



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Committee on Environment and Development

### Sixth session

Bangkok, 9 and 10 December 2020

Agenda item 6

### Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixth session

## Draft report

### I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention

#### A. Matters calling for action by the Commission

1. The following recommendation of the Committee on Environment and Development is brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) for its consideration and possible action:

##### Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the activities under the subprogramme on environment and development continue to be based upon and contribute to the achievement of the objectives and priority areas identified in the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development for Asia and the Pacific, 2017, and the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

#### B. Matters brought to the attention of the Commission

2. The following decision adopted by the Committee is brought to the attention of the Commission:

##### Decision 1

The Committee decides to establish, within existing resources, the Technical Expert Group on Environment and Development to enhance regional exchange and to mobilize technical expertise in support of the Commission's efforts to accelerate environmental and sustainable development action.

3. The Committee requests the secretariat to seek nominations of experts from member States and to convene the first meeting of the Technical Expert Group on Environment and Development in 2021, at which time the group will start developing its terms of reference, as appropriate.

## **II. Organization**

### **A. Opening, duration and organization of the session**

4. The Committee held its sixth session in Bangkok on 9 and 10 December 2020 both in person and online. The session was opened by the Chair of the fifth session of the Committee, Mr. Sonam P. Wangdi, Secretary, National Environment Commission, Bhutan.

### **B. Attendance**

5. The Committee session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members of the Commission: Armenia; Australia; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; China; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Fiji; France; Georgia; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Malaysia; Maldives; Marshall Islands; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nauru; Nepal; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Turkey; Turkmenistan; and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

6. A representative of the United Nations Centre for Regional Development attended.

7. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and funds attended: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Atomic Energy Agency; International Fund for Agricultural Development; International Labour Organization; International Telecommunication Union; International Trade Centre; United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); United Nations Environment Programme; secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction; and World Health Organization.

8. Representatives of the Asian Development Bank attended.

9. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and other entities attended: Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration; Asia Pacific Research Network; Centre for Policy Dialogue; ESCAP Sustainable Business Network Executive Council; Global Forum on Human Settlements; Institute for Global Environmental Strategies; International Federation of Social Workers; The Resource Centre, Nepal; Rockefeller Foundation; Roots for Equity; Stockholm Environment Institute; Sustainability Platform Asia; United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific; World Green Organization; and World Wildlife Fund.

### **C. Election of officers**

10. The following officers were elected:

Chair:	Ms. Suchitra Durai (India)
Vice-Chairs:	Mr. Oleg Shamanov (Russian Federation) Mr. Dicky Komar (Indonesia)

## **D. Agenda**

11. The Committee adopted the following agenda:
  1. Opening of the session:
    - (a) Opening statements;
    - (b) Election of officers;
    - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
  2. Environment and development in the aftermath of the coronavirus disease pandemic in the Asia-Pacific region.
  3. Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific through environmental solutions:
    - (a) Raising climate ambition;
    - (b) Safeguarding ecosystem health;
    - (c) Clean air for all;
    - (d) Cities for a sustainable future.
  4. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme, particularly on opportunities to enhance regional cooperation to accelerate environmental actions.
  5. Other matters.
  6. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixth session.

## **E. Other events**

12. The following event was held in conjunction with the Committee session: first executive training on environment and development, 23–27 November 2020.

## **III. Chair's summary**

13. The deliberations during the hybrid session will be summarized in the Chair's summary, which will be available within a week following the conclusion of the session and included as annex II to the present report.

**Annex**

**List of documents**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>General series</i>		
ESCAP/CED/2020/1	Environmental challenges related to the coronavirus disease pandemic in the Asia-Pacific region	2
ESCAP/CED/2020/2	Realizing environmental benefits through policy convergence and enhanced regional cooperation	3
ESCAP/CED/2020/3	Opportunities to enhance regional cooperation to accelerate environmental actions	4
<i>Limited series</i>		
ESCAP/CED/2020/L.1	Annotated provisional agenda	1 (c)
ESCAP/CED/2020/L.2	Draft report	6
<i>Information series</i>		
ESCAP/CED/2020/INF/1	The role of sustainable mechanization in addressing the impact of the coronavirus disease on agriculture and in building resilience	2
ESCAP/CED/2020/INF/2	Looking into the future: four scenarios for environmental action	3
ESCAP/CED/2020/INF/3	Accelerating regional ocean actions for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific	3
ESCAP/CED/2020/INF/4	Reducing straw residue burning and air pollution through sustainable agricultural mechanization	3
ESCAP/CED/2020/INF/5	Sustainable cities post-coronavirus disease pandemic	3
<i>Information available online</i>		
<a href="http://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-environment-and-development-sixth-session">www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-environment-and-development-sixth-session</a>	Information for participants	
<a href="http://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-environment-and-development-sixth-session">www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-environment-and-development-sixth-session</a>	List of participants	
<a href="http://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-environment-and-development-sixth-session">www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-environment-and-development-sixth-session</a>	Tentative programme	