

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

**ANNUAL REPORT
1 JUNE 2019 - 21 MAY 2020**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 2020**

SUPPLEMENT No. 19



UNITED NATIONS

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List of abbreviations

APCICT	Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development
APDIM	Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management
APCTT	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
CSAM	Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
NEASPEC	North East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

Notes: Values are in United States dollars unless specified otherwise.
The term “billion” signifies a thousand million.

Introduction

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held its seventy-sixth session at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok on 21 May 2020 via videoconferencing owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The present report covers the period from 1 June 2019 to 21 May 2020 and contains the conclusions reached by the Commission.

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

2. At its seventy-sixth session, the Commission adopted two resolutions and 19 decisions, which are reproduced below. The two resolutions are brought to the attention of the Council. Statements in explanation of position delivered by delegations are set out in section B.

A. Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its seventy-sixth session

Resolution 76/1

Strengthening cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ that supports the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 14 targets through concrete policies and actions,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and stressing the importance of concerted efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 14 on conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 71/312 of 6 July 2017, in which the Assembly endorsed the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action”, adopted in June 2017 by the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 74/19 of 10 December 2019 on oceans and the law of the sea and resolution 74/210 of 19 December 2019 on strengthening cooperation for integrated coastal zone management for achieving sustainable development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 73/292 of 9 May 2019, entitled “2020 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”, in which the Assembly decided to convene said Conference in Lisbon from 2 to 6 June 2020 with the overarching theme “Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions” and decision 74/548 of 13 April 2020 in which

¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

the Assembly decided to postpone the Conference to a later date to be decided by the Assembly,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 72/73 of 5 December 2017, in which it proclaimed the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development for the 10-year period beginning on 1 January 2021, within existing structures and available resources, and called upon the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission to prepare an implementation plan for the Decade in consultation with Member States, specialized agencies, funds, programmes and bodies of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and relevant stakeholders,

Recalling resolution 70/7 of 8 August 2014 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on the implementation of the Suva Declaration on Improving Maritime Transport and Related Services in the Pacific, its resolution 71/6 of 29 May 2015 on maritime transport connectivity for sustainable development, its resolution 72/9 of 19 May 2016 on regional cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, its resolution 73/4 of 19 May 2017 on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific and its resolution 73/5 of 19 May 2017 on strengthening Asia-Pacific's support for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14,

Recognizing the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources in Asia and the Pacific, which promote economic growth, environmental sustainability and social inclusion and can help member States in the region, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, as well as developing middle-income countries, to address their sustainable development challenges,

Taking note of the *Special Report on the Ocean and the Cryosphere in a Changing Climate* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

Taking note also of the theme study for the seventy-sixth session of the Commission,² in which the secretariat presents research on promoting economic, social and environmental cooperation on the oceans for sustainable development, including, but not limited to, issues related to sustainable fisheries, maritime connectivity, marine plastic debris and the need to promote multi-stakeholder dialogue,

1. *Noting* the role of relevant national policies and frameworks, calls upon all members and associate members, and relevant stakeholders, to take urgent actions for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources, and, in this regard, to share good practices and lessons learned, including from the respective voluntary commitments made at the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in June 2017 and at the "Our Ocean" Conferences;

2. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 74/19 of 10 December 2019 on oceans and the law of the sea³ and its preambular paragraphs on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea⁴ and notes the other international agreements, as applicable;

3. *Cognizant* of the challenges posed by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak, which may hamper the progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, encourages member States to strengthen regional

² ESCAP/76/1/Rev.1.

³ See A/74/PV.43.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

economic, social and environmental cooperation on the oceans, seas and marine resources in Asia and the Pacific for the benefit of the sustainable development of all member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the attainment of the Goals, including by:

(a) Enhancing the capacity of member States for the protection of the marine environment and resources, including the environment of coastal areas, for economic development in an environmentally sound and inclusive manner, and for the promotion of, inter alia, related research and development, application of modern tools like marine spatial planning, where applicable, ocean literacy, investments, social and environmental safeguards, capacity-building and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms;

(b) Encouraging the implementation of policies built on sound science and considering applicable market-based approaches, as appropriate, to reduce marine pollution from various sources in the region, in particular marine plastic, aiming to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050, including through a life-cycle approach and by promoting environmentally sound waste management, recycling capacity and innovative solutions, while recognizing the important role of plastics in society, and the consideration of voluntary and qualitative estimations of marine plastic debris by member States;

(c) Promoting North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation for capacity-building and information-sharing, including science-based decision-making and policy development on oceans and seas, guided by all the principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;¹

(d) Promoting public-private and civil society partnerships to increase economic benefits to small island developing States and the least developed countries from the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, including sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism, and through coastal habitat restoration efforts;

(e) Promoting partnerships and developing innovative approaches in line with the challenges and opportunities of the oceans, seas and climate change, contributing to global actions of international organizations, through collaboration with stakeholders and, inter alia, the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management, promoting discussion on the issues pertaining to disaster risk reduction and post-disaster recovery, and sharing information and expertise for building resilience and multi-hazard early warning systems for the member countries in the Asia-Pacific region;

(f) Promoting synergy among the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular between Goal 13 on climate action and Goal 14 on life below water, at the regional level, with a view to supporting global action to address these Goals and to highlight the importance of the ocean, including as an integral part of the Earth's climate system, and of ensuring the integrity of ocean and coastal ecosystems, as well as promoting synergy between the Goals and the societal outcomes of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030);

(g) Implementing policies for marine invasive species management by increasing scientific knowledge of marine invasive species and improving its availability and dissemination, utilizing marine spatial planning and ecosystem-based approaches for conserving marine ecosystems and promoting the protection of sites of particular importance for biodiversity;

(h) Strengthening cooperation and policy coherence among institutions at all levels, including between and among international, regional and subregional organizations;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue to strengthen current partnerships and to develop new partnerships, where appropriate, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources, including through participatory, multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms;

(b) To continue to strengthen and facilitate national capacities and to provide, upon request, and within existing resources, technical assistance for the effective implementation of relevant internationally agreed conventions to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources, in collaboration with relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and regional and subregional organizations, in line with their existing mandates;

(c) To continue to support countries, in particular least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as developing middle-income countries, in sharing experiences as well as in enhancing cooperation on the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, including ecosystem restoration and sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism and through coastal habitat restoration efforts, in light of the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific;⁵

(d) To continue to strengthen and facilitate national capacities, including through engagement with the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership, on a voluntary basis, for measurement and accounting of progress towards the sustainable development of the oceans, in line with the document entitled “Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: a collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community”,⁶ endorsed by the Committee on Statistics at its fifth session;

(e) To continue to support systematic regional dialogue on sustainable maritime connectivity, in close collaboration with the key global and regional stakeholders, and as part of the work of the Commission on promoting sustainable transport connectivity in the region;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventy-eighth session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

*2nd plenary meeting
21 May 2020*

Resolution 76/2

Regional cooperation to address the socioeconomic effects of pandemics and crises in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Expressing condolences and grave concern about the loss of life as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and the significant adverse social and economic effects it has posed globally, and in particular in the Asia-Pacific region, especially with regard to vulnerable developing countries and countries with special needs, and recognizing that the prioritization of fighting the disease is saving lives and protecting people in vulnerable situations from the pandemic by stopping its spread and mitigating its effects on the health of people, and that increased poverty and inequalities may affect the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Expressing grave concern also about the uneven effects the COVID-19 pandemic has had on countries and individuals, and, in this regard, reaffirming that all efforts to address and recover from the effects of the pandemic should be people-centred, with no one left behind, and that all countries and individuals have unimpeded access to assistance and support that is available,

Guided by the spirit of unity, solidarity and multilateral cooperation, and resolving to pursue coordinated and decisive actions, to contain, mitigate and defeat the pandemic through reinforced regional and global cooperation,

⁵ E/ESCAP/73/31, annex II.

⁶ E/ESCAP/CST(5)/1/Rev.1.

Declaring our profound solidarity with the most affected countries and people in different parts of the world who have suffered from the spread of the pandemic and mindful of the need to support those who may require assistance, in particular by providing technical assistance to those most affected, with particular emphasis on developing countries, whose health systems are often weaker and whose populations are more vulnerable to the impact of such outbreaks,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 74/274 of 20 April 2020 on international cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19, resolution 74/270 of 2 April 2020 on the global solidarity to fight COVID-19 and resolution 60/35 of 30 November 2005 on enhancing capacity-building in global public health,

Recalling also resolutions 60/2 of 28 April 2004 and 61/12 of 18 May 2005 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on the regional call for action to enhance capacity-building in public health and resolution 74/11 of 16 May 2018 on strengthening regional cooperation to tackle inequality in all its forms in Asia and the Pacific,

Noting General Assembly resolution 67/81 of 12 December 2012 on global health and foreign policy and resolution 73/2 of 10 October 2018 on the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,

Reaffirming the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage, entitled “Universal health coverage: moving together to build a healthier world”,⁷

Welcoming current international, regional and subregional cooperation efforts and commitments and national actions to address and alleviate the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic,

Reaffirming the fundamental role of the United Nations system, in particular the importance of the World Health Organization, in coordinating the global response to control and contain the spread of COVID-19 and in supporting Member States,

Noting the wide range of efforts across the United Nations system to support actions by countries to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the report of the Executive Secretary,⁸

Expressing appreciation for the launch of the United Nations COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund to help support low- and middle-income countries and the poor and most vulnerable to economic hardship and social disruption,

Recognizing that recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and other related future crises should not hinder the continued progress towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁹ and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recognizing also that a regional approach will enable a collective examination of the impacts to the Asia-Pacific region, economic and social measures, and sharing of best practices and lessons learned,

Recognizing further that the COVID-19 pandemic is an opportunity for governments and other relevant stakeholders in the region to build their crisis resilience by including risk assessment in all development action,

⁷ General Assembly resolution 74/2.

⁸ ESCAP/76/34.

⁹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of international and regional cooperation to strengthen the resilience of all members and associate members, in particular least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as developing countries, with regard to the socioeconomic effects of pandemics and other related crises;

2. *Acknowledges* the importance of ensuring the continued flow of essential goods and services and the movement of people in order to face the challenges of the adverse effects of the pandemic and other related crises in the spirit of good neighbours;

3. *Encourages* countries, in the spirit of multilateralism, to highlight the inequality gaps, poverty and escalating health risks for millions of people due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19);

4. *Emphasizes* that recovery from the COVID-19 crisis provides an opportunity to build back better in Asia and the Pacific, including by building more equal, inclusive and sustainable institutions, economies and societies that respect human rights and are more resilient in the face of any future pandemic, and other related crises faced by the region, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;⁹

5. *Reaffirms* the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, and in this regard underlines the need for the United Nations system to work as one to support all Governments;

6. *Reiterates* the importance of multilateralism and international cooperation, and encourages action by all members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to promote measures that may reinforce global solidarity in responding to the outbreak of COVID-19;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in close coordination and consultation with member States and other relevant United Nations bodies and organizations, to analyse the ability of the Asia-Pacific region to recover from COVID-19 and other pandemics and similar widescale crises, to develop ideas for concrete and coordinated actions by countries, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, including proposals for responding to the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 and future pandemics and related widescale crises in the region, keeping in mind the experience and best practices of the initial response, to enable countries to build back better in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to submit a report to the Commission at its seventy-seventh session for its consideration.

*2nd plenary meeting
21 May 2020*

B. Statements in explanation of position in relation to the resolutions adopted by the Commission at its seventy-sixth session

3. Prior to the adoption of resolution 76/1, the representative of Turkey stated her Government's reservation related to operative paragraph 2 of the resolution. While stating her delegation's full commitment to cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources, her Government disassociated itself from the reference made in operative paragraph 2 to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to which Turkey was not a party. She further stated that the reference could not be construed as a change in the well-known legal position of Turkey with regard to the said Convention. Moreover, in relation to operative paragraph 3, she emphasized that marine spatial planning was not yet a functioning instrument established in every country. Therefore, all references to marine spatial planning were to be understood as valid for the countries and venues where it was applicable.

4. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated the view of his delegation that, while recalling the importance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provided a general legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, and admitting the obligation of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a signatory of the Convention not to act against the objective and purpose of the Convention, the resolution could not affect the legal status of non-parties to the Convention and any other relevant agreements and that the Convention and other relevant international agreements were considered as a package with the same level of importance.

5. The representative of the United States of America said that his delegation joined consensus on that resolution and was proud to be a leader on international efforts to conserve and sustainably use the ocean and its resources and to promote a thriving, sustainable ocean economy. He noted that the United States proudly supported global and regional efforts to prevent and reduce marine pollution, including the millions of tons of plastic debris that flowed into the ocean every year; to measure and address the impacts of ocean acidification; to promote international cooperation on marine protected areas; and to ensure safe, secure and clean shipping. He stressed that many of those efforts depended on sustained and focused international cooperation, especially between Governments and the private sector. At the same time, he underscored that that non-binding document did not create rights or obligations under international law. With reference to the special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, he stated that acceptance of such reports and approval of their summaries for policymakers did not imply endorsement by his delegation of the specific findings or underlying contents of the reports, and was without prejudice to his delegation's positions. Regarding operative paragraph 3 (a), he said that inclusion of only "social" and "environmental" safeguards ignored the economic safeguards needed for investment in the sustainable development of the marine environment and resources of the coastal areas. Regarding references to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, he said that his delegation recognized the 2030 Agenda as a global voluntary framework for sustainable development that could help countries to work towards global peace and prosperity. His delegation applauded the call for shared responsibility, including national responsibility, in the 2030 Agenda and emphasized that all countries had a role to play in achieving its vision, in accordance with their own national policies and priorities. He underscored that paragraph 18 of the 2030 Agenda called for countries to implement the Agenda in a manner that was consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law. He highlighted that implementation of the 2030 Agenda had to respect and be without prejudice to the independent mandates of other processes and institutions, including negotiations, and did not prejudge or serve as precedent for decisions and actions under way in other forums. For example, the 2030 Agenda did not represent a commitment to provide new market access for goods or services and did not interpret or alter any World Trade Organization agreement or decision, including the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

6. Prior to the adoption of resolution 76/2, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that his delegation had joined the consensus on the resolution in supporting multilateralism and coordinated collective action in mitigating the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the region in the spirit of unity, solidarity and decisive action. At the same time, his delegation reiterated its deep concern regarding the negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures and illegal and unjust sanctions imposed against his and other countries, which were contrary to the principles of international law, increased the poverty gap, created obstacles for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and disrupted and impeded access to humanitarian resources and necessary medical equipment to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. He expressed the hope of his delegation that other members would condemn such unilateral coercive measures that negatively affected the regional solidarity in responding to the pandemic.

7. The representative of the United States of America said that his delegation joined consensus on that resolution but disassociated itself from preambular paragraph 10. He noted that his delegation continued to demonstrate global leadership in the face

of the COVID-19 pandemic and remained the largest single country donor to the response efforts globally, building on decades of leadership in life-saving health and humanitarian assistance. At the same time, he underscored that that non-binding document did not create rights or obligations under international law. Regarding references to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, he said that his delegation recognized the 2030 Agenda as a global voluntary framework for sustainable development that could help countries to work towards global peace and prosperity. His delegation applauded the call for shared responsibility, including national responsibility, in the 2030 Agenda and emphasized that all countries had a role to play in achieving its vision, in accordance with their own national policies and priorities. He underscored that paragraph 18 of the 2030 Agenda called for countries to implement the Agenda in a manner that was consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law. He highlighted that implementation of the 2030 Agenda had to respect and be without prejudice to the independent mandates of other processes and institutions, including negotiations, and did not prejudice or serve as precedent for decisions and actions under way in other forums. For example, the Agenda did not represent a commitment to provide new market access for goods or services and did not interpret or alter any World Trade Organization agreement or decision, including the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. He clarified that his delegation disassociated itself from the reference to the World Health Organization (WHO) in preambular paragraph 10. While his delegation acknowledged that WHO should play a role in the efforts to end the outbreak, it remained seriously concerned with the lack of independence that the leadership of WHO had shown since the beginning of the pandemic. He recalled the announcement made by his delegation on 14 April 2020 that his delegation would pause funding to WHO pending a review of the organization's mismanagement of the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, and insisted that WHO advance the health of people around the world in a transparent, science-based manner that incorporated accountability into its decision-making. He also called on Member States to comply with their obligations under the International Health Regulations (2005) to provide complete data on cases of COVID-19 within their territories and to share samples and genetic sequences of the novel coronavirus with the international community.

C. Decisions adopted by the Commission at its seventy-sixth session

Decision 76/1

Executive summary of the Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2020: Leveraging Ocean Resources for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 May 2020, the Commission took note of the executive summary of the Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2020: Leveraging Ocean Resources for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (ESCAP/76/2/Rev.1).

Decision 76/2

Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention emanating from the meetings of its subsidiary bodies held in the period 2019–2020

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 May 2020, the Commission endorsed the matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention emanating from the meetings of its subsidiary bodies held in the period 2019–2020 (ESCAP/76/6).

Decision 76/3

Reports of intergovernmental bodies and meetings held in the period 2019–2020

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 May 2020, the Commission endorsed the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on its fourteenth session (ESCAP/76/3);

(b) Report of the Seventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (ESCAP/76/7);

(c) Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its fifteenth session (ESCAP/76/11);

(d) Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management on its fourth session (ESCAP/76/13);

(e) Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its fourteenth session (ESCAP/76/19);

(f) Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its fifteenth session (ESCAP/76/20);

(g) Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its fifteenth session (ESCAP/76/22).

Decision 76/4

Documents prepared by the secretariat on issues pertinent to the review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 May 2020, the Commission took note of the following documents:

(a) Subregional cooperation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/76/4);

(b) Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (ESCAP/76/5);

(c) The urban opportunity: accelerating local actions to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (ESCAP/76/12);

(d) Subregional and regional approaches for disaster resilience (ESCAP/76/14);

(e) Transforming economies to make them consistent with the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (ESCAP/76/16);

(f) Trade and investment as drivers for accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (ESCAP/76/18);

(g) Policy priorities for transformation to inclusive digital economies (ESCAP/76/21);

(h) Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14 on life below water: accounting for our oceans (ESCAP/76/24);

(i) Annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission (ESCAP/76/INF/1).

Decision 76/5

Report of the 5th meeting of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 May 2020, the Commission took note of the report of the 5th meeting of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/76/23/Rev.1), and decided to postpone

the convening of the Second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific to 2021.

Decision 76/6

Report of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review and the Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 May 2020, the Commission endorsed the report of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review (ESCAP/76/8) and took note of the Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review (ESCAP/76/8/Add.1).

Decision 76/7

Action plan to strengthen regional cooperation on social protection in Asia and the Pacific

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 May 2020, the Commission took note of the note by the secretariat on the action plan to strengthen regional cooperation on social protection in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/76/9) and requested the Committee on Social Development, at its sixth session, to review the Action Plan with a view to providing advice on the follow-up, as appropriate.

Decision 76/8

Asia-Pacific indicator framework for monitoring progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and of the commitments contained in the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 May 2020, the Commission took note of the note by the secretariat on the Asia-Pacific indicator framework for monitoring progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and of the commitments contained in the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development (ESCAP/76/10) and requested the Committee on Social Development, at its sixth session, to review the framework with a view to providing advice on the follow-up, as appropriate.

Decision 76/9

Regional road map on power system connectivity: promoting cross-border electricity connectivity for sustainable development

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 May 2020, the Commission took note of the note by the secretariat entitled "Regional road map on power system connectivity: promoting cross-border electricity connectivity for sustainable development" (ESCAP/76/15) and requested the Committee on Energy, at its third session, to review the road map with a view to providing guidance on the follow-up, as appropriate.

Decision 76/10

Proposed programme plan for 2021

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 May 2020, the Commission endorsed the proposed programme plan for 2021 (ESCAP/76/25).

Decision 76/11

Proposed programme changes for the 2020 programme plan

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 May 2020, the Commission endorsed the proposed programme changes for the 2020 programme plan (ESCAP/76/26).

Decision 76/12
Overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 May 2020, the Commission took note of the note by the secretariat on the overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development (ESCAP/76/27) and expressed its appreciation for the following contributions pledged by members and associate members for 2020:

1. **Brunei Darussalam.** The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Brunei Darussalam would make the following contributions:

SIAP	\$15 000
Pacific Trust Fund	\$1 000

2. **China.** The delegation of China announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

APCTT	RMB 190 000
CSAM	\$1 548 000
SIAP	\$70 000
Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons	\$10 000
NEASPEC	\$45 000

In addition, the delegation of China informed the secretariat that the contribution to the China-ESCAP Cooperation Programme would be announced later.

3. **India.** The delegation of India announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

APCTT	\$870 000
CSAM	\$15 000
SIAP	\$25 000
ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia	\$79 000

4. **Japan.** The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Japan would make the following contributions for the period April 2020 to March 2021:

Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	\$27 600
SIAP	\$1 859 765

In addition, the Government of Japan would make a contribution in-kind equivalent to \$1,090,982 to SIAP for the period from April 2020 to March 2021.

5. **Macao, China.** The secretariat had received written notification that the government of Macao, China, would make the following contributions:

APCICT	\$5 000
APCTT	\$5 000
APDIM	\$10 000
SIAP	\$20 000

6. **Myanmar.** The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Myanmar would make the following contribution:

ESCAP Programme of Work	\$2 000
SIAP	\$1 000

7. **Republic of Korea.** The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of the Republic of Korea would make the following contributions:

Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	\$272 577
ESCAP Programme of Work	\$580 303
ESCAP Accessibility Centre	\$8 210
NEASPEC	\$293 103
Seoul Initiative on Green Growth	\$100 000
Capacity Development Trust Fund for APTA Promotion and Trade Facilitation Activities	\$220 000
APCICT	\$1 385 385
APCTT	\$24 630
CSAM	\$10 000
SIAP	\$53 000
Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia	\$1 141 000

In addition, the Government of the Republic of Korea announced that it would extend the project on the Seoul Initiative on Green Growth for five years, from 2021 to 2025 and provide voluntary in-cash and in-kind contributions to the initiative.

The Government of the Republic of Korea announced that it would continue to send non-reimbursable loan experts to collaborate with ESCAP on technical cooperation activities.

8. **Russian Federation.** The delegation of the Russian Federation announced that its Government had made the contribution of \$1,200,000 for the implementation of mutually agreed technical cooperation projects.

In addition, the Government of the Russian Federation had made a contribution of \$30,000 to SIAP.

9. **Thailand.** The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Thailand would make the following contributions:

APCTT	\$15 000
CSAM	\$15 000
SIAP	\$23 000

Decision 76/13
Report on the evaluation of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific pursuant to resolution 71/1

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 May 2020, the Commission endorsed the report on the evaluation of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific pursuant to resolution 71/1 (ESCAP/76/28) and took note of the information document on the evaluation of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific pursuant to resolution 71/1 (ESCAP/76/INF/2).

Decision 76/14
Report on the evaluation of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization pursuant to resolution 71/1

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 May 2020, the Commission endorsed the report on the evaluation of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization pursuant to resolution 71/1 (ESCAP/76/29) and took note of the information document on the evaluation of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization pursuant to resolution 71/1 (ESCAP/76/INF/3).

Decision 76/15
Report on the review of the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management pursuant to resolution 71/11

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 May 2020, the Commission endorsed the report on the review of the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management pursuant to resolution 71/11 (ESCAP/76/30) and took note of the information document on the review of the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management pursuant to resolution 71/11 (ESCAP/76/INF/4).

Decision 76/16
Report on the evaluation activities of the Commission during the biennium 2018–2019

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 May 2020, the Commission took note of the report on the evaluation activities of the Commission during the biennium 2018–2019 (ESCAP/76/31).

Decision 76/17
Report of the Chair of the open-ended working group on the review of the conference structure of the Commission

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 May 2020, the Commission took note of the report of the Chair of the open-ended working group on the review of the conference structure of the Commission (ESCAP/76/32).

Decision 76/18
Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 May 2020, the Commission took note of the report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ESCAP/76/33).

Decision 76/19
Dates and venue of and theme topic for the seventy-seventh session of the Commission (2021)

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 May 2020, the Commission decided that its seventy-seventh session would be held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok from 26 to 30 April 2021. The Commission also decided that the theme topic for its seventy-seventh session would be “Building back better from crises through regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific” (ESCAP/76/17).

Chapter II

Organization of the seventy-sixth session of the Commission

A. Attendance and organization of work

8. The seventy-sixth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) was held on 21 May 2020 via videoconferencing owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

9. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members:

Members

Afghanistan
Armenia
Australia
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Bhutan
Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
China
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Fiji
France
Georgia
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kiribati
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Malaysia
Maldives
Marshall Islands
Micronesia (Federated States of)
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nauru
Nepal
New Zealand
Pakistan
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Samoa
Singapore
Sri Lanka
Tajikistan
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Tonga
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Tuvalu

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Viet Nam

Associate members

American Samoa
French Polynesia
Hong Kong, China
Macao, China

10. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of Austria, Belgium, Germany, Israel, Italy, Portugal, San Marino and Switzerland attended.

11. The list of participants is available at www.unescap.org/commission/76/listOfParticipants.

12. The Commission decided, for the seventy-sixth session only and owing to the special circumstances, to waive rule 13 of its rules of procedure and elected Mr. Mohammad Nazmul Quanine (Bangladesh) as Chair of the seventy-sixth session and Mr. Nadhavathna Krishnamra (Thailand) as Vice-Chair.

13. The Commission also expressed appreciation to Ms. Suzilah Binti Mohd Sidek (Malaysia) as Chair and to Mr. Rongvudhi Virabutr (Thailand) as Vice-Chair of the Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions for having considered the draft resolutions and decisions submitted for the session.

B. Agenda

14. The Commission adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. General debate on the theme topic "Promoting economic, social and environmental cooperation on oceans for sustainable development".
3. Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries.
4. Regional cooperation to address the socioeconomic effects of the global health crisis.
5. Review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific:
 - (a) Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development;
 - (b) Social development;
 - (c) Environment and development;
 - (d) Disaster risk reduction;
 - (e) Energy;
 - (f) Transport;

- (g) Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development;
 - (h) Trade and investment;
 - (i) Information and communications technology, science, technology and innovation;
 - (j) Statistics.
6. Management issues:
- (a) Proposed programme plan for 2021;
 - (b) Programme changes for the 2020 programme plan;
 - (c) Overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development;
 - (d) Report on the evaluation activities of the Commission during the biennium 2018–2019 and outcomes of the evaluation/review of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization and the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management.
7. Review of the conference structure of the Commission pursuant to resolution 73/1.
8. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.
9. Dates and venue of and theme topic for the seventy-seventh session of the Commission (2021).
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

C. Opening of the session

15. Mr. Mohammad Nazmul Quaanine (Bangladesh) presided over the opening of the seventy-sixth session. Video messages from Mr. Omar Hilale (Morocco), Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council; the Secretary-General; and General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.), Prime Minister of Thailand, were played. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP delivered welcome remarks and a policy statement. Video messages from Ms. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, and Mr. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji, were played. A video message from Mr. Kausea Natano, Prime Minister of Tuvalu, as Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, was also played.

D. Adoption of the report of the Commission

16. The report of the Commission was adopted at its 2nd plenary meeting on 21 May 2020.

Chapter III

Work of the Commission since the seventy-fifth session

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

17. During the period under review, the following intergovernmental meetings and meetings of subsidiary bodies were held:

- (a) Committees:
 - (i) Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (sixth session);
 - (ii) Committee on Energy (second session);
 - (iii) Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development (second session);
- (b) Governing councils:
 - (i) Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (fifteenth session);
 - (ii) Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (fourteenth session);
 - (iii) Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (fifteenth session);
 - (iv) Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (fifteenth session);
 - (v) Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (fourth session);
- (c) Other intergovernmental meetings:
 - (i) Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (fourteenth session);
 - (ii) Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review;
 - (iii) Seventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

18. The dates, bureaux and document symbols of the reports of the meetings are given in annex II. The reports reflect the discussions held, the agreements reached and the decisions taken.

B. Publications

19. The list of publications issued since the seventy-fifth session of the Commission and pre-session documents submitted to it at its present session are listed in annex III.

C. Relations with other United Nations bodies

20. The secretariat maintained close and regular contacts with various divisions at Headquarters and with the secretariats of the other regional commissions on projects of common interest.

Annex I

Statement of programme budget implications of actions and proposals of the Commission

1. The requests contained in the resolutions listed below will have no programme budget implications for the approved programme budget for 2020¹ and the proposed programme budget for 2021:²

(a) Resolution ESCAP/RES/76/1: Strengthening cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) Resolution ESCAP/RES/76/2: Regional cooperation to address the socioeconomic effects of pandemics and crises in Asia and the Pacific.

2. As appropriate, extrabudgetary resources will be sought for the implementation of the activities required under the above-mentioned resolutions.

¹ See General Assembly resolution 74/264 A-C.

² A/75/6 (Sect. 19).

Annex II**Meetings of subsidiary bodies and other intergovernmental bodies held since the seventy-fifth session of the Commission**

<i>Subsidiary bodies and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>
<i>Committees</i>		
I. Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction Chair: Mr. Mohammad Qaseem Haidari (Afghanistan) Vice-Chairs: Mr. Taitusi Nacolakia Vakadravuyaca (Fiji) Mr. Velix Vernando Wanggai (Indonesia)	Sixth session Bangkok 28–30 August 2019	ESCAP/CDR/2019/3
II. Committee on Energy Chair: Mr. Mohammad Hossain (Bangladesh) Vice-Chairs: Mr. Fengquan An (China) Mr. Talyat Aliev (Russian Federation) Mr. Sarawut Kaewtathip (Thailand) Mr. Avafoa Irata (Tuvalu)	Second session Bangkok 9–11 October 2019	ESCAP/CE/2019/4
III. Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development Chair: Mr. Ribaun Korm (Cambodia) Vice-Chairs: Ms. Samantha K. Jayasuriya (Sri Lanka) Mr. Khomraj Koirala (Nepal)	Second session Bangkok 6–8 November 2019	ESCAP/CMPF/2019/6
<i>Governing councils of regional institutions</i>		
I. Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology Chair: Mr. Teoh Phi Li (Malaysia) Vice-Chair: Mr. Ashwani Gupta (India)	Fifteenth session Kuala Lumpur 6 and 7 November 2019	ESCAP/76/20
II. Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development Chair: Mr. Mohammad Fazlur Rahman (Bangladesh) Vice-Chair: Ms. Ishariyaporn Smiprem (Thailand)	Fourteenth session Incheon, Republic of Korea 28 November 2019	ESCAP/76/19

<i>Subsidiary bodies and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>
III. Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization Chair: Mr. Kanchan Kumar Singh (India) Vice-Chair: Ms. Thi Tam Dinh (Viet Nam)	Fifteenth session Jeonju, Republic of Korea 29 November 2019	ESCAP/76/11
IV. Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific Chair: Ms. Ariunzaya Ayush (Mongolia) Vice-Chair: Mr. Akira Tsumura (Japan)	Fifteenth session Chiba, Japan 9 and 10 December 2019	ESCAP/76/22
V. Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management Chair: Lieutenant General Muhammad Afzal (Pakistan) Vice-Chair: Dr. Mehmet Gulluoglu (Turkey)	Fourth session Islamabad 20 February 2020	ESCAP/76/13
<i>Other intergovernmental meetings</i>		
I. Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Chair: Mr. Ezizgeldi Annamammedov (Turkmenistan)	Fourteenth session Ashgabat 20 and 21 November 2019	ESCAP/76/3
II. Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review Chair: Ms. Mereseini Vuniwaqa (Fiji) Vice-Chairs: Ms. Nabila Musleh (Afghanistan) Ms. Zhanna Andreasyan (Armenia) Ms. Fazilatunnesa Indira (Bangladesh) Ms. Ing Kantha Phavi (Cambodia) Ms. Xia Jie (China) Ms. Zhang Haidi (China) Ms. Sri Danti Anwar (Indonesia) Ms. Masoumeh Ebtekar (Islamic Republic of Iran) Mr. Taoaba Kaiea (Kiribati) Ms. Bouachanh Syhanath (Lao People's Democratic Republic) Ms. Shidhatha Shareef (Maldives) Ms. Amenta Matthew (Marshall Islands) Mr. Win Myat Aye (Myanmar)	Bangkok 27–29 November 2019	ESCAP/76/8

<i>Subsidiary bodies and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>
Mr. Wake Goruson Goi (Papua New Guinea)		
Ms. Lee Jung Ok (Republic of Korea)		
Mr. Leao Talalelei Tuitama (Samoa)		
Ms. Freda Tuki Sorioicomua (Solomon Islands)		
Mr. Chuti Krairiksh (Thailand)		
Mr. Vatau Mefi Hui (Tonga)		
Mr. Le Quan (Viet Nam)		
III. Seventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development	Bangkok 20 May 2020	ESCAP/76/7
Chair: Ms. Samantha K. Jayasuriya (Sri Lanka)		
Vice-Chairs: Ms. Rosemarie Edillon (Philippines)		

Annex III

Publications and documents issued by the Commission

A. Publications issued since the seventy-fifth session*

Executive direction and management

ESCAP Annual Report 2019.

*What's Ahead @ ESCAP.***

Subprogramme 1

Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development

Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2020: Leveraging Ocean Resources for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. ST/ESCAP/2904 (Sales No. E.20.II.F.11).

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2020: Towards Sustainable Economies. ST/ESCAP/2902 (Sales No. E.20.II.F.16).

*MPFD Policy Briefs:***

- No. 82, March 2019: "Fintech in the Pacific Island Countries: challenges and opportunities".
- No. 83, April 2019: "Investing in social protection floors".
- No. 84, April 2019: "Ending hunger and malnutrition: how much would it cost?".
- No. 85, April 2019: "Investment needs for ambitiously moving towards universal health coverage".
- No. 86, April 2019: "Providing quality education for every child and youth: how much would it cost?".
- No. 87, April 2019: "Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls".
- No. 88, April 2019: "Investment needs to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7: affordable and clean energy".
- No. 89, April 2019: "Costing the transport infrastructure component of SDGs in Asia and the Pacific".
- No. 90, April 2019: "Increasing access to information and communications technology (ICT)".
- No. 91, April 2019: "Investment in climate action".
- No. 92, April 2019: "Investing in sustainable infrastructure for all".
- No. 93, April 2019: "Mind the gaps: SDG progress and SDG investment needs".
- No. 94, April 2019: "Fiscal space and national budgets for SDGs".
- No. 95, April 2019: "Investing in biodiversity and ecosystems".
- No. 96, April 2019: "Universal access to safe water and sanitation: how much would it cost?".
- No. 97, May 2019: "Industrial policy for structural transformation to reduce poverty in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS".

* Where applicable, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) document symbol and (in parentheses) United Nations publication sales numbers are noted. A double asterisk (**) denotes publications that are available online only.

- No. 98, May 2019: “Structural transformation in Asia’s landlocked developing countries”.
- No. 99, May 2019: “Structural transformation, backward and forward linkages and job creation in Asia-Pacific least developed countries”.
- No. 100, May 2019: “Structural transformation in Asia-Pacific small island developing States”.
- No. 101, June 2019: “Maintaining financial stability in Asia and the Pacific”.
- No. 102, July 2019: “Asia and the Pacific: shaping future tax policies in a digital era”.
- No. 103, January 2020: “Infrastructure financing for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific”.
- No. 104, April 2020: “Moving businesses towards decarbonization”.
- No. 105, April 2020: “Setting sustainability standards for the financial system in Asia-Pacific”.
- No. 106, April 2020: “Nudges as a tool for promoting sustainable consumer behaviour in Asia-Pacific”.
- No. 107, April 2020: “Raising the level of ambition on carbon pricing in Asia and Pacific”.
- No. 108, April 2020: “Carbon pricing options: to tax or trade?”.
- No. 109, April 2020: “Businesses move forward with carbon pricing”.
- No. 110, April 2020: “Move from GDP to comprehensive indicator frameworks in Asia and the Pacific”.

*MPFD Working Papers:***

- WP/19/01, March 2019: “Financing metropolitan government in Beijing City”.
- WP/19/02, March 2019: “Philippine (Metro Manila) case study on municipal financing”.
- WP/19/03, March 2019: “Metropolitan finances in India: the case of Mumbai City Corporation”.
- WP/19/04, April 2019: “LDC graduation: challenges and opportunities for Vanuatu”.
- WP/19/05, April 2019: “Preparing to graduate: issues, challenges and strategies for Kiribati’s LDC graduation”.
- WP/19/06, July 2019: “Cheating the government: does taxpayer perception matter?”.
- WP/19/07, August 2019: “Hide-and-seek: can tax treaties reveal offshore wealth?”.
- WP/19/08, October 2019: “Finteching remittances in paradise: a path to sustainable development”.
- WP/20/01, March 2020: “Nepal’s graduation from the least developed country group: potential implications and issues for consideration”.
- WP/20/02, March 2020: “Asia-Pacific small island developing States: development challenges and policy solutions”.

Subprogramme 2
Trade, investment and innovation¹

*Studies in Trade, Investment and Innovation Series:***

- No. 93, *Outward Foreign Direct Investment and Home Country Sustainable Development*. ST/ESCAP/2899 (Sales No. E.20.II.F.14).

¹ Including the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology.

*Trade, Investment and Innovation Working Paper Series:***

No. 01, January 2020: “An integrated approach for assessing national ecommerce performance”.

Subprogramme 3
Transport

Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific: No. 89.
ST/ESCAP/SER.E/89.**

Subprogramme 4
Environment and development

Changing Sails: Accelerating Regional Actions for Sustainable Oceans in Asia and the Pacific. ST/ESCAP/2905 (Sales No. E.20.II.F.15).

“Closing the loop: innovative partnerships with informal workers to recover plastic waste, in an inclusive circular economy approach”.

Subprogramme 6
Social development

Asia-Pacific Beijing+25 Declaration and Report. ST/ESCAP/2898.

Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Journal:

Vol. 26, No. 1, June 2019. ST/ESCAP/2871 (Sales No. E.20.II.F.98).

Vol. 26, No. 2, December 2019. ST/ESCAP/2890 (Sales No. E.20.II.F.99).

Subprogramme 7
Statistics

Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2020. ST/ESCAP/2900 (Sales No. E.20.II.F.10).

B. Documents submitted to the Commission at its seventy-sixth session

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Document title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>Limited documents</i>		
ESCAP/76/L.1/Rev.1	Provisional agenda	1 (c)
ESCAP/76/L.2	Annotated provisional agenda	1 (c)
ESCAP/76/L.3	Draft report: Organization of the seventy-sixth session of the Commission	11
ESCAP/76/L.3/Add.1	Draft report: Statement of programme budget implications of actions and proposals of the Commission	11
ESCAP/76/L.4	Draft resolution: Strengthening cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific	2
ESCAP/76/L.5	Draft resolution: Regional cooperation to address the socioeconomic effects of pandemics and crises in Asia and the Pacific	4
ESCAP/76/L.6	Draft decisions	11
<i>Regular documents</i>		
ESCAP/76/1/Rev.1	Executive summary of the theme study on promoting economic, social and environmental cooperation on oceans for sustainable development	2, 5 (c) and (f)
ESCAP/76/2/Rev.1	Executive summary of the Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2020: Leveraging Ocean Resources for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States	3
ESCAP/76/3	Report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on its fourteenth session	5
ESCAP/76/4	Subregional cooperation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific	5
ESCAP/76/5	Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions	3 and 5
ESCAP/76/6	Summary of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held in the period 2019–2020	5
ESCAP/76/7	Report of the Seventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development	5 (a)
ESCAP/76/8	Report of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review	5 (b)
ESCAP/76/8/Add.1	Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review	5 (b)
ESCAP/76/9	Action plan to strengthen regional cooperation on social protection in Asia and the Pacific	5 (b)
ESCAP/76/10	Asia-Pacific indicator framework for monitoring progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and of the commitments contained in the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development	5 (b)

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Document title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
ESCAP/76/11	Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its fifteenth session	5 (c)
ESCAP/76/12	The urban opportunity: accelerating local actions to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	5 (c)
ESCAP/76/13	Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management on its fourth session	5 (d)
ESCAP/76/14	Subregional and regional approaches for disaster resilience	5 (d)
ESCAP/76/15	Regional road map on power system connectivity: promoting cross-border electricity connectivity for sustainable development	5 (e)
ESCAP/76/16	Transforming economies to make them consistent with the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	5 (g)
ESCAP/76/17	Dates and venue of and theme topic for the seventy-seventh session of the Commission (2021)	9
ESCAP/76/18	Trade and investment as drivers for accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	5 (h)
ESCAP/76/19	Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its fourteenth session	5 (i)
ESCAP/76/20	Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its fifteenth session	5 (i)
ESCAP/76/21	Policy priorities for transformation to inclusive digital economies	5 (i)
ESCAP/76/22	Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its fifteenth session	5 (j)
ESCAP/76/23/Rev.1	Report of the 5th meeting of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	5 (j)
ESCAP/76/24	Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14 on life below water: accounting for our oceans	5 (j)
ESCAP/76/25	Proposed programme plan for 2021	6 (a)
ESCAP/76/26	Programme changes for the 2020 programme plan	6 (b)
ESCAP/76/27	Overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and capacity development	6 (c)
ESCAP/76/28	Report on the evaluation of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific pursuant to resolution 71/1	6 (d)
ESCAP/76/29	Report on the evaluation of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization pursuant to resolution 71/1	6 (d)
ESCAP/76/30	Report on the review of the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management pursuant to resolution 71/11	6 (d)
ESCAP/76/31	Report on the evaluation activities of the Commission during the biennium 2018–2019	6 (d)
ESCAP/76/32	Review of the conference structure of the Commission pursuant to resolution 73/1	7

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Document title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
ESCAP/76/33	Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	8
ESCAP/76/34	The impact of and policy responses with regard to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Asia and the Pacific	4
<i>Information documents</i>		
ESCAP/76/INF/1	Annual reports of international and intergovernmental organizations provided to the Commission	5 (c) and (d)
ESCAP/76/INF/2	Evaluation of the Statistical Institute for Asia and Pacific pursuant to resolution 71/1	6 (d)
ESCAP/76/INF/3	Evaluation of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization pursuant to resolution 71/1	6 (d)
ESCAP/76/INF/4	Review of the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management pursuant to resolution 71/11	6 (d)
ESCAP/76/INF/5	Letter dated 6 May 2020 from the Minister Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific addressed to the Secretary of the Commission	4

Annex IV

Election of the members of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

1. In addition to the host country, India, the Commission elected the following members and associate members to the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology for the period from 2020 to 2023: Bangladesh; China; Indonesia; Islamic Republic of Iran; Nepal; Pakistan; Republic of Korea; Sri Lanka; Thailand; and Uzbekistan.
2. Prior to the election, the representative of the United States of America expressed his delegation's concern about the participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Governing Council given its role as one of the leading State sponsors of terror, its continued violations of international norms and its abuse of technology transfer to support its nuclear programme and regional missile proliferation.
3. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, speaking in exercise of his right of reply, said that everybody knew which country was a State sponsor of terrorism and was supporting and initiating economic terrorism against his country and other countries. He stated the view of his delegation that the United States of America was not in a position to accuse other countries that were trying to exercise self-defence and the right to development.

Annex V

Chair's summary of proceedings of the seventy-sixth session of the Commission

Agenda item 2

General debate on the theme topic "Promoting economic, social and environmental cooperation on oceans for sustainable development"

1. The Commission welcomed the theme of the session, noting its relevance for the region, and highlighted the key role played by oceans, seas and marine resources in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, as drivers of economic growth, and as a source of livelihood and food for millions of people. The Commission acknowledged key challenges for the oceans, such as unsustainable fishing practices and marine debris and plastics pollution, which required urgent action and strengthened regional cooperation, including in terms of sharing data, conducting joint research, sharing of knowledge and expertise, transfer of technology, and conserving biodiversity. In that regard, several members also noted the importance of using existing conventions, frameworks and tools.

2. Representatives reported on ongoing national, subregional and regional efforts to conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas and marine resources and called upon the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations development system to step up their regional cooperation efforts. In particular, members of the Commission noted the importance of data and statistics for addressing the challenges with regards to oceans. Noting that limited technical and financial capabilities in many developing countries limited their ability to collect data, they called upon the secretariat to help to build capacity for data collection and analysis. Several members noted the need for a standard methodology for data collection and the importance of developing ocean accounts. In that regard, they acknowledged the key role played by ESCAP and the United Nations Environment Programme in leading global efforts to develop statistical guidance based on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and suggested including linkages to other sectors.

Agenda item 3

Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries

3. Some members in the least developed country category reiterated their commitment to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 and shared national actions taken to further its implementation, including harnessing the potential of oceans, seas and marine resources through a blue economy approach. They highlighted how the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic was hampering and threatening their efforts to graduate from the least developed country category and called for continued support and financial assistance from the international community.

4. Representatives of small island developing States emphasized the importance of tourism and fisheries for their sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. They called for the strengthening of regional and subregional mechanisms, including the institutionalization of the Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean, as a useful platform for bringing stakeholders together to share experiences and knowledge. Noting the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on tourism, they called for the development of a regional strategy to revive tourism. They noted the importance of enforcing global and regional norms, standards and instruments to address the challenges with regards to oceans, including the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

5. A representative from a landlocked developing country highlighted the challenges posed by the lack of access to the sea and noted the importance of the growing tourism sector for her country.

Agenda item 4

Regional cooperation to address the socioeconomic effects of the global health crisis

6. The Commission highlighted the unprecedented challenges brought about by COVID-19 and its socioeconomic impacts in the region, which had further exposed underlying inequalities and vulnerabilities. The crisis was severely affecting revenues, especially in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Members recognized that no country alone could tackle the challenge and called for strengthened regional cooperation, in particular in terms of sharing knowledge, experiences and good practices. Some members noted the importance of ensuring the free flow of goods and services, while others called for debt relief measures.

7. Members of the Commission highlighted various initiatives taken at the national, subregional and regional levels to address the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects and reaffirmed the central role of the United Nations development system in assisting countries in addressing the pandemic and its effects and in strengthening resilience to future pandemics. In that regard, the Commission noted the imperative of building back better, balancing the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, and the need to use the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement as the basis for recovery, noting that the region could not afford to go back to its previous development model.

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