

Delegate Assessment

Committee on Environment and Development at the Ministerial Level Seventh Session 29 November - 1 December 2022

I. Introduction

The Committee on Environment and Development (CED) is convened every two years to review regional trends, identify priorities for action, promote dialogue, consider common regional positions and promote a collaborative approach to addressing the development challenges of the region between Governments and civil society, the private sector and the UN System and other international organizations. The CED provides recommendations to the Commission as a body – made up of 53 members and 9 associate members.

In 2022, the Committee was convened at Ministerial level on the theme: Protecting our planet through regional cooperation and solidarity in Asia and the Pacific.

Member states adopted two main outcomes: A Ministerial declaration on Asia-Pacific environment and development challenges and regional responses, as well as an Asia-Pacific programme on air pollution, as a platform for cooperation for improved air quality management.

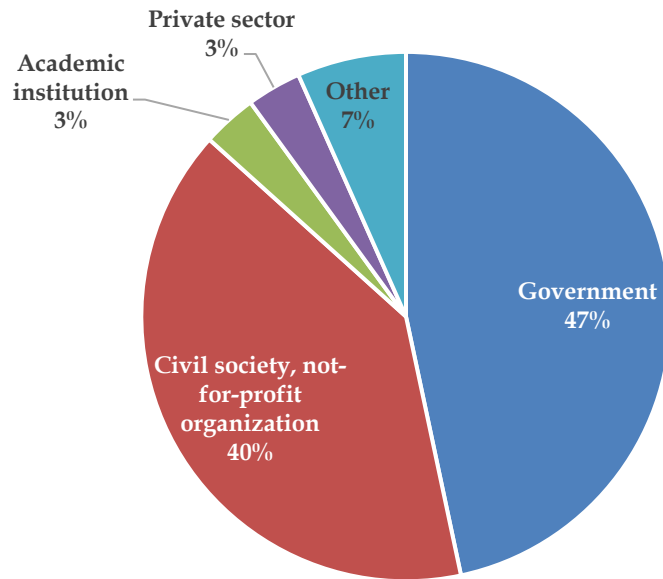
II. Attendance

The Committee on Environment and Development was attended by 32 members and associate members of ESCAP (52 per cent). In total, there were 233 registered participants, of whom 42 per cent were female with 13 participants at the ministerial level. Total participation consisted of 43 per cent on-site and 57 per cent online.

III. Respondent's Profile

A total of 30 individual respondents from 14 member countries completed the questionnaire. Among respondents representing non-governmental entities, 12 represent civil society/not-for-profit organization, 1 represents intergovernmental organization, and 3 are from other organizations (academic institution, development organization and private sector). Of these 30 respondents, 13 are female and 17 are male.

Figure 1: Respondent's profile by entity (percentage)



Delegation (country) by subregional

SEA	SSWA
Malaysia, Thailand	Bangladesh
ENEA	Pacific
China, Japan, DPRK, ROK	-
NCA	Other
Kazakhstan, Tajikistan	USA

IV. Relevance

This component intends to measure the relevance of the event to the thematic areas.

Table 1: Respondent rating of relevance (percentage)
30 respondents

Relevance of the meeting	Rating of respondents in percentage on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest)					
	Lowest (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	Highest (5)	Avg. 1-5
1. The issues discussed reflected the present development trends/issues in the Asia-Pacific region.	0.0%	3.3%	6.7%	30.2%	60.0%	4.5
2. The issues discussed were useful for my government/ organization.	0.0%	3.3%	10.0%	30.0%	56.7%	4.4
3. The meeting discussed related gender issues and concepts.	3.3%	6.7%	30.0%	20.0%	40.0%	3.9

As high as 90 per cent of respondents indicated that the issues discussed reflected the present development trends/issues in the Asia-Pacific region with a high score¹. 86.7 per cent of respondents confirmed that the issues discussed were useful for their governments/ organizations, while 60 per cent confirmed that the meeting discussed related gender issues and concepts.

V. Effectiveness

The component intends to measure the effectiveness of the event in achieving the results and approach.

Table 2: Respondent rating of effectiveness (percentage)
30 respondents

Effectiveness of the meeting	Rating of respondents in percentage on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest)					
	Lowest (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	Highest (5)	Avg. 1-5
1. The meeting effectively enhanced my knowledge of the issues discussed.	0.0%	0.0%	6.7%	53.3%	40.0%	4.3
2. The meeting effectively promoted regional cooperation and networking among participants.	0.0%	3.3%	13.3%	36.7%	46.7%	4.3
3. The resource persons demonstrated mastery of their respective topics.	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	33.3%	46.7%	4.3
4. The facilitators effectively engaged with participants in discussions.	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	43.3%	40.0%	4.2
5. Enough time was available for discussion.	0.0%	0.0%	13.3%	53.3%	33.3%	4.2
6. The meeting documents and presentations were of high quality, concise and clear.	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	50.0%	30.0%	4.1

¹ The score ranges from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). The high score mentioned in the analysis includes responses with score 4 and 5.

93.3 per cent of the total respondents confirmed that the meeting effectively enhanced their knowledge of the issues discussed. 83.4 per cent indicated that the meeting effectively promoted regional cooperation and networking among participants. 80 per cent agreed that the resource persons demonstrated mastery of their respective topics. 83.3 per cent of total respondents confirmed that the facilitators effectively engaged with participants in discussions, while 86.6 per cent agreed that enough time was available for discussion. 80 per cent indicated that the meeting documents and presentations were of high quality, concise and clear.

VI. Efficiency

The component intends to measure the efficiency of the event in terms of logistical arrangements, timeliness, partnership and use of resources.

Table 3: Respondent rating of efficiency (percentage)
30 respondents

Efficiency of the meeting	Rating of respondents in percentage on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest)					
	Lowest (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	Highest (5)	Avg. 1-5
1. I am satisfied with the administrative and logistical arrangement of the meeting.	0.0%	0.0%	13.3%	43.3%	43.3%	4.3
2. The meeting was organized in a timely manner and according to the programme.	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	40.0%	50.0%	4.4
3. The communications from ESCAP to the member States on the preparation for the meeting were effective.	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	46.7%	43.3%	4.3
4. The duration of the meeting was appropriate.	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	43.3%	46.7%	4.4

Around 87 per cent of respondents confirmed that they were satisfied with the administrative and logistical arrangements of the meeting. As high as 90 per cent of respondents reflected that the meeting was organized in a timely manner and according to the programme. Also 90 per cent of respondents indicated that the communications from ESCAP to the member States on the preparation for the meeting were effective and agreed that the duration of the meeting was appropriate.

VII. The results achieved (or likely to be achieved) through this meeting²

Please indicate any concrete actions that your government would take in response to the decisions and /or recommendations of the session.

- As per each nation's population and education level, member States' zero-carbon ambitions vary. There should be a more collaborative strategy to support those who will achieve later than others.

- Strengthen the regional cooperation and communication in the region. More sharing and exchanging the experience and views among the member States are very important to make it more effective and sustainable.
- Highlighting existing international framework, EANET, through the country statement and a side event.
- The outcome document should be adopted for further implementation. The primary achievements of this meeting were to prepare recommendations on priorities for the standardization and quality control of economic gaps and bridges to support SMEs in climate collaborations and to organize an international multi-stakeholder collaborative study to compare business model in Thailand and Asia Pacific region.
- Best practice and connection. More discussion for continued actions, including in-depth discussion on variety of environment issues (e.g. air pollution, climate action, ocean).
- The discussions at this meeting provided a detailed understanding of how decision makers think and what parts of the legal framework they emphasize in their opinions regarding the determination of technological development and legal frameworks in balancing environmental issues and respectful development.
- For our organization, American Tele physicians, we launched our Green Digital Health initiative that is aligned with One Health objectives to engage a greater partnership, stakeholder ship and implementation support with our current and future projects of digital healthcare ecosystems.
- Solidarity grew as local environmental issues were shared.
- Meeting got accomplished successfully. We thank to UNESCAP for it and also appreciate the efforts made by the governments. However, we didn't find any strong outcome documents from the meeting. The regional cooperation and solidarity documents have excluded to the civil societies including Indigenous Peoples, Women, Youths and their communities. The contributions and crucial roles of civil societies in protecting the planet are not acknowledged and recognized.
- As for the results that I believe were achieved through this conference, I believe that we were able to advance climate change countermeasures, soil improvement, economic development, and proposed countermeasures against price hikes on a regional basis through mutual exchange of information on the implementation of initiatives and opinions on environmental development.

VIII. Suggestions²

The respondents provided suggestions on how to improve the efficiency of the organizational and servicing aspects of the session, including the use of virtual modality.

- The building signage is not clear. Moving from room to room was very confusing. Providing a building layout map would help. Otherwise it was great.
- Organizing both on-site and online meeting is good. Breakout rooms for side events are good.
- Giving a clearer and precise concept note for more focused interventions.
- More time to speak, engage, and allocate for Q&A and for wrap up.
- The registration process was complicated and confusing, making it difficult to introduce the event to acquaintances.

² suggestions included are verbatim

- Giving more visibility to the regional and sub-regional organizations and further interaction with them might serve such a purpose.
- There should be a presentation of successful environmental implementation of each government.
- The roles and contributions of Indigenous Peoples, Women, Youths and their communities need to be acknowledged and recognized in the regional cooperation and solidarity for sustainable development and protection of the planet. Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) needs to be recognized and respected into actions as the fundamental human rights of Indigenous Peoples and across the processes of development, as most important part of the cooperation and solidarity in protection of the planet. Civil societies' major groups need to be funded for their participation in such important meeting.
- I believe it is necessary to expand activities that can promote initiatives that allow more young people to present their views on this meeting. I also believe that it is necessary to expand activities by promoting cooperation with civic groups and businesses to establish a system that can present concrete counterproposals.
