

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

ANNUAL REPORT
28 May 2022–19 May 2023

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 2023**

SUPPLEMENT No. 19



UNITED NATIONS

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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
APDIM	Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
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
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

Note: Values are in United States dollars unless specified otherwise.

Introduction

1. The seventy-ninth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific was held in Bangkok and online from 15 to 19 May 2023. The present report covers the period from 28 May 2022 to 19 May 2023 and contains the conclusions reached by the Commission. The account of proceedings of the session is contained in a separate document (ESCAP/79/26).

Chapter I

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

2. At its seventy-ninth session, the Commission adopted 10 resolutions and 12 decisions, which are reproduced below. The resolutions are brought to the attention of the Council.

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

Resolution 79/1

Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, by which the Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 77/165 of 14 December 2022 on the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind, in which the Assembly recalled the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change¹ and the Paris Agreement,² acknowledged that they are the primary international intergovernmental forums for negotiating the global response to climate change, expressed determination to address decisively the threat posed by climate change and environmental degradation, recognized that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible international cooperation aimed at accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions and addressing adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change, and noted with concern the significant gap between the aggregate effect of parties' mitigation pledges, in particular their nationally determined contributions, as appropriate, and aggregate emission pathways, and in which the Assembly also recalled the Paris Agreement, which, pursuant to article 2, paragraph 2, thereof, will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances, and in which the Assembly urged Member States to adopt a climate- and environment-responsive approach to coronavirus disease (COVID-19) recovery efforts in order to achieve a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery and accelerate a transition to low-emission, climate-resilient, inclusive and sustainable economies and societies,

Recalling further its resolution 78/1 of 27 May 2022, entitled "Bangkok Declaration Commemorating the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: a Common Agenda to Advance Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific", in which the members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific reaffirmed their commitment to advancing sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, as well as its resolutions 72/8 of 19 May 2016 on fostering regional cooperation and partnerships to respond to the climate change challenge in the Asia-Pacific region and

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

² See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

76/1 of 21 May 2020 on strengthening cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework³ and its mission to take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, and recalling also resolution 5/5 of 2 March 2022 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme on nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development,⁴ in which the Environment Assembly recognized that nature-based solutions could contribute significantly to climate action,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 77/161 of 14 December 2022 on promoting zero-waste initiatives to advance the 2030 Agenda, in particular paragraph 7, and recognizing the importance of raising awareness of national, subnational, and local initiatives to promote climate action, including through innovative climate-resilient waste management initiatives as a means to advance the 2030 Agenda,

Reaffirming 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,

Reaffirming also its resolution 78/1, in which it committed itself to protecting our planet, noted that without more determined actions, the planet would be more affected by multiple challenges to our common environment, inter alia, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and all types of natural disasters, with small island developing States, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries being among the most affected, recognized that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment was important for the enjoyment of human rights and for sustainable development in all its dimensions, noted that human beings were at the centre of concerns for sustainable development and that they were entitled to healthy and productive lives in harmony with nature, noted also that the well-being of humanity depended on the health of nature and hence on the ability to sustainably use, restore and protect the ecosystem services, recalled the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, and in that connection, noted the 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, and noted also the 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,

Reiterating that mitigation of and adaptation to climate change represent an immediate and urgent global priority,

Reaffirming that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and is already resulting in multiple negative impacts on economies and societies, emphasizing the urgency of scaling up action and support, including finance, capacity-building and technology transfer, on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, to strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change, taking into account the priorities and needs of developing countries,

³ Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity decision 15/4, annex.

⁴ UNEP/EA.5/Res.5.

Recognizing that clean, sustainable, affordable, reliable, just, inclusive, equitable and secure transitions to renewable and clean energy use, as well as conservation, in line with national circumstances, will be instrumental in addressing climate change and ensuring energy security,

Reaffirming the sovereign rights of countries over their energy resources and their right to define appropriate policies for the production and use of energy, recognizing that the 2030 Agenda is to be implemented for the full benefit of all, for today's generation and for future generations,

Recognizing that the enhanced access to international finance is important to support mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and recognizing also the ongoing efforts in this regard,

Recognizing also the need to promote energy efficiency and accelerate transitions and appropriate access to clean energy technologies and electric mobility in public transport, and sustainable, low-emission and energy-efficient modes of transport, as well as the use of renewable energy in transport by providing, as appropriate, technical and financial support to developing countries, taking into account national priorities and circumstances, and recognizing further the need to enhance regional supply chain connectivity and diversification,

Reaffirming that international trade is an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction and contributes to the promotion of sustainable development,

Reaffirming also the commitment made in the 2030 Agenda to strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through the provision of international support to developing countries to mobilize additional financial resources for them from multiple sources, and reiterating that the full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development⁵ is critical for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recognizing the urgent need to address, in a comprehensive and synergistic manner, the interlinked global crises of climate change and biodiversity loss in the broader context of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the vital importance of protecting, conserving, restoring and sustainably using nature and ecosystems for effective and sustainable climate action,

Taking note of the findings published in the 2023 Synthesis Report, which is contained in the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

Taking note also of the summary of the theme study on accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development,⁶ in which the global climate agenda is addressed with a broad focus on economic, social and environmental benefits,

1. *Urges* all its members and associate members to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;

2. *Encourages* all its members and associate members to strengthen regional and subregional cooperation to accelerate climate action in Asia and the Pacific for the sustainable development of all members and associate members and for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, including by:

⁵ General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

⁶ ESCAP/79/2.

(a) Promoting information-sharing, policy dialogues and technical assistance and cooperation with a view to developing policies that will support the implementation of nationally determined contributions and low-emission and climate-resilient development;

(b) Promoting the use of clean and renewable energy resources and research on clean energy technologies, as well as the development, deployment, commercialization, availability, accessibility and affordability of such technologies, and enhancing international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, hydrogen, energy storage, carbon capture, utilization and storage, bioenergy with carbon capture and storage, and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technologies, including technologies that avoid, abate and remove greenhouse gas emissions, and improved infrastructures for supplying affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and advanced energy efficiency systems as part of the region's energy transition;

(c) Promoting regional power system connectivity to enhance climate resilience and sustainability;

(d) Promoting low-emission mobility, clean energy technologies and logistics;

(e) Promoting sustainable socioeconomic policies and investments consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development;

(f) Taking a whole-of-government approach to strengthening the collection and use of climate change-related statistics;

(g) Promoting the implementation and strengthening of early warning systems for all as key adaptation strategies in the region;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue to support members and associate members in enhancing cooperation efforts with a view to taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, including by promoting partnerships involving Governments and major groups and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to facilitate voluntary information-sharing, policy dialogues and technical assistance and cooperation for climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable development;

(b) To facilitate cooperation across various sectors of the economy to combat climate change and its impacts, including by supporting regional cooperation on sustainable, low-emission and energy-efficient modes of transport, and providing regional assessments, capacity-building and technical support on policies for climate-resilient development, as appropriate;

(c) To encourage and collaborate with relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, regional and subregional organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, in line with the existing mandates and within the existing resources of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, to build the capacities of members and associate members, in particular least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, to develop policies and take actions to combat climate change and its impacts, develop early warning systems for all at the regional level, and support regional and subregional priorities to address climate-related challenges;

(d) To continue to provide information to members and associate members of the Commission on progress made by the secretariat in the implementation of the United Nations Secretariat climate action plan 2020–2030, in the context of existing reporting processes, as appropriate;

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

*9th plenary meeting
19 May 2023*

Resolution 79/2
Regional cooperation to accelerate climate action on oceans in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, by which the Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 77/165 of 14 December 2022 on the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind, in which the Assembly recalled the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁷ and the Paris Agreement,⁸ acknowledged that they are the primary international, intergovernmental forums for negotiating the global response to climate change, expressed determination to address decisively the threat posed by climate change and environmental degradation, recognized that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible international cooperation aimed at accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions and addressing adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change, and noted with concern the significant gap between the aggregate effect of parties' mitigation pledges, in particular their nationally determined contributions, as appropriate, and aggregate emission pathways, and in which the Assembly also recalled the Paris Agreement, which, pursuant to article 2, paragraph 2, thereof, will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances, and in which the Assembly urged Member States to adopt a climate- and environment-responsive approach to coronavirus disease (COVID-19) recovery efforts in order to achieve a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery and accelerate a transition to low-emission, climate-resilient, inclusive and sustainable economies and societies,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 71/312 of 6 July 2017 and 76/296 of 21 July 2022, in which the Assembly endorsed the declarations adopted by the first and second United Nations Conferences to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action" and "Our ocean, our future, our responsibility", respectively,

Recalling further its resolution 76/1 of 21 May 2020 on strengthening cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, 2021–2030, and its mission, which includes to generate and use knowledge for the transformational action needed to achieve a healthy, safe and resilient ocean for sustainable development by 2030 and beyond,⁹ and recalling also the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework¹⁰ and its mission to take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030,

Taking note with concern of the findings contained in the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in particular the Sixth Assessment Report and the special reports entitled *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate* and *Global Warming of 1.5°C*,

⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

⁸ See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

⁹ See General Assembly resolution 76/296, annex.

¹⁰ Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity decision 15/4, annex.

Acknowledging the particular vulnerabilities of low-lying coastal countries and small island developing States,

1. *Acknowledges* that the challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and the exacerbating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic affect the poorest and most vulnerable countries and present a threat to sustainable development, notably by curbing progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2. *Also acknowledges* the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans and the cryosphere, and of protecting and conserving biodiversity when taking action to address climate change, and encourages its members and associate members to consider, as appropriate, the inclusion of ocean-based actions in national climate goals;

3. *Further acknowledges* the importance of conserving, restoring, preserving and sustainably using marine and coastal resources and of ecosystem-based approaches that enable oceans to function optimally, including in regulating the global climate;

4. *Acknowledges* the adverse impacts that climate change has on the ocean's health, resources, sustainability, integrity and effectiveness as a carbon sink in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building resilience to climate change;

5. *Also acknowledges* that climate change is a driver of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation and that efforts aimed at the conservation, restoration, preservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources contribute significantly to climate change adaptation and mitigation and promote economic growth, food and nutrition security, particularly in archipelagic and small island developing States;

6. *Recognizes* the role of reinvigorated multilateralism and international cooperation in addressing climate change and promoting ocean-based action and partnerships in the context of sustainable development with a view to accelerating climate action;

7. *Acknowledges* that restoring harmony with nature through a healthy, productive, sustainable and resilient ocean is critical for our planet, our lives and our future, and calls upon all stakeholders to urgently take ambitious and concerted action to accelerate implementation to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 14 as soon as possible without undue delay, with a view to accelerating climate action;

8. *Encourages* its members and associate members to accelerate ocean-based action in Asia and the Pacific, as appropriate, with a view to accelerating the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate action) and Goal 14 (Life below water) and conserving and sustainably using the world's oceans, seas and all marine and coastal resources, in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies and other specialized entities by:

(a) Promoting capacity-building, innovation and technology development and transfer, on mutually agreed terms, among members and associate members with regard to ocean-based action to combat climate change through the exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices by utilizing existing international and regional institutions, forums and platforms;

(b) Promoting the importance of systems thinking and science-based decision-making and policy development and implementation at all levels-based on data and information collection, as appropriate, at regular intervals for monitoring progress on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 13 and 14 to achieve more sustainable, inclusive and resilient ocean-based action to combat climate change;

(c) Strengthening joint cooperation, technical assistance and resource mobilization for sustainable ocean-based action to combat climate change in Asia and the Pacific, as appropriate, with a view to highlighting the role of oceans in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resilience to climate change;

(d) Promoting international cooperative measures, as appropriate and relevant, to support and work towards the prevention, reduction and elimination of pollution in the marine environment, as it relates to climate risk reduction and mitigation;

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To convene a dialogue on accelerating ocean-based action to combat climate change to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and to hold the dialogue, as part of the Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean, prior to the 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

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

*9th plenary meeting
19 May 2023*

**Resolution 79/3
Supporting the sustainable development of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in Asia and the Pacific**

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries,¹¹

Recalling also the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,¹² as well as Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 75/1 of 31 May 2019 on the implementation of the outcome of the Euro-Asian Regional Midterm Review of the Vienna Programme of Action,

Recalling further the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,¹³ as well as Commission resolution 71/4 of 29 May 2015 on its implementation,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 77/246 of 30 December 2022 on the follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries and Assembly resolution 77/245 of 30 December 2022 on the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, in which the Assembly decided to convene in 2023, in collaboration with the regional commissions, regional preparatory meetings for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries and the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in 2024,

¹¹ General Assembly resolution 76/258, annex.

¹² General Assembly resolution 69/137, annex II.

¹³ General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

Recalling also the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations,¹⁴ and reaffirming the Commission's 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,

Recognizing the unique challenges of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in the region, which find themselves in increasingly vulnerable situations, and resolving to accelerate the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, the Vienna Programme of Action and the Samoa Pathway, which will further enhance the overall connectivity of such countries,

Reiterating that each country faces specific challenges in pursuing sustainable development and that the most vulnerable countries, in particular least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, deserve special attention,

Underscoring that North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation are vital to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, noting that South-South cooperation and commitments are not a substitute for but a complement to North-South cooperation, and noting also that there is a clear need for more determined efforts by developed countries and development partners to enhance support to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States,

Emphasizing the critical importance of the work of the United Nations Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries as a focal point for the least developed countries to strengthen their science, technology and innovation capacity towards building sustainable productive capacities and promoting structural economic transformation, as indicated in the Doha Programme of Action,

1. *Encourages* each least developed country Government to develop an ambitious national implementation strategy regarding the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and integrate the provisions of the Doha Programme of Action into its national policies and development and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, as recommended in the Doha Programme of Action;

2. *Urges* the development partners of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States to commit to providing concrete and substantial support to these efforts, in a spirit of shared responsibility and mutual accountability, especially to achieve sustainable and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, build resilience against future shocks, mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts, find new economic growth momentum through the promotion of a sustainable economy and digital transformation, leverage social protections and education and address inequalities through a renewed and strengthened global partnership, bearing in mind that the ownership, leadership and primary responsibility for development in least developed countries rests with the least developed countries themselves and that least developed countries should identify their own national priorities and formulate and execute coherent economic and development policies and strategies to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals;

3. *Encourages* least developed countries to benefit from the services and projects provided by all relevant multilateral entities, including the United Nations Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, and invites member States, relevant international organizations, foundations and the private sector to provide

¹⁴ General Assembly resolution 75/1.

voluntary financial and in-kind resources in order to enhance their capacity and effectiveness;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue to assist least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in Asia and the Pacific in building their capacity and attracting investment to implement relevant action plans and attain internationally agreed development goals;

(b) To continue to analyse the sustainable development challenges faced by these groups of countries and to submit a report containing the main findings of and key messages arising from the analysis for consideration by the Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States during the ministerial segment of the sessions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;

(c) To intensify regional assistance programmes, using existing resources, to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States on sustainable connectivity and reforestation initiatives aimed at reducing vulnerability to climate change;

(d) To encourage international development partners to direct their attention and support to assisting least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in collecting and analysing disaster risk data, transferring technology on voluntary basis and on mutually agreed terms, and increasing funding within existing resources for disaster mitigation in order to successfully implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and the Sustainable Development Goals;

(e) To submit to the Commission at its eighty-first session a report on the progress made in implementing the present resolution.

*9th plenary meeting
19 May 2023*

**Resolution 79/4
Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for a better future for all in Asia and the Pacific**

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

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

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Recalling further its resolutions 73/1 of 19 May 2017, 75/2 of 31 May 2019 and 78/1 of 27 May 2022,

Recalling the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council,¹⁵ in which Ministers and high representatives called for the second Sustainable Development Goals Summit, to be held in September 2023 at the midpoint in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to be prepared so as to mark the beginning of a new phase of accelerated progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals,

¹⁵ E/HLS/2022/1.

Having considered the report on the Tenth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and the addendum thereto,¹⁶

Expressing concern at the limited progress made towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recognizing the need for greater sustainable and inclusive transformations to address global challenges regarding energy, climate, food, finance, digital matters, sustainable consumption and production, economies, and science, technology and innovation to deliver on the region's sustainable development aspirations,

Noting the importance of strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships, building agile, dynamic institutions and investing in and embracing innovation to facilitate the necessary transformations at the speed and scale necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,

Noting also the central role of inclusive, evidence-based and forward-looking voluntary national reviews at the national and subnational levels as mechanisms for taking stock of progress, identifying gaps, raising awareness and ensuring that people in vulnerable situations are not left behind, and encouraging continued support from the secretariat, including for the sharing of experiences through twinning and the provision of methodologies and tools, as appropriate, taking into account national ownership principles,

Noting further that the collective actions at the subregional level for resilience-building, climate mitigation and adaptation, resource mobilization and technical assistance for disaster management can be utilized as building blocks for region-wide, seamless and sustainable connectivity,

Noting with appreciation the collective work of the United Nations development system at the regional level in supporting members and associate members in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including by providing the means of implementation, including technology transfer on a voluntary basis and on mutually agreed terms, financial support and assistance in capacity-building,

1. *Reaffirms* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities, provides a blueprint to drive the necessary transformation in Asia and the Pacific in response to the region's main challenges, including the multiple crises of food, energy and finance, and acknowledges the importance of boosting partnerships that strengthen multilateralism and international cooperation and scaling up ambition to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

2. *Recognizes* the role of regional and subregional, North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation and action in promoting inclusive, resilient and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, including through high-impact initiatives and transformative actions that enhance health and well-being, provide social protection, promote gender equality and equity, tackle climate change and support more sustainable urban development and the region's energy transitions, and also recognizes the need to promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies, good governance and the rule of law at all levels;

3. *Notes* the importance of scaling up investments in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including through national stimulus measures to support the implementation of the Goals and innovative public and private sector financing, and addressing debt sustainability concerns, as appropriate;

4. *Reaffirms* its pledge to leave no one behind and put people at the centre of all its efforts while making sustainable development in all its dimensions a priority in the Asia-Pacific region, in line with the 2030 Agenda, and reach the furthest behind

¹⁶ ESCAP/RFSD/2023/6 and ESCAP/RFSD/2023/6/Add.1.

first, including by investing in inclusive national social protection and universal health coverage, advancing gender equality and equity and accelerating the transition to inclusive and sustainable economies, including through climate change mitigation and adaptation and nature-based solutions, in accordance with national policies and priorities;

5. *Also reaffirms* that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is important for the enjoyment of human rights and for sustainable development in all its dimensions, and resolves to strengthen regional cooperation on environment conservation, including climate action, air quality, the conservation of ecosystems, forests and oceans, and sustainable urban development;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To ensure that the report on the Tenth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and the addendum thereto are submitted for consideration at the global dialogues on sustainable development, including the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development and the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit, to be held in New York on 19 and 20 September;

(b) To continue to support members and associate members in accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through regional actions and initiatives;

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

*9th plenary meeting
19 May 2023*

**Resolution 79/5
Implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032**

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 69/13 of 1 May 2013 on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling also its resolution 74/7 of 16 May 2018, entitled “Towards disability-inclusive sustainable development: implementation of the Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy”,

Welcoming the successful outcome of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, which was hosted by the Government of Indonesia and held in Jakarta and online from 19 to 21 October 2022,

Noting with satisfaction the high-level participation of its members and associate members and the contribution of stakeholders, including organizations of persons with disabilities, to the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. *Endorses* the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032;¹⁷

¹⁷ ESCAP/APDDP/2022/3/Add.1.

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To accord priority to the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032;

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

*9th plenary meeting
19 May 2023*

Resolution 79/6
Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Protecting Our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 74/4 of 16 May 2018 on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development for Asia and the Pacific, 2017,

Welcoming the successful outcome of the seventh session of the Committee on Environment and Development, held at the ministerial level in Bangkok and online from 29 November to 1 December 2022,

1. *Endorses* the Ministerial Declaration on Protecting Our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution annexed thereto;¹⁸

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To accord priority to the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Protecting Our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity 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 on Air Pollution;

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

*9th plenary meeting
19 May 2023*

Resolution 79/7
Advancing regional cooperation for sustainable urban development and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Inspired by the transformative role of national, subnational and local governments in designing, planning and managing sustainable urban development,

Emphasizing the positive contributions of national, subnational and local governments to implementing and localizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹⁹ in particular Sustainable Development Goal 11, in the spirit of unity, solidarity, multilateralism and international cooperation,

¹⁸ ESCAP/CED/2022/4/Add.1.

¹⁹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Recognizing the significant adverse health, social and economic effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on cities and towns in Asia and the Pacific, especially on vulnerable urban communities, which often live in informal settlements, and the need to build resilience for a sustainable recovery at all levels of government and society against future pandemics and other interlinked crises,

Recalling the outcomes of and the global commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),²⁰ a critical milestone for realizing sustainable urban development in an integrated and coordinated manner at the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels, with the participation of all relevant actors,

Recalling also its resolution 70/12 of 8 August 2014 on strengthening efforts on human settlements and sustainable urban development for the Asia-Pacific region, and its resolution 78/1 of 27 May 2022, entitled “Bangkok Declaration Commemorating the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: a Common Agenda to Advance Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific”, in which the Commission committed itself to promoting sustainable urban development to enhance the quality of life, develop healthy environments and better manage environmental risks and resources,

Acknowledging with satisfaction the outcomes of the Seventh Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, held in Penang, Malaysia, in 2019, which resulted in the establishment of the Penang Platform for Sustainable Urbanization, a regional multi-stakeholder partnership that supports local, subnational and national governments in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda²¹ in Asia and the Pacific,

1. *Encourages* members and associate members to work together closely and to develop impactful initiatives that are aimed at achieving the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 11, at the national, subnational and local levels, including through the Penang Platform for Sustainable Urbanization, as appropriate, to accelerate the implementation of sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific;

2. *Welcomes* the opportunities that will be provided by the Eighth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, which is to be held in Suwon, Republic of Korea, in October 2023 – to coincide with the global commemoration of World Cities Day,²² which has been designated to promote cooperation among countries in facing the opportunities and challenges of urbanization and urban sprawl and contributing to sustainable urban development around the world – to focus on local actions for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals so as to aid in ensuring a sustained recovery and enhance the resilience of the region’s human settlements, towns and cities to future pandemics and other interlinked crises;

3. *Invites* all members and associate members and representatives of international organizations, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to participate actively in the Eighth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum;

4. *Expresses appreciation* for the ongoing efforts of all members and associate members to promote sustainable urban development as an accelerator of social, economic, environmental and balanced territorial development in the Asia-Pacific region;

5. *Reaffirms* the vital role of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in fostering regional and subregional cooperation for sustainable urban development, as well as in directly assisting members and associate members in their efforts to localize the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda

²⁰ General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

²¹ Ibid.

²² General Assembly resolution 68/239.

through active partnerships, including with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and organizations across the United Nations system;

6. *Encourages* all members and associate members:

(a) To strengthen regional cooperation on sustainable urban development through, among other modalities, the sharing of evidence-based knowledge, good practices and lessons learned, including but not limited to supporting voluntary subnational and local reviews and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 11, in close alignment with and guided by voluntary national reviews;

(b) To enhance the role of multi-stakeholder urban forums and dialogues, as needed, which support the inclusive design, implementation and review of national, subnational and local urban policies and strategies, promoting a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 11;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue to support policy and technical cooperation for members and associate members on sustainable urban development and the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, as appropriate, in collaboration with regional and subregional intergovernmental bodies and international organizations, regional local government associations, civil society networks, the private sector and organizations within the United Nations system, including at regional ministerial conferences on housing and urban development;

(b) To assist members and associate members, upon request, with the provision of policy studies and capacity-building activities, to inform their efforts to promote sustainable urban development, including policy and planning support to accelerate progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 11 in the Asia-Pacific region;

(c) To report to the Commission at its eighty-first session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*9th plenary meeting
19 May 2023*

Resolution 79/8

Consideration of the modalities for the establishment of the United Nations special programme for the Aral Sea basin

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 73/226 of 20 December 2018 on the midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, and recognizing that the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030²³ contributes to the achievement of the objectives of the International Decade for Action,

Acknowledging the interlinkages among the Sustainable Development Goals²⁴ and that such interlinkages drive progress in the achievement of all the Goals and related targets,

Acknowledging also that the negative humanitarian, environmental and socioeconomic consequences of the Aral Sea basin tragedy go well beyond the region,

²³ General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

²⁴ See General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Taking note of General Assembly resolutions 72/273 of 12 April 2018, 73/297 of 28 May 2019 and 75/266 of 3 March 2021 on cooperation between the United Nations and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, as well as Assembly resolution 75/278 of 18 May 2021 on declaring the Aral Sea region a zone of ecological innovations and technologies,

Recalling with appreciation the joint communiqué adopted by the Heads of State of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan during a meeting of the Council of Heads of the Founding States of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, held in the Avaza national tourist area in Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan, on 24 August 2018,²⁵ and recalling also the creation of the multi-partner human security trust fund for the Aral Sea region under the auspices of the United Nations,

Taking note of the outcomes of the international consultations on the development of the United Nations special programme for the Aral Sea basin²⁶ held in Ashgabat on 18 December 2019, with the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, and relevant stakeholders,

1. *Invites* its members and associate members, donor countries, multilateral financial institutions, relevant agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and regional organizations, as appropriate, to continue their efforts within their respective mandates to consider the modalities for the establishment of the United Nations special programme for the Aral Sea basin;

2. *Recognizes* the need to promote regional and international cooperation to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of disasters in the water basin of the Aral Sea, in collaboration with relevant specialized international organizations;

3. *Proposes* that a study be carried out, in consultation with relevant regional and international specialized entities, as appropriate, on the necessity, viability and modalities of establishing the United Nations special programme for the Aral Sea basin;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To commission the above-mentioned study, as appropriate, in collaboration with relevant specialized entities, in accordance with their respective mandates and subject to the availability of resources, on the feasibility of and the modalities for strengthening regional cooperation with a view to mitigating and minimizing the consequences of disasters in the water basin of the Aral Sea, without duplicating efforts;

(b) To facilitate the organization of a workshop on preventing and mitigating natural disasters in the water basin of the Aral Sea with the relevant organizations that have the necessary technical expertise in the matter, as appropriate and subject to the availability of resources;

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

*9th plenary meeting
19 May 2023*

²⁵ A/73/444, annex.

²⁶ A/74/644.

Resolution 79/9
Implementation of the Jakarta Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 75/6 of 31 May 2019 on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030),

Welcoming the successful outcome of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Jakarta and online on 26 October 2022,

1. *Endorses* the Jakarta Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific;²⁷
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:
 - (a) To accord priority to the implementation of the Jakarta Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific;
 - (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 Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030);²⁸
 - (c) To support the holding of the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific in 2026, to coincide with the end of phase II (2022–2026) and the start of phase III (2026–2030) of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030);
 - (d) To report to the Commission at its eighty-third session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

9th plenary meeting
19 May 2023

Resolution 79/10
Promoting digital cooperation and inclusion through the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 78/1 of 27 May 2022, entitled “Bangkok Declaration Commemorating the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: a Common Agenda to Advance Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific”, in which members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific committed themselves to improving digital cooperation, expressed their intention to cooperate at all levels, including at the ministerial level, and recognized that the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative could be one of the useful regional platforms for the promotion of digital cooperation,

²⁷ ESCAP/MCSASD/2022/3/Add.1.

²⁸ ESCAP/75/10/Add.2.

Welcoming the endorsement of the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026, by the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation at its fourth session, held in Bangkok and online from 30 August to 1 September 2022,²⁹

Noting the Asia-Pacific Digital Ministerial Conference, organized by the Republic of Korea in collaboration with the secretariat of the Commission and held in Seoul on 10 November 2022,

Noting with appreciation the initiative of the Government of Kazakhstan on establishing a digital solutions centre for sustainable development to provide practical digital solutions in Central Asia and beyond,

1. *Invites* its members and associate members to promote regional cooperation with a view to advancing inclusive digital connectivity and transformation;

2. *Decides* to convene a ministerial conference on digital inclusion and transformation to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and regional technology initiatives, including the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative, in line with the provisions of the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;

3. *Welcomes* the offer of the Government of Kazakhstan to host such a ministerial conference in 2024;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To promote, as appropriate, regional and subregional digital connectivity and transformation by assisting members and associate members in carrying out the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026;

(b) To foster digital cooperation among members and associate members in order to bridge the digital divide, ensure the provision of digital skills training, strengthen digital connectivity, address and enhance digital trust and security, share good policies, practices and lessons learned, and promote inclusive digital economies and societies;

(c) To mobilize the efforts of members and associate members to collaborate in the digital transformation process, including under the framework of the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026;

(d) To continue to provide technical assistance, policy analysis and capacity development and promote knowledge-sharing among members and associate members, in particular least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, on digital connectivity and transformation through regional cooperation, as appropriate;

(e) To continue to engage with other United Nations agencies and regional organizations, as well as with major groups and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to advance inclusive digital connectivity and transformation;

(f) To support the holding of the ministerial conference on digital inclusion and transformation in 2024;

(g) To facilitate the implementation of the present resolution and report to the Commission at its eighty-second session on progress made in that regard.

*9th plenary meeting
19 May 2023*

²⁹ ESCAP/CICTSTI/2022/6, decision 1.

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

Decision 79/1

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

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 19 May 2023, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific took note of the note by the secretariat on the report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on its seventeenth session (ESCAP/79/3).

Decision 79/2

Subregional cooperation to accelerate climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 19 May 2023, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific took note of the note by the secretariat on subregional cooperation to accelerate climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development (ESCAP/79/4).

Decision 79/3

Summary of the *Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2023: Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Seamless and Sustainable Connectivity*

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 19 May 2023, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific took note of the note by the secretariat containing a summary of the *Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2023: Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Seamless and Sustainable Connectivity* (ESCAP/79/5).

Decision 79/4

Reports of intergovernmental bodies and meetings held since the seventy-eighth session

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 19 May 2023, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on Social Development on its seventh session (ESCAP/CSD/2022/5);

(b) Report on the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022 (ESCAP/APDDP/2022/3);

(c) Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its eighteenth session (ESCAP/79/8);

(d) Report of the Committee on Environment and Development on its seventh session (ESCAP/CED/2022/4);

(e) Report of the Committee on Transport on its seventh session (ESCAP/CTR/2022/6);

(f) Report on the Third Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/MCREI/2022/5);

(g) Report of the Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation on its first session (ESCAP/CTIEBI(1)/8);

(h) Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its eighteenth session (ESCAP/79/15);

(i) Report of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation on its fourth session (ESCAP/CICTSTI/2022/6);

(j) Report on the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/MCSASD/2022/3);

(k) Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its seventeenth session (ESCAP/79/17);

(l) Report of the Committee on Statistics on its eighth session (ESCAP/CST/2022/8);

(m) Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its eighteenth session (ESCAP/79/19).

Decision 79/5
Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 19 May 2023, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the report on the Tenth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (ESCAP/RFSD/2023/6) and took note of the summary of round-table discussions (ESCAP/RFSD/2023/6/Add.1).

Decision 79/6
Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 19 May 2023, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the report on the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.3/2022/3) and the outcome document entitled “Accelerating Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, to Build a Sustainable Society for All Ages in Asia and the Pacific” (ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.3/2022/3/Add.1).

Decision 79/7
Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management on its seventh session

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 19 May 2023, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management on its seventh session (ESCAP/79/10) and took note of the note by the secretariat on the update on the financial situation of the Centre (ESCAP/79/10/Add.1).

Decision 79/8
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 9th plenary meeting, on 19 May 2023, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific took note of the following documents:

(a) Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/79/6);

(b) Trends in social development: the future of work in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/79/7);

(c) Enabling cities to take climate action and advance the Sustainable Development Goals (ESCAP/79/9);

(d) Early warning and action for all by 2027: transformative adaptation measures to address increased risks in the Asia-Pacific region (ESCAP/79/11);

(e) Accelerating the just energy transition to make progress in achieving net-zero-emissions targets in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/79/12);

(f) Enhancing the environmental sustainability of transport systems to support climate action in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/79/13);

(g) Securing public debt sustainability while pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals (ESCAP/79/14);

(h) Harnessing trade, investment, innovation and technology transfer for climate action (ESCAP/79/16);

(i) Promoting digital transformation in Asia and the Pacific through the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026 (ESCAP/79/18);

(j) Getting everyone in the picture for more effective climate change action (ESCAP/79/20);

(k) Annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission (ESCAP/79/INF/1).

Decision 79/9

Proposed programme plan for 2024

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 19 May 2023, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the proposed programme plan for 2024 (ESCAP/79/21).

Decision 79/10

Overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 19 May 2023, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific took note of the note by the secretariat on the overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development (ESCAP/79/22) and expressed its appreciation for the following contributions pledged by members and associate members for 2023:

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

ESCAP programme of work	\$2 000
APCICT	\$2 000
APDIM	\$2 000
CSAM	\$2 000
SIAP	\$2 000

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

China-ESCAP Cooperation Programme	\$1 000 000 and RMB 1 500 000
APCTT	\$27 000
CSAM	\$1 600 000
SIAP	\$70 000
Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities	\$10 000
NEASPEC	\$45 000

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

APCICT	\$20 000
APCTT	\$870 000
CSAM	\$15 000
Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia	\$79 000

5. **Japan.** The delegation of Japan provided written notification to the secretariat and announced that its Government would make the following contributions for the period from April 2023 to March 2024:

Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	\$18 436
SIAP	\$1 841 565

In addition, the Government of Japan would make an in-kind contribution equivalent to \$992,620 to SIAP for the period from April 2023 to March 2024. Furthermore, as part of its technical cooperation programme, the delegation announced its Government's intention to provide fellowships for 10 participants in a three-month training course through the Japan International Cooperation Agency, in cooperation with SIAP.

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

APCICT	\$5 000
APCTT	\$5 000
APDIM	\$10 000
SIAP	\$20 000

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

APCTT	\$6 000
SIAP	\$20 000

In addition, the Government of Malaysia would make an in-kind contribution equivalent to \$3,800 to CSAM for logistics, transportation and documentation kits for the ninth meeting of the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery and \$6,500 to SIAP for its training programme.

8. **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	\$142 835
ESCAP programme of work	\$469 643
Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities	\$149 599
NEASPEC	\$115 166
Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth	\$100 000
APCICT	\$1 514 818
APCTT	\$22 431
CSAM	\$10 000
SIAP	\$98 698
Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia	\$1 141 000

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

SIAP	\$15 000
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10. *Thailand*. The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Thailand would make the following contributions:

APCTT	\$15 000
CSAM	\$15 000
SIAP	\$23 000
Pacific trust fund	\$1 000

Decision 79/11

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

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 19 May 2023, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific took note of the report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ESCAP/79/23).

Decision 79/12

Dates and venue of and theme topic for the eightieth session of the Commission (2024)

At its 9th plenary meeting, on 19 May 2023, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific took note of the note by the secretariat on the dates and venue of and theme topic for the eightieth session of the Commission (ESCAP/79/24) and decided that its eightieth session would be held in Bangkok from 22 to 26 April 2024. The Commission also decided that the theme topic for its eightieth session would be “Leveraging digital innovation for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific”.

Chapter II

Organization of the seventy-ninth session of the Commission

A. Attendance and organization of work

3. The seventy-ninth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific was held in Bangkok and online from 15 to 19 May 2023.

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 (Kingdom of the)
New Zealand
Pakistan
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Samoa
Singapore
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

Cook Islands
Hong Kong, China
Macao, China

5. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of Belarus, Finland, Germany, Italy, Nigeria, San Marino, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland attended.

6. Representatives of the following offices of the Secretariat attended: Development Coordination Office; Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

7. Representatives of the following United Nations specialized agencies, funds, programmes and other United Nations entities attended: International Atomic Energy Agency; International Organization for Migration; secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability; and WMO.

8. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: ASEAN; Asian Development Bank; Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation; Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia; Economic Cooperation Organization; ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee; Eurasian Economic Commission; Greater Tumen Initiative; International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries; Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat; secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme; 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: Association of Pacific Rim Universities; Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations; Global Peace Foundation; Institute for Global Environmental Strategies; International Committee of the Red Cross; International Federation of Business and Professional Women; International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; International Federation of Social Workers; International Planned Parenthood Federation; Kwansai Gakuin University; Northeast Asia Economic Development Union; Pan Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association; Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George; SERAC-Bangladesh; Soroptimist International; and Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform.

10. The list of participants is available online.³⁰

11. At its 1st meeting, on 15 May 2023, and in accordance with rule 13 of its rules of procedure, the Commission elected Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu (Tonga) as Chair of the seventy-ninth session.

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

Mr. Ly Thuch (Cambodia)
Mr. Rachmat Budiman (Indonesia)
Mr. Askar Zhambakin (Kazakhstan)
Mr. Ankhbayar Nyamdorj (Mongolia)

³⁰ See www.unescap.org/events/commission79.

Ms. Millicent Cruz-Paredes (Philippines)
Ms. Hyoeun Jenny Kim (Republic of Korea)
Mrs. Colonne Appuhamillage Chaminda Inoka Colonne (Sri Lanka)

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

14. In accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure of the Commission, the Chair and Vice-Chairs examined the credentials of all the representatives and reported upon them to the Commission. The credentials of 49 member States were found to be in order. Acknowledging the report of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session,³¹ and in line with Assembly resolution 396 (V) of 14 December 1950, the bureau decided to defer any action on the credentials pertaining to the representatives of Myanmar at the seventy-ninth session of the Commission.

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

B. Agenda

16. The Commission adopted the following agenda:
1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening addresses;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Theme topic, “Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development”:
 - (a) General debate;
 - (b) Strengthening subregional cooperation;
 - (c) Catalysing climate financing and investment.
 3. Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Small Island Developing States.
 4. 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:
 - (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;

³¹ A/77/600.

- (h) Trade, investment, enterprise and business innovation;
 - (i) Information and communications technology, science, technology and innovation;
 - (j) Statistics.
5. Management issues:
- (a) Proposed programme plan for 2024;
 - (b) Overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development.
6. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.
7. Dates and venue of and theme topic for the eightieth session of the Commission (2024).
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventy-ninth session.

C. Opening of the session

17. The Chair presided over the opening of the seventy-ninth session, on 15 May 2023. Video messages were played from the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session, Mr. Csaba Körösi; the seventy-eighth President of the Economic and Social Council, Ms. Lachezara Stoeva; the Secretary-General; and the Prime Minister of Thailand, General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.). The Executive Secretary of the Commission delivered her own welcome remarks and a policy statement.

18. Statements on climate action were delivered by the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands and Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, Mr. Mark Stephen Brown; the President of Palau, Mr. Surangel S. Whipps, Jr.; and the Prime Minister of Samoa, Ms. Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa. Video messages were played from the President of Indonesia, Mr. Joko Widodo; the President of the Philippines, Mr. Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos, Jr.; the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Ms. Sheikh Hasina; the Prime Minister of Mongolia, Mr. Luvsannamsrain Oyun-Erdene; the Prime Minister of Tonga, Mr. Siaosi 'Ofakivahafolau Sovaleni Hu'akavameiliku; and the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Mr. Kausea Natano.

19. Keynote addresses were delivered by the Director of the Center for Sustainable Development of Columbia University and President of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Mr. Jeffrey D. Sachs; the Chair of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network and President of Hong Kong-ASEAN Economic Cooperation Foundation, Mr. George Lam; the Director General of the Centre for Science and Environment of India and Editor of "Down to Earth", Ms. Sunita Narain; the Chair of the Commonwealth Youth Council, Mr. Kim Allen; and youth representative to the Tenth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, Ms. Prim Rajasurang Wongkrasaamongkol.

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

20. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 19 May 2023, the Commission adopted the report on its seventy-ninth session.

Chapter III

Work of the Commission since its seventy-eighth session

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

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

- (a) Committees:
 - (i) Committee on Social Development (seventh session);
 - (ii) Committee on Environment and Development, held at the ministerial level (seventh session);
 - (iii) Committee on Transport (seventh session);
 - (iv) Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation (first session);
 - (v) Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation (fourth session);
 - (vi) Committee on Statistics (eighth session);
- (b) Governing councils:
 - (i) Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (seventeenth session);
 - (ii) Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (eighteenth session);
 - (iii) Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (eighteenth session);
 - (iv) Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (eighteenth session);
 - (v) Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (seventh session);
- (c) Other intergovernmental meetings:
 - (i) Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (seventeenth session);
 - (ii) Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing;
 - (iii) High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022;
 - (iv) Third Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific;
 - (v) Fourth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific;
 - (vi) Tenth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

22. 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

23. The list of publications issued since the seventy-eighth 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

24. 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 2023¹ and the proposed programme budget of the United Nations for 2024:²

(a) Resolution 79/1: Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development;

(b) Resolution 79/2: Regional cooperation to accelerate climate action on oceans in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development;

(c) Resolution 79/3: Supporting the sustainable development of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in Asia and the Pacific;

(d) Resolution 79/4: Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for a better future for all in Asia and the Pacific;

(e) Resolution 79/5: Implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032;

(f) Resolution 79/6: Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Protecting Our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific;

(g) Resolution 79/7: Advancing regional cooperation for sustainable urban development and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific;

(h) Resolution 79/8: Consideration of the modalities for the establishment of the United Nations special programme for the Aral Sea basin;

(i) Resolution 79/9: Implementation of the Jakarta Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific;

(j) Resolution 79/10: Promoting digital cooperation and inclusion through the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026.

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

3. With respect to resolution 79/10, the fifth session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation referred to in the proposed programme plan for 2024 would be changed to a ministerial conference on digital inclusion and transformation, in accordance with the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which stipulates that, in those years when a ministerial conference or intergovernmental meeting is held covering issues normally discussed by a committee, the corresponding committee session need not be convened.³

¹ General Assembly resolution 77/264 A–C.

² A/78/6 (Sect. 19).

³ Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 78/2, annex.

Annex II

Meetings of subsidiary bodies and other intergovernmental bodies held since the seventy-eighth session of the Commission

<i>Subsidiary bodies and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>
<i>Committees</i>		
<p>I. Committee on Social Development</p> <p>Chair: Ms. Ariunzaya Ayush (Mongolia)</p> <p>Vice-Chairs: Mr. Boros Samheng (Cambodia) Ms. Suzilah Mohd Sidek (Malaysia)</p>	<p>Seventh session Bangkok and online 6–8 September 2022</p>	<p>ESCAP/CSD/2022/5</p>
<p>II. Committee on Environment and Development, held at the ministerial level</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Bat-Ulzii Bat-Urdene (Mongolia)</p> <p>Vice-Chairs: Ms. Vilaykham Phosalath (Lao People’s Democratic Republic) Ms. Zulfiya Suleimenova (Kazakhstan)</p>	<p>Seventh session Bangkok and online 29 November– 1 December 2022</p>	<p>ESCAP/CED/2022/4</p>
<p>III. Committee on Transport</p> <p>Chair: Ms. Min Meanvy (Cambodia)</p> <p>Vice-Chairs: Ms. C.A. Chaminda I. Colonne (Sri Lanka) Mr. Arman Issetov (Kazakhstan)</p>	<p>Seventh session Bangkok and online 23–25 November 2022</p>	<p>ESCAP/CTR/2022/6</p>
<p>IV. Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Amarsanaa Tumur (Mongolia)</p> <p>Vice-Chairs: Mr. Noor Md. Mahbubul Haq (Bangladesh) Mr. Nurbolat Alimbayev (Kazakhstan)</p>	<p>First session Bangkok and online 22–24 February 2023</p>	<p>ESCAP/CTIEBI(1)/8</p>

<i>Subsidiary bodies and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>
V. Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation Chair: Mr. Ivan John E. Uy (Philippines) Vice-Chairs: Mr. Mohamed Shareef (Maldives) Mr. Chaiwut Thanakamanusorn (Thailand)	Fourth session Bangkok and online 30 August– 1 September 2022	ESCAP/CICTSTI/2022/6
VI. Committee on Statistics Chair: Mr. Batdavaa Batmunkh (Mongolia) Vice-Chairs: Ms. Maria Musudroka (Fiji) Mr. Gobinda Prasad Samanta (India) Mr. Bakhodir Begalov (Uzbekistan) Member: Ms. Piyanuch Wuttisorn (Thailand) Rapporteur: Mr. Eng Chuan Koh (Singapore)	Eighth session Bangkok and online 23–25 August 2022	ESCAP/CST/2022/8
<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. Jeffrey Ian Cardano Dy (Philippines) Vice-Chair: Ms. Ishariyaporn Smiprem (Thailand)	Seventeenth session Seoul 9 November 2022	ESCAP/79/17
II. Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology Chair: Mr. Olimjon Alijonovich Tuychiev (Uzbekistan) Vice-Chair: Mr. Md. Selim Reza (Bangladesh)	Eighteenth session Bangkok and online 7 and 8 December 2022	ESCAP/79/15
III. Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific Chair: Mr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin (Malaysia) Vice-Chair: Ms. Orié Hirano (Japan)	Eighteenth session Chiba, Japan, and online 12 and 13 December 2022	ESCAP/79/19
IV. Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization Chair: Mr. Azman bin Hamzah (Malaysia) Vice-Chair: Mr. Shyam Narayan Jha (India)	Eighteenth session Beijing and online 9 December 2022	ESCAP/79/8

<i>Subsidiary bodies and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>
V. Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management	Seventh session Istanbul, Türkiye 7 December 2022	ESCAP/79/10
Chair: Mr. Muhammet Maruf Yaman (Türkiye)		
Vice-Chair: Mr. Vafo Ashurzoda (Tajikistan)		
<i>Other intergovernmental meetings</i>		
I. Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia	Seventeenth session Almaty, Kazakhstan, and online 18 November 2022	ESCAP/79/3
Chair: Mr. Abzal Abdikarimov (Kazakhstan)		
II. Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing	Bangkok and online 29 June–1 July 2022	ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.3 /2022/3
Chair: Ms. Aishath Mohamed Didi (Maldives)		
Vice-Chairs: Ms. Millicent Cruz-Paredes (Philippines)		
Ms. Maziah Che Yusoff (Malaysia)		
III. High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022	Jakarta and online 19–21 October 2022	ESCAP/APDDP/2022/3
Chair: Ms. Tri Rismaharini (Indonesia)		
Vice-Chairs: Ms. Rosy Akbar (Fiji)		
Ms. Aishath Mohamed Didi (Maldives)		
IV. Third Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific	Bangkok and online 28–30 September 2022	ESCAP/MCREI/2022/5
Chair: Mr. Loknath Sharma (Bhutan)		
Vice-Chairs: Mr. Munkhjinn Batsumber (Mongolia)		
Mr. Arman Issetov (Kazakhstan)		
Mr. Fakhridin Sultanov (Uzbekistan)		
V. Fourth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific	Jakarta and online 26 October 2022	ESCAP/MCSASD/2022/3
Chair: Mr. Laksana Tri Handoko (Indonesia)		
Vice-Chairs: Mr. S.A.D. Susil Premajayantha (Sri Lanka)		
Mr. Joel Joseph S. Marciano, Jr. (Philippines)		

<i>Subsidiary bodies and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>
VI. Tenth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development	Bangkok and online 27–30 March 2023	ESCAP/RFSD/2023/6
Chair:	Mr. Mohamed Aslam (Maldives)	
Vice-Chairs:	Mr. Min Bahadur Shreshtha (Nepal)	
	Mr. Fidélis Manuel Leite Magalhães (Timor-Leste)	
	Mr. Pagnathun Theng (Cambodia)	
	Mr. Shehan Asanka Semasinghe (Sri Lanka)	

Annex III

Publications and documents issued by the Commission

I. Publications issued since the seventy-eighth session

Executive direction and management

Annual report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, 30 April 2021–27 May 2022 (E/2022/39).

What's Ahead @ ESCAP.*

Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2023: Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Seamless and Sustainable Connectivity. ST/ESCAP/3083 (Sales No. E.23.II.F.4).

Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Journal. Vol. 29, No. 2, November 2022. ST/ESCAP/3056 (Sales No. E.22.II.F.17).

Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Journal. Vol. 30, No. 1, May 2023. ST/ESCAP/3083 (Sales No. E.23.II.F.5).

Delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals through Solutions at the Energy, Food and Finance Nexus (published jointly by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme).

The Race to Net Zero: Accelerating Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific. ST/ESCAP/3079 (Sales No. E.23.II.F.3).

Subprogramme 1

Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2023: Rethinking Public Debt for the Sustainable Development Goals. ST/ESCAP/3080 (Sales No. E.23.II.F.2).

MPFD Policy Briefs:*

No. 123, September 2022: “Debt for climate swaps in the Pacific SIDS”.

No. 124, December 2022: “Public expenditures and inequality in Asia-Pacific: understanding the relationship”.

No. 125, December 2022: “Ensuring public debt sustainability in the Pacific small island developing States”.

MPFD Working Papers:*

WP/22/04, December 2022: “Enhancing digital G2P transfer capacities in the Asian LDCs”.

WP/23/01, February 2023: “Enhancing fiscal space and ensuring sustainable financing”.

* Available online only.

Subprogramme 2

Trade, investment and innovation¹

*Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Trends 2022/2023:**

September 2022: “Foreign direct investment and policies in the health sector in Asia and the Pacific”.

November 2022: “Trade agreements in Asia and the Pacific: bigger, deeper, digital and more supportive of sustainable development?”.

November 2022: “Trade trends in goods and services in Asia-Pacific”.

December 2022: “Asia-Pacific foreign direct investment trends and outlook in Asia and the Pacific”.

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

No. 96, *Investment Facilitation for Sustainable Development within the Context of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the ASEAN Investment Facilitation Framework and the WTO Draft Investment Facilitation Framework for Development*. ST/ESCAP/3063 (Sales No. E.23.II.F.1).

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

No. 1, March 2022: “Regional cooperation and integration in support of a sustainable development-oriented multilateral trading system”.

No. 2, July 2022: “Has the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement helped reduce trade costs? An ex-post analysis”.

No. 3, September 2022: “Trade, investment and cooperation in health product and services in the Asia-Pacific region”.

No. 1, January 2023: “Greenhouse gas emissions embedded in agricultural trade: implications and potential opportunities for Asia-Pacific”.

Subprogramme 3

Transport

Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific: No. 92. ST/ESCAP/SER.E/92.*

Subprogramme 4

Environment and development

The Transition of Asian and Pacific Cities to a Sustainable Future: Accelerating Action for Sustainable Urbanization. ST/ESCAP/2990.

Subprogramme 5

Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management

Asia-Pacific Digital Transformation Report 2022: Shaping Our Digital Future. (Sales No. E.22.II.F.13).

Geospatial Practices for Sustainable Development in South-East Asia 2022: A Compendium. ST/ESCAP/3052 (Sales No. E.22.II.F.16).

Pathways to Adaptation and Resilience in East and North-East Asia: Subregional Report. ST/ESCAP/3012.

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

Pathways to Adaptation and Resilience in Pacific SIDS: Subregional Report. ST/ESCAP/3012.

Pathways to Adaptation and Resilience in South-East Asia: Subregional Report. ST/ESCAP/3012.

Subprogramme 6 **Social development**

A Three-Decade Journey towards Inclusion: Assessing the State of Disability-Inclusive Development in Asia and the Pacific. ST/ESCAP/3055 (Sales No. E.22.II.F.18).

Asia-Pacific Report on Population Ageing 2022: Trends, Policies and Good Practices Regarding Older Persons and Population Ageing. ST/ESCAP/3041.

Social Outlook for Asia and the Pacific: The Workforce We Need. ST/ESCAP/3038 (Sales No. E.22.II.F.11).

Subprogramme 7 **Statistics**

Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2023: Championing Sustainability Despite Adversities. ST/ESCAP/3078 (Sales No. E.22.II.F.12).

*Statistics Division Working Paper Series:**

Working Paper Series (SD/WP/14/May 2022): “Beyond GDP: the idea of global sustainability accounting”.

Working Paper Series (SD/WP/15/April 2023): “Estimating illicit financial flows from trade misinvoicing: introducing the ‘grey re-exports’ method (the case of Kyrgyzstan)”.

*Stats Brief:**

No. 32, January 2023: “Reaching a regional estimate of death registration completeness”.

Subprogramme 8 **Subregional activities for development**

Pacific Perspectives 2022: Accelerating Climate Action. ST/ESCAP/3062.

Subprogramme 9 **Energy**

Energy Transition Pathways for the 2030 Agenda: SDG 7 Roadmap for the Lao People’s Democratic Republic. ST/ESCAP/3039.

Energy Transition Pathways for the 2030 Agenda: Sustainable Energy Transition Road Map for Chiang Rai Province, Thailand. ST/ESCAP/3034.

Energy Transition Pathways for the 2030 Agenda: Sustainable Energy Transition Road Map for Surat Thani Province, Thailand. ST/ESCAP/3036.

Energy Transition Pathways for the 2030 Agenda: Sustainable Energy Transition Road Map for Udon Thani Province of Thailand. ST/ESCAP/3035.

Regional Trends Report 2022: Toward Sustainable Energy Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific. ST/ESCAP/3046 (Sales No. E.22.II.F.15).

II. Documents submitted to the Commission at its seventy-ninth session

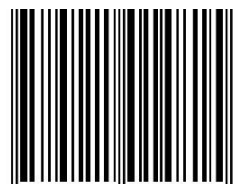
<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Document title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>Limited documents</i>		
ESCAP/79/L.1	Draft report: Organization of the seventy-ninth session of the Commission	9
ESCAP/79/L.1/Add.1	Draft report: Statement of programme budget implications of actions and proposals of the Commission	9
ESCAP/79/L.2	Draft decisions	9
ESCAP/79/L.3	Draft resolution: Implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032	4 (b)
ESCAP/79/L.4	Draft resolution: Implementation of the Jakarta Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific	4 (i)
ESCAP/79/L.5	Draft resolution: Advancing regional cooperation for sustainable urban development and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific	4 (c)
ESCAP/79/L.6	Draft resolution: Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Protecting Our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific	4 (c)
ESCAP/79/L.7	Draft resolution: Promoting digital cooperation and inclusion through the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026	4 (i)
ESCAP/79/L.8	Draft resolution: Supporting the sustainable development of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in Asia and the Pacific	3
ESCAP/79/L.9	Draft resolution: Consideration of the modalities for the establishment of the United Nations special programme for the Aral Sea basin	4 (d)
ESCAP/79/L.10	Draft resolution: Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development	2
ESCAP/79/L.11	Draft resolution: Regional cooperation to accelerate climate action on oceans in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development	2
ESCAP/79/L.12	Draft resolution: Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for a better future for all in Asia and the Pacific	4 (a)
<i>Regular documents</i>		
ESCAP/79/1/Rev.2	Provisional agenda	1 (c)
ESCAP/79/1/Add.1/Rev.1	Annotated provisional agenda	1 (c)
ESCAP/79/2	Summary of the theme study on accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development	2 (a) and (c)
ESCAP/79/3	Report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on its seventeenth session	2 (b)

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Document title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
ESCAP/79/4	Subregional cooperation to accelerate climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development	2 (b)
ESCAP/79/5	Summary of the <i>Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2023: Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Seamless and Sustainable Connectivity</i>	3
ESCAP/79/6	Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions	4 and 4 (b)
ESCAP/79/7	Trends in social development: the future of work in Asia and the Pacific	4 (b)
ESCAP/79/8	Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its eighteenth session	4 (c)
ESCAP/79/9	Enabling cities to take climate action and advance the Sustainable Development Goals	4 (c)
ESCAP/79/10	Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management on its seventh session	4 (d)
ESCAP/79/10/Add.1	Update on the financial situation of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management	4 (d)
ESCAP/79/11	Early warning and action for all by 2027: transformative adaptation measures to address increased risks in the Asia-Pacific region	4 (d)
ESCAP/79/12	Accelerating the just energy transition to make progress in achieving net-zero-emissions targets in Asia and the Pacific	4 (e)
ESCAP/79/13	Enhancing the environmental sustainability of transport systems to support climate action in Asia and the Pacific	4 (f)
ESCAP/79/14	Securing public debt sustainability while pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals	4 (g)
ESCAP/79/15	Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its eighteenth session	4 (h)
ESCAP/79/16	Harnessing trade, investment, innovation and technology transfer for climate action	4 (h)
ESCAP/79/17	Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its seventeenth session	4 (i)
ESCAP/79/18	Promoting digital transformation in Asia and the Pacific through the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026	4 (i)
ESCAP/79/19	Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its eighteenth session	4 (j)
ESCAP/79/20	Getting everyone in the picture for more effective climate change action	4 (j)
ESCAP/79/21	Proposed programme plan for 2024	5 (a)
ESCAP/79/22	Overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development	5 (b)
ESCAP/79/23	Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	6

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Document title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
ESCAP/79/24	Dates and venue of and theme topic for the eightieth session of the Commission (2024)	7
<i>Information document</i>		
ESCAP/79/INF/1	Annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission	4 (c) and (d)

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