



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**Seventy-sixth session**

Bangkok, 21 May 2020

Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Management issues**Programme changes for the 2020 programme plan****Note by the secretariat***Summary*

The present document contains the proposed changes to the list of deliverables for the subprogrammes, as contained in the proposed programme plan for 2020 (A/74/6 (Sect.19)) and the supplementary information on the programme plan and performance information for 2020 (ESCAP/75/INF/2/Rev.2), for which a legislative decision of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific is sought.

The proposed changes are designed mainly to address the impact on the delivery of the programme caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and new mandates adopted after the Commission's endorsement of the programme plan for 2020.

The Commission may note that the proposed changes will contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the subprogrammes and have no additional regular programme budget implications. The proposed changes will affect the total number of 2020 planned deliverables, as contained in the proposed programme plan for 2020 and the supplementary information document.

The Commission may wish to consider the proposed changes with a view to endorsing them for incorporation in the list of deliverables for 2020.

* ESCAP/76/L.1/Rev.1.

Proposed programme changes for the 2020 programme plan

<i>Deliverable in the supplementary information on the programme plan and performance information for 2020</i>	<i>Proposed change</i>	<i>Justification</i>
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Subprogramme 1. Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development

Objective of the subprogramme:

The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to achieve stable, inclusive and sustainable economic development in Asia and the Pacific.

A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies: substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)

3. Meetings of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (1)	<i>Delete</i>	<p>The substantive services for the Commission sessions were previously programmed under executive direction and management in the biennial programme of work. Given the deletion of executive direction and management in the programme plan for 2020, the number of meetings during the Commission session (10) are distributed across 9 subprogrammes, namely subprogrammes 1–7 and 9, as well as components 1 and 3 of subprogramme 8.</p> <p>Due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the secretariat, in consultation with member States, has decided to convene the seventy-sixth session of the Commission virtually on 21 May 2020. In this regard, the number of substantive services for the Commission session will be reduced from 10 to 2.</p> <p>As the theme for the Commission in 2020 is oceans, the secretariat proposes to keep the same number in subprogramme 4 and subprogramme 8, component 1.</p>
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<i>Deliverable in the supplementary information on the programme plan and performance information for 2020</i>	<i>Proposed change</i>	<i>Justification</i>
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Subprogramme 2. Trade, investment and innovation

Objective of the subprogramme:

The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to harness trade, investment, innovation, technology and enterprise development towards sustainable development and regional integration in Asia and the Pacific.

A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies: substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)

7. Meetings of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (1)	<i>Delete</i>	See the justification provided under subprogramme 1
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C. Substantive deliverables: consultation, advice and advocacy

<i>Added:</i> Advisory support to the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia thematic working group on innovation and technology for sustainable development	The Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, at its fourteenth session, held in November 2019, approved the terms of reference of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia thematic working group on innovation and technology for sustainable development. As the subprogramme will provide advisory support to the thematic working group, the addition of this deliverable is proposed to reflect the subprogramme's contributions.
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Subprogramme 3. Transport

Objective of the subprogramme:

The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to achieve sustainable transport connectivity, logistics and mobility in the Asia-Pacific region.

A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies: substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)

3. Meetings of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (1)	<i>Delete</i>	See the justification provided under subprogramme 1
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<i>Deliverable in the supplementary information on the programme plan and performance information for 2020</i>	<i>Proposed change</i>	<i>Justification</i>
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Subprogramme 4. Environment and development

Objective of the subprogramme:

The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to eliminate the adverse impacts of growth on natural and built environments and to improve human well-being and shared prosperity in Asia-Pacific urban and rural contexts.

A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies: substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)

5. Meetings of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (6)	<i>Modified to:</i> Meetings of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (2)	Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and travel restrictions imposed by countries across the globe, the secretariat, in consultation with member States, will convene the Seventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development virtually on 20 May 2020. The number of substantive services for the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development will be reduced from six to two.
9. Meetings of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia: thematic working group on water, energy and environment (2)	<i>Delete</i>	As subprogramme 9 on energy has been assigned the coordinator role for this thematic working group, the substantive services for the meetings of the working group are now under the purview of subprogramme 9. However, subprogramme 4 will continue to provide substantive inputs for the deliberations on environment-related issues at the meetings of the thematic working group. Hence, a deliverable on the subprogramme’s support to the thematic working group is proposed to be added under C. Substantive deliverables: consultation, advice and advocacy.

<i>Deliverable in the supplementary information on the programme plan and performance information for 2020</i>	<i>Proposed change</i>	<i>Justification</i>
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C. Substantive deliverables: consultation, advice and advocacy

<i>Added:</i>	See above
Advisory support to the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia thematic working group on water, energy and environment	

Subprogramme 5. Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management

Objective of the subprogramme:

The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to advance digital inclusion and space applications for disaster resilience in Asia and the Pacific.

A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies: substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)

5. Meetings of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (1)	<i>Delete</i>	See the justification provided under subprogramme 1
11. Meetings of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia: thematic working group on knowledge-based development (4)	<i>Modified to:</i> Meetings of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia: thematic working group on innovation and technology for sustainable development (4)	The Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, at its fourteenth session, held in November 2019, approved the change of name of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia thematic working group on knowledge-based development to the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia thematic working group on innovation and technology for sustainable development.

<i>Deliverable in the supplementary information on the programme plan and performance information for 2020</i>	<i>Proposed change</i>	<i>Justification</i>
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Subprogramme 6. Social development

Objective of the subprogramme:

The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to realize inclusive societies that protect, empower and ensure equality for all in Asia and the Pacific.

A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies: substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)

4. Meetings of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (1)	<i>Delete</i>	See the justification provided under subprogramme 1
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Subprogramme 7. Statistics

Objective of the subprogramme:

The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to improve the availability, accessibility and use of quality data and official statistics in support of sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies: substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)

4. Meetings of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (1)	<i>Delete</i>	See the justification provided under subprogramme 1
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Subprogramme 8, component 3. Subregional activities for development in North and Central Asia

Objective of the subprogramme:

The objective, to which component 3 of the subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities, including improved infrastructure connectivity and structural economic transformation of North and Central Asia.

A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies: substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)

2. Meetings of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (1)	<i>Delete</i>	See the justification provided under subprogramme 1
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Subprogramme 9. Energy

Objective of the subprogramme:

The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Asia and the Pacific.

A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies: substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)

4. Meetings of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (1)	<i>Delete</i>	See the justification provided under subprogramme 1
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