Commission; Greater Tumen Initiative; International Coconut Community; International Transport Forum; Mekong River Commission; 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: Associated Country Women of the World; Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations; International Council on Environmental Economics and Development; International Federation of Business and Professional Women; International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; International Federation of Social Workers; International Movement ATD Fourth World; Organization of the Families of Asia and the Pacific; Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George; Soroptimist International; and United Nations Association of Russia.

10. The list of participants is available at www.unescap.org/events/commission78.

11. In accordance with rule 13 of its rules of procedure, the Commission elected Mr. Vijavat Isarabhakdi (Thailand) as Chair of the seventy-eighth session.

12. The Commission also elected the following Vice-Chairs:

Mr. Ly Thuch (Cambodia)
Mr. Arman Issetov (Kazakhstan)
Mr. Thongphane Savanphet (Lao People's Democratic Republic)
Mr. Tumur Amarsanaa (Mongolia)
Mr. Ganesh Prasad Dhakal (Nepal)
Mr. Phan Chi Thanh (Viet Nam)

13. The Commission constituted the Working Group on Draft Resolutions to consider the draft resolutions and draft decisions submitted prior to the session. Ms. Julia Feeney (Australia) was elected Chair and Mr. Sukmo Yuwono (Indonesia) was elected Vice-Chair of the Working Group.

14. In accordance with rule 12 of the Commission's rules of procedure, the Chair and Vice-Chairs examined the credentials of representatives of member States and reported upon them to the Commission. The credentials of 50 member States were found to be in order. The Bureau decided to defer any action on the credentials pertaining to the representatives of Myanmar at the seventy-eighth session of the Commission pending a decision by the General Assembly on the representation of Myanmar and in line with General Assembly resolution 396 (V) of 14 December 1950 and acknowledging the report of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session.

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) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Opening addresses on the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Commission.
2. Theme topic, "A common agenda to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific":
 - (a) General debate;
 - (b) Subregional perspectives.
3. Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries.
4. Review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific:
 - (a) Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development;
 - (b) Social development;
 - (c) Environment and development;
 - (d) Disaster risk reduction;
 - (e) Energy;
 - (f) Transport;
 - (g) Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development;
 - (h) Trade and investment;
 - (i) Information and communications technology, science, technology and innovation;
 - (j) Statistics.

5. Management issues:
 - (a) Proposed programme plan for 2023;
 - (b) Overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development;
 - (c) Report on the evaluation activities of the Commission during the biennium 2020–2021.
6. Review of the conference structure of the Commission pursuant to resolution 73/1.
7. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.
8. Dates and venue of and theme topic for the seventy-ninth session of the Commission (2023).
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventy-eighth session.

C. Opening of the session

17. Mr. Vijavat Isarabhakdi (Thailand) presided over the opening of the seventy-eighth session, on 23 May 2022. A statement was delivered by Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President of the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly. Video messages were played from Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, President of the Economic and Social Council; General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.), Prime Minister of Thailand; Mr. Wang Yi, State Councillor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of China; and the Secretary-General. The Executive Secretary delivered her own welcome remarks and a policy statement.

18. The following Heads of State addressed the Commission on its seventy-fifth anniversary in video messages: Mr. Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia; Ms. Salome Zourabichvili, President of Georgia; and Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President of Tajikistan.

19. The following Heads and Deputy Heads of Government addressed the Commission on its seventy-fifth anniversary in video messages: Ms. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh; Mr. Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia and Chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations for 2022; Mr. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji and Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum for 2021–2022; Ms. Fiamē Naomi Mata’afa, Prime Minister of Samoa; Mr. Hu’akavameiliku Siaoisi Sovaleni, Prime Minister of Tonga; Mr. Minute Alapati Taupo, Acting Prime Minister of Tuvalu; Mr. Bob Loughman Weibur, Prime Minister of Vanuatu; and Mr. Sardor Umurzakov, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan.

20. Mr. Vu Duc Dam, Deputy Prime Minister of Viet Nam, addressed the Commission on its seventy-fifth anniversary in person.

D. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventy-eighth session

21. At its 10th plenary meeting, on 27 May 2022, the Commission adopted the report on its seventy-eighth session.

Chapter III

Work of the Commission since the seventy-seventh session

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

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

- (a) Committees:
 - (i) Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (seventh session);
 - (ii) Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development (third session);
- (b) Governing councils:
 - (i) Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (sixteenth session);
 - (ii) Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (seventeenth session);
 - (iii) Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (seventeenth session);
 - (iv) Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (seventeenth session);
 - (v) Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (sixth session);
- (c) Other intergovernmental meetings:
 - (i) Second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific;
 - (ii) Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (sixteenth session);
 - (iii) Fourth Ministerial Conference on Transport;
 - (iv) Ninth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development;
 - (v) 7th meeting of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation;
 - (vi) Paperless Trade Council of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (first session).

23. 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

24. The list of publications issued since the seventy-seventh 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

25. 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 Commission

1. The requests contained in the resolutions listed below will have no programme budget implications for the approved programme budget for 2022¹ or the proposed programme budget of the United Nations for 2023:²

(a) Resolution 78/1: 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;

(b) Resolution 78/2: A conference structure of the Commission to advance sustainable development;

(c) Resolution 78/3: Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific;

(d) Resolution 78/4: Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Building a More Resilient Future with Inclusive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics.

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

¹ General Assembly resolution 76/247 A–C.

² A/77/6 (Sect. 19).

Annex II**Meetings of subsidiary bodies and other intergovernmental bodies held since the seventy-seventh session of the Commission**

<i>Subsidiary bodies and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>
<i>Committees</i>		
I. Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction Chair: Ms. Khadeeja Naseem (Maldives) Vice-Chairs: Mr. Rachmat Budiman (Indonesia) Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura (Japan)	Seventh session Bangkok and online 25–27 August 2021	ESCAP/CDR/2021/3
II. Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development Chair: Mr. Rachmat Budiman (Indonesia) Vice-Chairs: Ms. Raushan Yesbulatova (Kazakhstan) Mr. Ganesh Prasad Dhakal (Nepal) Mr. Kim Veara (Cambodia)	Third session Bangkok and online 20–22 October 2021	ESCAP/CMPF/2021/4
<i>Governing councils of regional institutions</i>		
I. Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development Chair: Mr. Meas Po (Cambodia) Vice-Chair: Mr. Mahinda Bandara Herath (Sri Lanka)	Sixteenth session Online 25 November 2021	ESCAP/78/23
II. Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology Chair: Mr. Shekhar C. Mande (India) Vice-Chair: Mr. Olimjon Alijonovich Tuychiev (Uzbekistan)	Seventeenth session New Delhi and online 1 and 2 December 2021	ESCAP/78/18
III. Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific Chair: Ms. Hataichanok Chinauparwat (Thailand) Vice-Chair: Ms. Orie Hirano (Japan)	Seventeenth session Online 2 and 3 December 2021	ESCAP/78/25

<i>Subsidiary bodies and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>
IV. Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization Chair: Ms. Thi Tam Dinh (Viet Nam) Vice-Chair: Mr. Chin Chuang Teoh (Malaysia)	Seventeenth session Online 8 December 2021	ESCAP/78/10
V. Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management Chair: Mr. Ku Bunnavuth (Cambodia) Vice-Chair: Mr. Muhammet Maruf Yaman (Türkiye)	Sixth session Online 8 February 2022	ESCAP/78/12
<i>Other intergovernmental meetings</i>		
I. Second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific Chair: Dr. Faisal Sultan (Pakistan) Vice-Chair: Mr. Tumur Amarsanaa (Mongolia)	Bangkok and online 16–19 November 2021	ESCAP/78/26
II. Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Chair: Mr. Sardor Umurzakov (Uzbekistan)	Sixteenth session Tashkent and online 19 November 2021	ESCAP/78/2
III. Fourth Ministerial Conference on Transport Chair: Mr. Budi Karya Sumadi (Indonesia) Vice-Chairs: Ms. Serap Ersoy (Türkiye) Mrs. C.A. Chaminda I. Colonne (Sri Lanka)	Bangkok and online 14–17 December 2021	ESCAP/78/15
IV. Ninth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development Chair: Mr. Karl Kendrick T. Chua (Philippines) Vice-Chairs: Mr. Jone Usamate (Fiji) Mr. Mohamed Aslam (Maldives) Ms. Kitlang Kabua (Marshall Islands) Ms. Ayush Ariunzaya (Mongolia) Mr. M. U. M. Ali Sabry (Sri Lanka) Mr. Don Pramudwinai (Thailand) Mr. Muhammetgeldi Serdarov (Turkmenistan)	Bangkok and online 28–31 March 2022	ESCAP/78/7

<i>Subsidiary bodies and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>
V. 7th meeting of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation	Bangkok and online 25 and 26 April 2022	ESCAP/78/19
Chair: Mr. Tumur Amarsanaa (Mongolia)		
Vice-Chair: Mr. Dilshod Sharifi (Tajikistan)		
VI. Paperless Trade Council of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific	First session Bangkok and online 27–29 April 2022	ESCAP/78/20
Chair: Mr. Mohammed Abdul Hye (Bangladesh)		
Vice-Chairs: Mr. Syed Rashedul Hossen (Bangladesh)		
Ms. Mahsa Nooridaryan (Islamic Republic of Iran)		

Annex III

Publications and documents issued by the Commission

A. Publications issued since the seventy-seventh session*

Executive direction and management

Annual report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, 22 May 2020–29 April 2021 (Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2021, Supplement No. 19, E/2021/39).

*What's Ahead @ ESCAP.***

Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2022: Financing a Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19 and Beyond. ST/ESCAP/3016 (Sales No. E.22.II.F.7).

Building Forward Together: Towards an Inclusive and Resilient Asia and the Pacific (published jointly by ESCAP, the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme).

Reclaiming Our Future: A Common Agenda for Advancing Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. ST/ESCAP/3001 (Sales No. E.22.II.F.9).

Subprogramme 1

Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2022: Building Forward Fairer – Economic Policies for an Inclusive Recovery and Development. ST/ESCAP/2998 (Sales No. E.22.II.F.5).

*MPFD Working Papers:***

WP/21/07, December 2021: “Fiscal policy options to build forward better”.

WP/21/08, December 2021: “Policy scenarios to build forward better in Asia and the Pacific”.

WP/21/10, December 2021: “Securing green development: can Asia-Pacific central banks and financial supervisory authorities do more?”.

WP/22/01, February 2022: “Fiscal stimulus for an inclusive, green and forward-looking recovery, leveraging the SDG Agenda: an assessment for Pakistan”.

WP/22/02, March 2022: “Infrastructure financing in Kazakhstan”.

WP/22/03, March 2022: “Infrastructure financing in Kyrgyzstan”.

ESCAP/1-WP/3, April 2021: “Socioeconomic impact of coronavirus disease 2019 in South Asia: fiscal policy response and fiscal needs for supporting the economic recovery”.

ESCAP/1-WP/7, April 2021: “Structural transformation, LDC graduation and the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic: policy options for Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar”.

ESCAP/1-WP/8, April 2021: “Timor-Leste to graduate from LDC category and beyond through structural transformation and economic diversification”.

* Where applicable, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) document symbol and (in parentheses) United Nations publication sales numbers are noted.

** A double asterisk denotes publications that are available online only.

ESCAP/1-WP/9, April 2021: “Sustainability bond for the Pacific feasibility study”.

ESCAP/1-WP/25, September 2021: “Understanding the climate finance landscape and how to scale it up in Pacific small island developing States”.

Subprogramme 2
Trade, investment and innovation¹

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

No. 94, *Outward Foreign Direct Investment and Upgrading by Emerging Market Firms in Global Value Chains*. ST/ESCAP/2951 (Sales No. E.21.II.F.9).

No. 95, *Policy Approaches to Direct Digital Frontier Technologies towards Inclusive and Sustainable Development*. ST/ESCAP/2980.

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

No. 01, July 2021: “The impact of macroeconomic policies on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises”.

No. 02, December 2021: “Assessing the environmental impact of trade procedures: a case study of the export process of Bangladesh readymade garments”.

Subprogramme 3
Transport

Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific: No. 91. ST/ESCAP/SER.E/91.**

Subprogramme 7
Statistics

Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2022: Widening Disparities amid COVID-19. ST/ESCAP/2996 (Sales No. E.22.II.F.6).

SD Working Paper Series. Working Paper Series (SD/WP/13/April 2021): “Big data for environment and agriculture statistics”. **

*Stats Brief:***

No. 29, April 2021: “Big data for population and social statistics”.

No. 30, August 2021: “Are population censuses in Asia and the Pacific evolving?”.

No. 31, April 2022: “Tapping into administrative data in census-taking: an emerging trend in Asia and the Pacific”.

Subprogramme 8
Subregional activities for development

Pacific Perspectives: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – Overview of Compliance in Pacific Islands Legislation. ST/ESCAP/2988.

Subprogramme 9
Energy

Energy Transition Pathways for the 2030 Agenda: SDG 7 Road Map for Bhutan. ST/ESCAP/3003.

Mapping Existing Solutions and Best Practices on Sustainable Cooling: Scoping Review. ST/ESCAP/3014.

¹ Including the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology.

B. Documents submitted to the Commission at its seventy-eighth session

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Document title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>Limited documents</i>		
ESCAP/78/L.1/Rev.2	Provisional agenda	1 (b)
ESCAP/78/L.2/Rev.1	Annotated provisional agenda	1 (b)
ESCAP/78/L.3	Draft report: Organization of the seventy-eighth session of the Commission	10
ESCAP/78/L.3/Add.1/Rev.1	Draft report: Statement of programme budget implications of actions and proposals of the Commission	10
ESCAP/78/L.4	Draft resolution: A conference structure of the Commission to advance sustainable development	6
ESCAP/78/L.5	Draft resolution: Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific	4 (f)
ESCAP/78/L.6	Draft resolution: Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Building a More Resilient Future with Inclusive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics	4 (j)
ESCAP/78/L.7	Draft resolution: 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	2
ESCAP/78/L.8	Draft decisions	10
<i>Regular documents</i>		
ESCAP/78/1	Summary of the theme study on a common agenda to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific	2 (a)
ESCAP/78/2	Report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on its sixteenth session	2 (b)
ESCAP/78/3	Subregional cooperation to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific	2 (b)
ESCAP/78/4	Summary of the Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2022: Financing a Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19 and Beyond	3
ESCAP/78/5	Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions	4
ESCAP/78/6	Summary of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in the period 2021–2022	4
ESCAP/78/7	Report of the Ninth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development	4 (a)
ESCAP/78/8	Key social development issues for consideration in 2022	4 (b)
ESCAP/78/9	Report on the seventh session of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022	4 (b)
ESCAP/78/10	Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its seventeenth session	4 (c)
ESCAP/78/11	Opportunities for reaching carbon neutrality in the Asia-Pacific region	4 (c)

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Document title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
ESCAP/78/12	Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management on its sixth session	4 (d)
ESCAP/78/12/Add.1	Regional plan of action on sand and dust storms in Asia and the Pacific	4 (d)
ESCAP/78/13	Asia-Pacific riskscape at 1.5°C: subregional pathways for adaptation and resilience	2 (b) and 4 (d)
ESCAP/78/14	Implementing the global road map for accelerated action on Sustainable Development Goal 7 in the Asia-Pacific region	4 (e)
ESCAP/78/15	Report of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Transport	4 (f)
ESCAP/78/15/Add.1	Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific	4 (f)
ESCAP/78/15/Add.2	Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026)	4 (f)
ESCAP/78/16	An efficient and resilient transport and logistics network in support of supply chain connectivity	4 (f)
ESCAP/78/17	Economic policies for inclusive recovery and development in Asia and the Pacific	4 (g)
ESCAP/78/18	Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its seventeenth session	4 (h)
ESCAP/78/19	Report on the 7th meeting of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation	4 (h)
ESCAP/78/20	Report of the Paperless Trade Council of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific on its first session	4 (h)
ESCAP/78/21	Leveraging trade and investment to address climate action in Asia and the Pacific	4 (h)
ESCAP/78/22	Policies to enable business innovation for inclusive and sustainable development	4 (h) and (i)
ESCAP/78/23	Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its sixteenth session	4 (i)
ESCAP/78/24	Digital cooperation for an inclusive digital society	4 (i)
ESCAP/78/25	Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its seventeenth session	4 (j)
ESCAP/78/26	Report of the Second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	4 (j)
ESCAP/78/26/Add.1	Ministerial Declaration on Building a More Resilient Future with Inclusive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics	4 (j)
ESCAP/78/27	From gross domestic product to well-being and sustainability: means and measures	4 (j)
ESCAP/78/28	Proposed programme plan for 2023	5 (a)
ESCAP/78/29	Overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development	5 (b)
ESCAP/78/30	Report on the evaluation activities of the Commission during the biennium 2020–2021	5 (c)

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Document title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
ESCAP/78/31	Review of the conference structure of the Commission pursuant to resolution 73/1	6
ESCAP/78/32	Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	7
ESCAP/78/33	Dates and venue of and theme topic for the seventy-ninth session of the Commission (2023)	8
<i>Information document</i>		
ESCAP/78/INF/1	Annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission	4 (c) and (d)

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