



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

Bangkok and online, 23–27 May 2022

Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

**Activities of the Advisory Committee of
Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives
Designated by Members of the Commission****Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent
Representatives and Other Representatives Designated
by Members of the Commission*****Summary*

The present document is submitted to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for its consideration. It covers the activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission during the period June 2021 to March 2022. The Commission may wish to take note of the report and provide comments on it.

I. Introduction

1. The present document covers the activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission during the period June 2021 to March 2022. The Advisory Committee appointed Mrs. Colonne Appuhamillage Chaminda Inoka Colonne (Sri Lanka) to serve as Rapporteur of the Advisory Committee, with the responsibility of presenting its report to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) at its seventy-eighth session.

II. Activities of the Advisory Committee

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

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

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

** The present document was submitted late owing to the need for the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission to consider the report at its 399th session, which was held on 15 March 2022.

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

(a) Preparations for the seventy-eighth session of the Commission: the Advisory Committee was briefed by the secretariat on the preparations for the seventy-eighth session of the Commission and provided useful guidance, including in relation to the development of the provisional agenda and tentative programme;

(b) Outcome of the seventy-seventh session of the Commission: in its review of the outcome of the seventy-seventh session of the Commission, the Advisory Committee considered the major achievements of the session organized under the theme “Building back better from crises through regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific”. The outcomes of the session, including a resolution adopted by the Commission, guided its work in strengthening regional cooperation in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in the region and in redoubling efforts to work regionally and interregionally with the view to build back better, aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

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

(d) Proposed calendar of meetings and training programmes of the Commission for 2022: the Advisory Committee noted the proposed calendar;

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

- (i) Seventh session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction;
- (ii) Third session of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development;
- (iii) Second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific;
- (iv) Fourth Ministerial Conference on Transport;

(f) Review of the preparations for the Ninth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development;

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

- (i) Sixteenth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development;
- (ii) Seventeenth session of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;
- (iii) Seventeenth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology;

- (iv) Seventeenth session of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization;
- (v) Sixth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management;
- (vi) Sixteenth session of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.

5. Members of the Advisory Committee actively contributed to the successful outcomes of the intergovernmental meetings held since the previous Commission session, with several representatives serving in the bureaux of these meetings and helping to steer deliberations to a successful conclusion.

6. The Advisory Committee also played a critical role in the review of the conference structure of the Commission, pursuant to resolution 73/1, in the lead-up to the seventy-eighth session of the Commission. Ms. Millicent Cruz-Paredes (Philippines) and Ms. Julia Feeney (Australia) served as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of a series of informal consultations among member States held between November 2021 and March 2022. Members of the Advisory Committee actively participated in the informal consultations.

7. While the present document covers the activities of the Advisory Committee during the period June 2021 to March 2022, it should be noted that the Advisory Committee was also instrumental in facilitating consensus among member States on the outcomes of the seventy-seventh session of the Commission in the context of the Working Group on Draft Resolutions. Similarly, the Advisory Committee is expected to play an important role in facilitating consensus ahead of the seventy-eighth session of the Commission.

8. The secretariat presented to the Advisory Committee the proposed programme plan for 2023.

9. The Executive Secretary regularly informed the Advisory Committee of activities relating to the priority issues of the United Nations and of ESCAP, as well as the outcome of her virtual participation and engagements at major meetings, including the regional conversation series, cooperation between member States and the secretariat, and administrative and programmatic matters concerning ESCAP. Regular updates on the reform of the United Nations development system were provided. Moreover, the Advisory Committee was briefed by the Executive Secretary on activities of the secretariat to assist member States in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

10. The Advisory Committee expressed its continued appreciation for the briefings of the Executive Secretary, noting that it found them useful and informative.

11. As part of an ongoing effort to share knowledge about the work of ESCAP and its support to member States in accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the secretariat organized online briefings for the Permanent Missions of ESCAP member States to the United Nations in New York.

III. Conclusions

12. The members of the Advisory Committee actively contributed to strengthening its deliberative and advisory role during the reporting period. They also actively participated in the intergovernmental meetings held since the previous Commission session, including by serving in the bureaux, thereby contributing to their success. The Advisory Committee provided advice and guidance on important issues concerning the Commission and the secretariat, including the implementation of the resolution adopted by the Commission and the organization of various intergovernmental meetings and initiatives of the secretariat.

13. In light of the unprecedented and global health, economic, social and environmental crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, continued constructive cooperation and mutual support between the Advisory Committee and the secretariat will be instrumental in strengthening the contribution of the Commission towards advancing inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

14. The Commission may wish to take note of the report and provide comments on it.
