

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

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Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

**Management issues****Overview of partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions  
and capacity development****Note by the secretariat***Summary*

The present document contains an overview of the secretariat's partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and technical cooperation work in 2021. The steps taken by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to strengthen its relations with partners and donors are highlighted, and a summary of extrabudgetary contributions made available to the secretariat in 2021 is provided. The document also serves to elaborate upon the delivery of the Commission's technical cooperation work in 2021, using examples of results achieved in cooperation with some of the key partners of the secretariat. The effective use of partnerships by the secretariat in implementing its programme of work and mandates is highlighted, with a particular focus on the Commission's partnerships with other United Nations entities at the regional level, including through the United Nations regional collaborative platform in Asia and the Pacific and through strengthened engagement with regional and subregional partners.

The Commission may wish to take note of the present document and provide the secretariat with further guidance on the development, direction and priorities of its partnerships, extrabudgetary contributions and technical cooperation work.

**I. Introduction**

1. The year 2021 proved to be even more challenging than 2020 for the Asia-Pacific region with new waves of the pandemic hitting member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and causing recurring lockdowns. The pandemic has exposed and intensified inequalities within and among countries, including in access to medical supplies and services, education, economic impact and between men and women.<sup>1</sup> Indeed, Asia and the Pacific has shown insufficient progress towards most targets of Sustainable Development Goal 10 (Reduced inequalities) and the region has regressed in terms of inequality indices for education indicators

\* ESCAP/78/L.1/Rev.1.

<sup>1</sup> *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021* (United Nations publication, 2021).

under Goal 4 (Quality education) and against approximately half the targets of Goal 8 (Decent work and economic growth).<sup>2</sup>

2. Against this backdrop of challenges to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the secretariat has continued to support member States. Given that travel restrictions persisted in much of the region, the secretariat built on experience gained in previous years to use online tools and platforms to deliver technical cooperation activities as well as advisory services. Remarkable examples include the development of an online training programme to increase the capacity of logistics service providers in the region to design and implement smart and digital solutions in support of sustainable logistics and the development of a training platform for the use of e-commerce and digital marketing tools in South Asia to help women entrepreneurs to achieve economic independence through registration and expansion of their businesses and create new regional and global supply chains. The increased use of online modalities and tools for capacity-building helped the secretariat to reach a broader audience and expand the lifespan of project outputs, securing continuous knowledge transfer across the Asia-Pacific region.

3. The advancing reform of the United Nations development system and strengthened coordination between different levels of work necessitated that ESCAP demonstrate its contributions to country-level impact. In this context, ESCAP made efforts to monitor capacity-building support delivered to specific countries, complementary to regional and subregional technical cooperation work. The Commission further delineated its country offer, which is supported through extrabudgetary sources as well as the regular budget under the United Nations Development Account and regular programme of technical cooperation.

4. Broader innovations in 2021 included progress made in gender mainstreaming, disability inclusion and the use of data in project management and monitoring. In terms of gender mainstreaming, ESCAP expanded the application of the ESCAP gender marker, developed in line with the Gender Equality Marker of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, to projects funded by the regular programme of technical cooperation, in addition to extrabudgetary and United Nations Development Account projects. In addition, as of September 2021, all ESCAP projects are required to contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment and satisfy at least the minimum rating of Gender Equality Marker 1.<sup>3</sup> These policies were accompanied by the strengthening of internal capacity on gender mainstreaming and analysis. In terms of disability inclusion, the preparation of a guidance note on disability-inclusive programmes and projects has commenced and a training on disability equality was rolled out. More effective use of data tools for project management and monitoring was supported through Umoja Extension 2 as well as in-house applications such as the programmatic dashboard. The expansion of the use of these tools to other areas such as resource mobilization is under way.

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<sup>2</sup> *Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2022: Widening Disparities Amid COVID-19* (United Nations publication, 2022).

<sup>3</sup> The activity is gender sensitive.

## II. Partnership developments in 2021

5. In 2021, ESCAP continued to enhance and expand partnerships with a focus on supporting sustainable recovery from the pandemic and accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The Commission has a wide range of partners, from governments to academic and private sector entities.

6. In 2021, ESCAP and the Government of China updated the areas of cooperation under the China-ESCAP Cooperation Programme to include the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response and post-pandemic recovery as well as poverty alleviation.

7. In line with its strategic approach to enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation for development, ESCAP advanced its partnerships with subregional organizations through newly signed memorandums of understanding with the Pacific Community, the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Economic Cooperation Organization. In addition, enhancement of partnerships with other subregional organizations in South Asia and the Pacific were initiated in 2021, including with the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

8. In 2021, newly initiated partnerships with academic institutions included agreements with the Asian Institute of Technology and Jiangsu University of China, increasing the capability of ESCAP to conduct joint research and technical cooperation in common areas of expertise and priority.

9. In terms of the private sector, ESCAP continued to rely on the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network for coordination with private companies and due diligence.

### A. Facilitating the efforts of the United Nations to work as one at the regional level and enhancing linkages to country-level impact

10. In addition to the above partnerships with entities outside the United Nations system, ESCAP continued working closely with United Nations development system entities that are active in the Asia-Pacific region, in particular through the Regional Collaborative Platform and its issue-based coalitions.

11. The Commission and the United Nations Population Fund enhanced their cooperation for building the capacity of member States in social development, including in preparation for the intergovernmental meetings on ageing and disability inclusion.

12. The Commission continued working closely with the World Meteorological Organization on building resilience to climate change and disaster risks.

13. In preparation for myriad South-South and triangular cooperation activities, in particular the Global South-South Development Expo which ESCAP will co-host with Thailand and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation on 12–14 September 2022, the secretariat has been in close coordination with the headquarters and the regional office of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

14. In terms of country-level delivery of technical assistance and capacity-building activities, ESCAP has been consistent in involving Resident Coordinator Offices and United Nations country teams from the design stage and operating in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. Examples of such cooperation include using ESCAP methodologies for analyses to ensure no one is left behind and developing Sustainable Development Goal 7 road maps. In terms of direct support to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework processes, highlights include cooperation with the Governments of India, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Mongolia, Thailand, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as well as United Nations multi-country offices in the Pacific.

## **B. Working with regional and subregional partners**

15. In 2021, ESCAP continued working with a range of regional and subregional partners, including under ongoing, renewed or newly established formal cooperation agreements.

16. For example, the secretariat and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) continued their long-standing partnership under an ongoing memorandum of understanding, focusing on regional economic cooperation and integration (transport and trade facilitation), recovery from pandemic, energy, and addressing climate change. In 2021, building on the Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Goal Partnership, ESCAP, ADB and the United Nations Development Programme prepared and released the theme report *Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Leaving No Country Behind* which serves to highlight many of the evolving socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic and contains a review of existing vulnerabilities that the pandemic exposed. The report was focused on the role of digitalization, digital financing and regional cooperation as key elements of the recovery from COVID-19 for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and it served to explore the need for enhanced cooperation among countries to implement the 2030 Agenda.

17. The Commission continued to collaborate with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to enhance complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda. The two organizations co-hosted the fourth ASEAN Inclusive Business Summit which demonstrated the practical application of inclusive business in the public and private sectors to help ASEAN to build back better from the COVID-19 crisis and included workshops on areas ranging from sustainable agriculture to strengthening railway transport.

18. With the continued spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Asia-Pacific region in 2021, ESCAP engaged extensively with ASEAN and the member countries on addressing the impact of COVID-19. High-level dialogues organized in collaboration with ASEAN included the following: (a) the fifth high-level brainstorming dialogue on enhancing complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda (March 2021); (b) the regional policy dialogue on the role of competition policy in supporting the economic recovery of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises after the COVID-19 crisis (March 2021); (c) the South-East Asia Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Finance: Innovating Finance for the 2030 Agenda (June 2021); and (d) the fifth South-East Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (September 2021). These policy dialogues addressed the challenges and issues confronting ASEAN member countries and supported the identification of pathways leading to a full recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

19. In the Pacific subregion, during 2021, in addition to working with United Nations multi-country offices and United Nations country teams, ESCAP continued to strengthen partnerships with members of the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific, including the conclusion of agreements with the Pacific Community and with the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, to accelerate the implementation and the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. Building on their active partnership on climate financing, ESCAP and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat also renewed their commitment to cooperate on the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development and the *First Quadrennial Pacific Sustainable Development Report*.

### **C. Partnerships for the implementation of the programme of work**

20. With increasing demands to deliver concrete results at the global, regional and national levels, ESCAP is working to strengthen country-level support, bringing together national Governments, intergovernmental organizations, development banks, civil society, the private sector and local communities. The diversity and scope of these partnerships are critical for the successful implementation of the Commission's capacity development projects and initiatives in response to the transboundary challenges and needs of countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

21. The secretariat implemented several measures and actions in 2021 to further develop relations and cooperation with development partners and donors:

(a) New strategic agreements in the form of memorandums of understanding with various partners, including the Asian Institute of Technology, the Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia, and the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, and renewed partnerships with ADB, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, the Multi-Global Navigation Satellite Systems Asia, the Organization for Cooperation between Railways, the Pacific Community and the Science and Technology Policy Institute of the Republic of Korea;

(b) Annual consultation meeting with China, held online on 9 December 2021, at which participants reviewed the achievements of projects funded by the China-ESCAP Cooperation Programme and discussed the long-standing partnership which reached a new milestone in 2021 with the update of the China-ESCAP Cooperation Programme agreement;

(c) Annual consultation meeting in a hybrid format with the Republic of Korea, held on 7 December 2021, at which participants reviewed the achievements of projects funded by the Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund and other partners and agreed on the future priority areas under this partnership;

(d) Implementation of a partnership with the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation, through a multi-donor trust fund administered jointly by ESCAP and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, to support interregional cooperation between East Asia and Latin America;

(e) Regular formal and informal engagements and discussions with existing and potential new donors, including the Governments of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation.

22. The importance of the private sector and civil society organizations in the advocacy and capacity development work of the secretariat has been increasing. In 2021, the secretariat continued to collaborate with a range of global and regional private sector entities, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, on regional inclusive business models in agriculture and food systems in South Asia, and the ClimateWorks Foundation, on passive cooling strategies for sustainable development in Cambodia.

23. Various thematic and sectoral funds supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other global and regional agendas are increasingly playing an important role in enabling ESCAP to forge new partnerships and diversify its funding base. In 2021, ESCAP in partnership with other entities within and outside the United Nations system succeeded in securing additional extrabudgetary resources from the United Nations Road Safety Fund, the United Nations trust fund for human security and the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund.

24. Some of the highlights of the technical cooperation work by the secretariat in partnership with and with funding from selected member States are provided below.

25. In collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Korea, both through the Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund and through partnerships with various line ministries in the country, ESCAP has supported member States in the areas of trade and transport facilitation; broadband and energy connectivity; sustainable transport development; climate action and environment; geospatial data management for disaster risk reduction; air pollution monitoring and management; and social protection. In 2021, the secretariat continued strengthening regional cooperation to address air pollution challenges, including through support to policymakers to make planning decisions that effectively tackle air pollution for resilient and sustainable urbanization and economic development. The secretariat supported national planning and statistical organizations in developing indicator monitoring frameworks which identify and address the most vulnerable population groups for national policy development. In 2021, ESCAP continued promoting digital connectivity and seamless regional digital infrastructure for affordable broadband for all through innovative information and communications technology (ICT) solutions to improve the subregional ICT network and Internet traffic management in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Viet Nam and Thailand under the overall framework of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative. In East and North-East Asia, the secretariat promoted regional connectivity by enhancing capacities of member States for trade and transport facilitation.

26. In cooperation with the Government of China, ESCAP supported member States in the areas of agricultural machinery; infrastructure; transport; trade; energy; and science, technology and innovation. In 2021 with support from the Government of China, ESCAP further increased the capacity and awareness of member States with regard to sustainable and climate-smart agriculture through mechanization solutions for integrated management of straw residue. The secretariat applied innovative methodologies and an analytical tool developed by ESCAP to help member States to use data for evidence-based follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals. Subsequent national capacity-building activities equipped member States to prepare Sustainable Development Goal data and carry out progress assessment analyses, thus enhancing their capacity for evidence-based policymaking for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and supporting the preparation of voluntary national reviews. In 2021, the secretariat contributed

to enhancing digital connectivity and transformation for a stronger recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic, including through the development of the action plan for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway for the period 2022–2026, which aims to bridge the digital divide and accelerate digital transformation in the Asia-Pacific region by promoting digital connectivity, digital technology and applications, and data use. The action plan serves as a blueprint for regional cooperative actions for universal digital connectivity, digital transformation and a more inclusive digital society and supports the commitment to improve digital cooperation, in line with the 2021 report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”.

27. The partnership of the Commission with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran focused on the development of policies, tools and mechanisms for disaster information management in Asia and the Pacific.

28. In partnership with the Government of Japan, ESCAP continued to support the development of the statistical capacity of member States across the region and the facilitation of innovative action on gender-responsive and disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction policies and programmes in Asia and the Pacific.

29. With support from the Government of the Russian Federation, ESCAP supported member States in thematic areas, including sustainable development and quality statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals. The first Asia-Pacific nationally determined contributions assessment study with a framework for assessing climate ambition and enabling factors, prepared with support of the Russian Federation, was presented at a side event at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Building on the study, the secretariat enhanced the national capacity of member States to develop accurate greenhouse gas emissions inventories and to understand the use and development of carbon pricing instruments to support national greenhouse gas emissions reductions commitments. In addition, the secretariat supported the development of subregional climate pricing road maps and needs-based climate financing strategies towards enabling member States’ delivery of updated commitments to nationally determined contributions. In 2021, the secretariat continued to strengthen capacities for improved quality Sustainable Development Goals statistics in Central Asia.

30. The Commission expanded its technical cooperation partnership with the Government of France and embarked on a new, multi-partner project on agroecology and safe food system transition in South-East Asia. The purpose of the project is to inform, build capacity and advocate for the adoption of agroecological transitions in ASEAN member countries. The Commission is applying its expertise with the ASEAN secretariat and intergovernmental processes by leading the implementation of multi-stakeholder policy dialogues with ASEAN member countries.

31. A new partnership was established with the Government of Germany, and its results have set the foundation for a four-year (2022–2026) International Climate Initiative project entitled Integrated urban climate action for low-carbon and resilient cities (Urban-ACT). The project preparation phase in 2021 determined the strategic approach and focus in partner countries and at the regional level with cooperation partners. The purpose of the project is to strengthen collaborative climate action across five countries, focusing on enhancing the capacities of city governments to meaningfully engage in climate change dialogue and implementation.

32. With support from the Government of Italy, the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries continued building the capacity of member States in the following areas: (a) strengthening people-centred, multi-hazard early warning systems; (b) strengthening social and economic resilience in the Asia-Pacific region; (c) enhancing disaster and climate risk management through regional cooperation; and (d) mainstreaming science, technology and innovation.

33. In delivering technical cooperation projects in 2021, ESCAP worked with more than 90 implementing partners, which represents an 80 per cent increase between 2019 and 2020, showing the effect of the pandemic on delivery modalities. The implementing partners comprise institutions at the country and subregional levels, including national agencies, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental bodies, to deliver activities of joint interest valued at more than \$3 million.

#### **D. South-South cooperation**

34. In 2021, the continued relevance of multilateralism and South-South and triangular cooperation as key modalities to drive the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and ensure a stronger recovery from the pandemic was emphasized.

35. Numerous countries in Asia and the Pacific harnessed South-South cooperation to respond to and recover from the pandemic, displaying inspiring acts of solidarity towards one another, sharing their respective good practices and lessons learned in addressing the pandemic, and emerging stronger in the process.

36. The role of the regional commissions in South-South and triangular cooperation was most recently reiterated in General Assembly resolution 76/221, in which it noted the work done by the United Nations through inclusive mechanisms, in particular South-South cooperation initiatives established by developing countries, and called upon the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to work with the regional commissions to mainstream South-South and triangular cooperation, including through regional collaborative frameworks for South-South and triangular cooperation.

37. In 2021, ESCAP conducted a survey on South-South cooperation modalities in the region, identified and shared a range of good practices in South-South cooperation from across the region to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and participated in related seminars and a South-South cooperation retreat. Some of these practices were featured in the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation (A/76/403), the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation compendium entitled *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development in SIDS* and the global knowledge-sharing and partnership platform, South-South Galaxy, administered by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

38. The Global South-South Development Expo 2022 will be held from 12 to 14 September 2022 in Bangkok, co-hosted by the Government of Thailand, ESCAP and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation on the theme “Advancing South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable COVID-19 recovery: towards a smart and resilient future”. Preparatory events began in November 2021 when ESCAP launched the Global South-South Development Expo virtual exhibition and the



Youth4South Entrepreneurship Competition. The Commission launched the preparations for the fourth Asia-Pacific Directors General Forum for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, including a series of exchanges with member States. The Forum will be held in conjunction with the Global South-South Development Expo.

### III. Delivering and communicating the Commission's technical cooperation programme in 2021

39. In 2021, ESCAP received extrabudgetary contributions for its Technical Cooperation Trust Fund and its General Trust Fund. The total extrabudgetary contributions amounted to \$17.5 million (table 1).

Table 1

#### Summary of extrabudgetary contributions in 2021, by component

<i>Component</i>	<i>Contributions (United States dollars)</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<b>Technical Cooperation Trust Fund</b>	<b>16 063 958</b>	<b>91.9</b>
<b>General Trust Fund</b>		
Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia: Republic of Korea	1 140 980	6.5
Subregional Office for North and Central Asia: Kazakhstan	120 000	0.7
Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia: India	157 955	0.9
<b>Subtotal, General Trust Fund</b>	<b>1 418 935</b>	<b>8.1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>17 482 893</b>	<b>100.0</b>

40. It should be noted that the contribution of the Government of the Republic of Korea to the Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia covers the institutional costs of the office and contributes to the implementation of its programme of work. The contributions of the Governments of Kazakhstan and India to the Subregional Office for North and Central Asia and the Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, respectively, cover solely the institutional costs of these offices.

41. With capacity development at its centre, ESCAP technical cooperation work in 2021 was funded from both the regular budget of the United Nations and extrabudgetary resources. The regular budget comprised (a) the regular programme of technical cooperation (section 23) and (b) the Development Account (section 35). Extrabudgetary resources included voluntary contributions provided by individual Governments, entities of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, development banks, foundations, the business sector and other organizations. Such contributions were provided as cash (funds-in-trust) and in kind.

# **A. Contributions to the Commission's technical cooperation programme**

42. The total cash contributions received by ESCAP in 2021 for technical cooperation, from sources within and outside the United Nations system, amounted to \$24 million. Bilateral voluntary cash contributions by ESCAP member and non-member States remained the main extrabudgetary source of funding. A summary of the financial contributions by source in both dollars and percentage terms is provided in table 2.

43. Representing 61.9 per cent of the total financial contributions in 2021 for technical cooperation, bilateral donor country contributions amounted to \$14.9 million. Further details on the extrabudgetary resources (funds-in-trust) received from bilateral sources are provided in annex I to the present document. The largest overall bilateral donor contributions were received from the Republic of Korea, China, Japan, Canada and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The United Nations contributed \$7.1 million, representing 29.6 per cent of the total funds received for technical cooperation in 2021 (see table 2).

Table 2

## **Summary of financial contributions for technical cooperation in 2021, by source**

<i>Source</i>	<i>Contributions (United States dollars)</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<b>(a) Donor countries (see annex I)</b>	<b>14 880 198</b>	<b>61.9</b>
<b>(b) United Nations system (see annex II)</b>		
1. Regular programme of technical cooperation (section 23)	3 211 500	13.4
2. United Nations Development Account (section 35)	3 348 681	13.9
3. United Nations programmes, funds and specialized agencies	567 702	2.4
<b>Subtotal (b)</b>	<b>7 127 883</b>	<b>29.6</b>
<b>(c) Other organizations (see annex II)</b>	<b>2 034 992</b>	<b>8.5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>24 043 074</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Regular budget ((b) 1 + (b) 2)	6 560 181	27.3
Extrabudgetary contributions ((a) + (b) 3 + (c))	17 482 893	72.7

*Note:* Due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100.

44. Intergovernmental organizations, the business sector and other organizations contributed approximately \$2 million of the total funds received in 2021. Some of the more notable contributors under this category in order of the size of the voluntary contribution included the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Korea Disabled People's Development Institute, the Office of National Higher Education Science Research and Innovation Policy Council, the Korea Maritime Institute and the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (Vital Strategies). More detailed information on contributions from other intergovernmental organizations, the business sector and other organizations for technical cooperation is given in annex II.

45. The Commission's technical cooperation work in 2021 was further facilitated by contributions in kind, such as the services of experts and the provision of host facilities and equipment. The former included a total 86.5 work-months of services of experts in various disciplines provided by ESCAP member States on a non-reimbursable loan basis (see annex III).

46. The volume of the secretariat's technical cooperation delivery in 2021 in financial terms totalled approximately \$15.4 million.

47. The distribution of extrabudgetary resources over the Commission's nine subprogrammes in 2021 is shown in table 3.

Table 3

**Distribution of extrabudgetary funds allocation to the Commission's subprogrammes in 2021**

(Percentage)

	<i>Subprogramme</i>	<i>Proportion</i>
Subprogramme 1:	Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development	0.1
Subprogramme 2:	Trade, investment and innovation	19.7
Subprogramme 3:	Transport	5.2
Subprogramme 4:	Environment and development	15.4
Subprogramme 5:	Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management	22.2
Subprogramme 6:	Social development	6.6
Subprogramme 7:	Statistics	18.7
Subprogramme 8:	Subregional activities for development	8.4
Subprogramme 9:	Energy	1.9
	Executive direction and management	1.7
<b>Total</b>		<b>100.0</b>

*Note:* Due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100.

## **B. Communication of technical cooperation achievements of the Commission**

48. Pursuing its multipronged outreach and communication strategy, through established and innovative channels of communication, ESCAP continuously and increasingly promotes the value addition and outcome of its technical cooperation work.

49. The biennial *Technical Cooperation Highlights* series presents the key results achieved through the Commission's technical cooperation activities. The second edition, covering the period 2020–2021, details the steps that ESCAP is taking to support sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, both in terms of new areas of work and new ways of working, while delivering on its mandates and the priorities of its member States, including the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is also guided by the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Our Common Agenda", in particular the emphasis on responding to the current crises through solidarity, multilateralism and partnership.

50. A range of other means are being employed at the global, regional, subregional and national levels to enhance awareness among member States of the value proposition of the Commission, its comparative advantages and the outcome of its capacity development work. Examples include annual reporting to the United Nations review bodies, the official documentation and related deliberations of the sessions of the Commission and other intergovernmental and high-level processes, such as meetings of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, bilateral meetings with member States, and direct communications.

51. Such regular communications and interactions regarding the offer of support from the Commission and its value added, including at the national level, also allow the secretariat to better assess the specific needs of member States and further tailor its technical cooperation assistance and services. The above activities also support the implementation of the ESCAP resource mobilization strategy (2020–2022) and are an integral part of the related support actions and mechanisms for effective outreach.

52. The secretariat developed written and visual communication materials to share its work on South-South cooperation in the region and good practices in a variety of events leading up to the Global South-South Development Expo. In this context, and more broadly, the secretariat is making efforts to communicate new initiatives and partnerships on social media for transparency as well as to give visibility to the many partners supporting its work.

## **IV. Issues for consideration by the Commission**

53. In 2021, the importance of partnerships and regional cooperation both for sustainable pandemic recovery and for accelerating progress towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the region was amplified. The increased number and scope of these partnerships both in funding and in implementing technical cooperation and capacity-building projects in the region is a clear indicator of this.

54. In 2021, the secretariat reinvigorated or established partnerships with regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations as well as with academic and private sector entities. The efforts to work systematically with

subregional organizations on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and sustainable recovery from the pandemic will continue in 2022.

55. Guided by the ESCAP framework on socioeconomic response to COVID-19, the Commission continued to support efforts in the region towards protecting people and enhancing resilience, supporting economic recovery and restoring supply chains and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises while applying innovative approaches to delivering technical assistance and capacity-building work.

56. The secretariat made progress in communicating its technical cooperation work, in particular through preparations for *Technical Cooperation Highlights 2020–2021*, South-South cooperation events and more effective use of social media.

57. The Commission is invited to take note of the present document and provide the secretariat with further guidance on the direction and priorities of partnerships to enhance and scale up the delivery and communication of its technical cooperation and capacity-building work. Considering the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation in Asia and the Pacific in 2022, the Commission may wish to provide guidance on how to enhance South-South exchange mechanisms, including increasing the effectiveness of the fourth Asia-Pacific Directors General Forum for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, which will take place in September 2022.

## Annex I

### Extrabudgetary resources provided by bilateral donors in cash for technical cooperation in 2021 (funds-in-trust) (United States dollars)

<i>Donors</i>	<i>Resource</i>
Bangladesh	14 000
Brunei Darussalam	16 000
Cambodia	10 000
Canada	1 595 024
China	3 087 927
Fiji	9 754
Germany	93 711
Hong Kong, China	30 000
India	1 052 290
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1 211 850
Japan	1 868 605
Kazakhstan	123 500
Macao, China	40 000
Malaysia	34 972
Mongolia	14 543
Myanmar	3 000
Pakistan	19 674
Philippines	156 750
Republic of Korea	4 162 636
Russian Federation	1 200 000
Samoa	3 962
Singapore	15 000
Sri Lanka	20 000
Thailand	54 000
Uzbekistan	7 000
Viet Nam	36 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 880 198</b>

## Annex II

### Technical cooperation resources provided by the United Nations system and by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in 2021 (United States dollars)

<i>Entity</i>	<i>Contributions</i>
<b>United Nations system</b>	
<b>Regular budget resources</b>	
Regular programme of technical cooperation (section 23)	3 211 500
United Nations Development Account (section 35)	3 348 681
<b>Subtotal, regular budget resources</b>	<b>6 560 181</b>
<b>Extrabudgetary resources</b>	
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction	15 000
UN-Water Inter-Agency Trust Fund	100 000
United Nations Road Safety Fund	205 440
United Nations trust fund for human security	78 287
Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund	100 045
World Meteorological Organization	68 930
<b>Subtotal, extrabudgetary resources</b>	<b>567 702</b>
<b>Total, United Nations system</b>	<b>7 127 883</b>
<b>Other organizations</b>	
Asian Development Bank	102 000
Aerospace Information Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Sciences	109 970
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	638 645
Centre for International Cooperation in Agronomic Research for Development	50 474
International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, Inc. (Vital Strategies)	127 707
Korea Disabled People's Development Institute	338 495
Korea Maritime Institute	157 849
Korea Ports and Harbours Association	56 000
Nippon Foundation	54 983
Office of National Higher Education Science Research and Innovation Policy Council	299 959
Rehabilitation International	99 010
<b>Total, other organizations</b>	<b>2 034 992</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>9 162 875</b>

# Annex III

## Extrabudgetary assistance in kind (non-reimbursable loans) in 2021

Republic of Korea  
(Total 86.5 work-months)

<i>Divisions/Offices</i>	<i>Work-months</i>
<b>Trade, Investment and Innovation Division</b>	
Expert on Regional Trade and Monetary Cooperation	12
<b>Transport Division</b>	
Expert on Port Infrastructure and Logistics	12
Expert on Sustainable Transport	12
<b>Environment and Development Division</b>	
Expert on Environment Policy	12
<b>Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division</b>	
Expert on Information and Communications Technology	12
<b>Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development</b>	
Expert on Local Governance	4.5
<b>Social Development Division</b>	
Expert on Social Policy	7
Expert on Social Policy	3
<b>Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia and Statistics Division</b>	
Expert on Capacity-building of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	12