



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

Bangkok, 21 May 2020

Item 8 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*****Summary*

The present document contains information on the activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission during the period June 2019 to March 2020. The Commission may wish to provide comments on the report.

I. Introduction

1. The present document contains information on the activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission during the period June 2019 to March 2020. The Advisory Committee appointed Ms. Raushan Yesbulatova (Kazakhstan) to serve as Rapporteur of the Advisory Committee, with the responsibility of presenting its report to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) at its seventy-sixth session.

II. Activities of the Advisory Committee

2. During the period under review, the Advisory Committee held six regular sessions.

3. The secretariat briefed the Advisory Committee on the work of the Commission and the secretariat, its role and work, and its position in the United Nations development system to help to orient representatives of the Advisory Committee.

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

** The present document was submitted late owing to the need for the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission to consider the report at its 387th session, which was held on 19 March 2020.

4. At its regular sessions, the Advisory Committee discussed, inter alia, the following subjects:

(a) Preparations for the seventy-sixth session of the Commission: the Advisory Committee was briefed by the secretariat on the preparations for the seventy-sixth session of the Commission and provided useful guidance, including in relation to the review of the conference structure of the Commission;

(b) Outcome of the seventy-fifth session of the Commission: in its review of the outcome of the seventy-fifth session of the Commission, organized under the theme “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”, the Advisory Committee considered the major achievements of the Commission. The outcome of the session, including the nine resolutions adopted by the Commission, guided its work in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and fed into the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals Summit under the auspices of the General Assembly in 2019;

(c) Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its seventy-fifth session: the Advisory Committee extended advice and provided useful guidance on the implementation by the secretariat of resolutions adopted by the Commission;

(d) Proposed calendar of meetings and training programmes of the Commission for 2020: the Advisory Committee noted the proposed calendar;

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

(i) Sixth session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction;

(ii) Second session of the Committee on Energy;

(iii) Second session of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development;

(iv) Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review;

(f) Review of the preparations for the following meetings:

(i) Seventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development;

(ii) Second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific;

(g) Review of the outcomes of the following meetings of the regional institutions:

(i) Fourteenth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development;

(ii) Fifteenth session of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;

(iii) Fifteenth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology;

(iv) Fifteenth session of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization;

(h) Review of the outcomes of the fourteenth session of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.

5. The secretariat presented to the Advisory Committee the proposed programme plan for 2021.

6. The Executive Secretary regularly informed the Advisory Committee of activities relating to the priority issues of the United Nations and of ESCAP, as well as the outcome of her missions to ESCAP members and associate members and to other countries, her attendance at major meetings, cooperation between member States and the secretariat, and administrative and programmatic matters concerning ESCAP. Regular updates on the reform of the United Nations development system were provided. Moreover, the Advisory Committee was briefed by the Executive Secretary on the key recommendations provided to her by the eminent persons advisory group. The Advisory Committee expressed its continued appreciation for the briefings of the Executive Secretary, noting that it found them useful and informative.

7. As part of an ongoing effort to share knowledge about the work of ESCAP, the secretariat organized briefings for the Permanent Missions of ESCAP member States to the United Nations in New York on the sidelines of major events, such as the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

III. Conclusions

8. The members of the Advisory Committee actively contributed to strengthening its deliberative and advisory role during the reporting period. The Advisory Committee provided advice and guidance on important issues concerning the Commission and the secretariat, including the implementation of resolutions adopted by the Commission and the organization of various intergovernmental meetings and initiatives of the secretariat, and advanced discussions about the review of the conference structure of the Commission.

9. With the launch of the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the continued effort to reposition the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda, continued constructive cooperation and mutual support between the Advisory Committee and the secretariat will be instrumental in strengthening the contribution of the Commission towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific.