

2. Strategic direction of the Committee on Statistics

- 1 The members of my delegation think that the 19 Proposals listed in the Conference Room Paper should not be considered as a package because they cover a wide range of issues, including monitoring the indicators for the post-2015 development agenda, statistical capacity building, and strengthening the Committee on Statistics of ESCAP. Therefore, we would like to request that this review should be done for each of the proposals by at least four parallel groups consisting of members of this Committee divided according to the contents of the proposals. As far as we can see, while some proposals are recognized to be endorsed in this Committee, Proposal 13 and some others are not.
- 2 In addition, we would like to make some comments on Proposal 14 and 19.
- 3 Regarding Proposal 14, we would like to make three comments.
- 4 Firstly, we will make efforts to contribute as much as possible to the process of consideration of the indicators for the post-2015 development agenda. For that purpose, it would be necessary for policy making sections to be involved in the process as well as statistics sections of member states and associate members. Also, transparency of the consideration should be ensured as much as possible.
- 5 Our second comment is that not all member states and associate members have all data related to the indicators for the post-2015 development agenda, and the needs for those data differ among the members. Therefore, members' policy priorities should be respected in utilizing those data.
- 6 Lastly, we think it is necessary for ESCAP to collaborate with other international and regional organizations for monitoring the post-2015 development agenda in view of efficient and effective work.
- 7 Next, we would like to make comments on Proposal 19.
- 8 The Government of Japan recognizes that the Committee on Statistics will meet biennially based on the resolution of the 2008 Commission session as part of the restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission.
- 9 We are concerned about the increasing frequency of sessions of the Committee on Statistics for the following reasons:
 - Firstly, increasing the frequency of sessions of the Committee runs counter to the current direction of the ESCAP reforms including shortening of the duration of the Commission sessions.
 - Secondly, even for members and associate members and the ESCAP secretariat, increased frequency would increase the financial costs and staff time.However, Japan does understand the necessity of the timely regional deliberations on statistics concerning the post 2015 development agenda. So, my delegation proposes that the current frequency of the sessions of the committee be retained and ad-hoc meetings be held if necessary.