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Bangkok, 25-29 May 2015

Item 7 of the provisional agenda \*

**Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent  
Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by  
Members of the Commission****Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent  
Representatives and Other Representatives Designated  
by Members of the Commission****Note by the secretariat\*\****Summary*

The present document is submitted for the endorsement of the Commission. It covers the activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission during the period May 2014 to March 2015. The Commission may wish to provide comments on the report.

**I. Introduction**

1. The present document covers the activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission during the period May 2014 to March 2015. The Advisory Committee appointed Mr. Hossein Kamalian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to ESCAP, to serve as Rapporteur of the Advisory Committee, with the responsibility of presenting the report to the Commission at its seventy-first session.

\* E/ESCAP/71/L.1/Rev.1.

\*\* The late submission of the present document is due to the need to take into account the consideration by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission of this report, at its 359th session, which was held on 23 March 2015.

## II. Activities of the Advisory Committee

2. During the period under review, the Advisory Committee held six regular sessions and six informal and special sessions on topics including the implementation of resolution 70/1, the report of the informal working group on the implementation of resolution 69/1, the second session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, reforms to the conference structure, the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 and an introductory briefing for new members of the Advisory Committee on the Commission and the secretariat. At its regular sessions, the Advisory Committee discussed, among other things, the following subjects:

(a) *Preparations for the second phase of the seventieth session of the Commission:* The Advisory Committee was briefed by the secretariat on the preparations for the second phase of the seventieth session of the Commission and provided useful advice and guidance;

(b) *Outcome of the seventieth session of the Commission:* In its review of the outcomes of the seventieth session of the Commission, the Advisory Committee considered the major achievements of the session, including the adoption of 14 resolutions and 28 decisions, including a decision on the dates, venue and theme topic for the seventy-first session of the Commission. The Advisory Committee noted that the session had acknowledged that sustainable development had remained the focus of the region;

(c) *Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its seventieth session:* The Advisory Committee extended advice and guidance on the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Commission;

(d) *Preparations for the seventy-first session of the Commission:* The secretariat informed the Advisory Committee that the Economic and Social Council had endorsed the selection of Bangkok as the venue for the seventy-first session of the Commission. The Advisory Committee reviewed the preparations made by the secretariat and provided advice and guidance on the dates and the provisional agenda for the session;

(e) *Proposed calendar of ESCAP meetings and trainings during the period from January to December 2015:* The Advisory Committee reviewed the proposed calendar and was provided with clarifications on the proposed items;

(f) *Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017:* The Advisory Committee reviewed and provided guidance on the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 prior to it being submitted to the Commission at its seventy-first session;

(g) *Work of the secretariat in the subregions:* The Advisory Committee was briefed regularly, through videoconferencing, on ongoing ESCAP initiatives in the subregions and the work of its subregional offices and regional institutions;

(h) *Review of the preparations for and the outcomes of the following meetings:*

- (i) Fourth session of the Committee on Transport;
- (ii) Fourth session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology;
- (iii) Third session of the Committee on Social Development;

- (iv) Fourth session of the Committee on Statistics;
- (v) Fourth session of the Committee on Trade and Investment;
- (vi) Ninth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development;
- (vii) Tenth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology;
- (viii) Tenth session of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;
- (ix) Tenth session of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization;
- (x) Eleventh session of the Governing Council of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture;
- (xi) First session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development;
- (xii) Asian and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+20 Review;
- (xiii) Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific;
- (xiv) Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on HIV and AIDS.

3. The Advisory Committee was briefed by the secretariat on a template to be used for reporting on the implementation of Commission resolutions in order to strengthen their effectiveness, pursuant to resolution 69/1. The Advisory Committee adopted the template to enable consistent reporting by member States, including indications of measurable outcomes and reporting modalities for the actions to be undertaken by member States and the secretariat.

4. The Advisory Committee was briefed by the secretariat on the Asia-Pacific Outreach Meeting on Sustainable Development Financing, which was held in Jakarta on 10 and 11 June 2014.

5. The Advisory Committee was also briefing by the secretariat on the status of implementation of resolution 69/1 and provided useful advice and guidance on its continued implementation. The Advisory Committee agreed to continue discussions on the second phase of implementation of resolution 69/1 through an informal working group, to be chaired by Ms. Jocelyn Batoon-Garcia (Philippines).

6. The Executive Secretary also regularly informed the Advisory Committee of activities relating to the priority issues of the United Nations, as well as the outcome of her missions to ESCAP members and associate members, her attendance at major meetings, cooperative initiatives between member States and the secretariat, and on administrative and programme matters concerning ESCAP. The Advisory Committee expressed its continued appreciation for the briefings of the Executive Secretary, noting that it found them useful and informative.

### **III. Conclusion**

7. In conclusion, the members of the Advisory Committee actively contributed to strengthening the Advisory Committee's deliberative and advisory role during the reporting period. The partnership between member States and the secretariat was further reinforced. The Advisory Committee provided important advice and guidance on important issues concerning the Commission and the secretariat, including on the implementation of resolutions adopted by the Commission, organization of various intergovernmental meetings and initiatives of the secretariat.

8. At the same time, the Advisory Committee remained conscious of the importance of implementing Commission resolutions and monitoring their implementation, improved coordination among all relevant stakeholders and progress in carrying out the economic and social agenda of ESCAP, in accordance with the development priorities of member States. Continued constructive cooperation and mutual support between the Advisory Committee and the Executive Secretary has helped advance the Commission's overall goals and objectives and enhance its international profile.

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