

Summary Assessment

First session of the Committee on Energy Bangkok 17-19 January 2017

I. Introduction

The first session of the Committee on Energy was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 17-19 January 2017.

A questionnaire assessing the relevance, effectiveness and quality of the meeting was distributed to each delegation of ESCAP members and associate members. In total, 21 of the 34 members and associate members in attendance submitted questionnaires. The overall response rate is therefore 62 per cent. The present assessment was prepared on the basis of these questionnaire responses.

The main purpose of this assessment is to support the Secretariat's ongoing efforts to improve its servicing of Committee sessions.

II. Attendance

The Committee on Energy session was attended by 55 per cent of all ESCAP members and associate members (34 of 62). In total there were 91 individual participants, of whom 18 were female. A number of other entities participated including other States, United Nations bodies and agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations. From these entities there were 23 participants of whom 6 were female.

Some 76 per cent of delegations were headed by officials from the respective Capital, six of which (23 per cent) at ministerial level; the remaining 24 per cent were represented through their embassies in Bangkok.

III. Methodology

For each statement below, an index between 100 and 0 is given, whereby, at a value of 100, all respondents strongly agree with the statement, and, at a value of 0, all respondents strongly disagree. The formula¹ we have used is based on the same principles as the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Human

¹ Index = actual value of all aggregated responses - minimum value of all aggregated responses / maximum value of all aggregated responses - minimum value of all aggregated responses

Development Index² (HDI). This allows the calculation of a unit-free index between 0 and 1 from all received responses for each statement. This enables indices to be added together as well as compared among each other.

IV. Relevance of the session

Respondents stated that the Committee session was relevant to the needs of the region (See table 1).

There were some suggestions and comments on the relevance of the session to the needs and priorities:

- Increase focus on addressing regional needs and priorities rather than their identification;
- The session provided a platform to raise issues in the energy sector for the entire region.

Table 1

EVALUATED STATEMENT	INDEX (0-100)
The agenda items reflected the present development trends/issues of the Asian and Pacific region.	82
The agenda items are relevant to the needs and priorities of my country/territory.	79

V. Effectiveness of the session

Respondents found the session to be highly effective overall. Good reviews were made regarding identification of regional priorities and emerging issues; promotion of regional dialogue and the quality of documents. Respondents gave lower ratings for the effective coverage of gender related issues however, leaving room for future improvement (See table 2).

Table 2

EVALUATED STATEMENT	INDEX (0-100)
The session effectively highlighted regional development trends and issues.	80
The session effectively identified priority areas and emerging issues in the region.	82
The session effectively promoted dialogue on regional and subregional approaches.	70

² More can be found at http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr_2013_en_technotes.pdf

The session effectively addressed gender-related issues.	51
The session documents were of high quality, concise and clear.	79

VI. Efficiency of the session

Respondents rated session efficiency positively in terms of time for discussion, secretariat servicing and communication and organization of work prior to and between sessions. Efficient communication with the Secretariat enabled the session to proceed smoothly (See Table 3).

Table 3

EVALUATED STATEMENT	INDEX (0-100)
The time available for discussion during the meeting was adequate.	78
The servicing by the secretariat was efficient and effective.	81
The communications from the secretariat to the member States on the preparations for the meeting were effective.	78
The organization of work prior and in between sessions enabled the session to proceed efficiently (ACPR, working groups, task forces, communication with the secretariat).	78

VII. Other comments

According to respondents, the most useful and successful aspects of the Committee session and other suggestions for improvement included:

- The committee needs to present a set of documentation separately in its report.
- Suggestions and need for draft resolutions should be brought to the ACPR prior to the session.
- Informal meeting of ACPR member should be arranged before every ESCAP committee meeting to discuss necessary issues and outcome.
- I appreciate the dynamic leadership of Committee Secretary and well conducting by the Chair.
- The most useful aspect of this meeting was being able to share experiences between countries with regards to each unique energy experience and receiving confirmation on the willingness of countries with more developed energy scenes and technologies to assist smaller, less developed countries to duplicate, improve their energy status with the end goal of achieving the global of energy accessibility, efficiency and modernity.
- Though the meeting was well organized, the statement to be made by the representative on 17-18/01/2017 was not clear enough to me. Initially, I thought

this type of statement is the political statement or commitment. But I realized the statement made by each representative as on the progress of the SDG7. Therefore, in future meetings, the representatives may be well informed on the statement to be made by the representatives (including the coverage and meaning) to have fruitful meetings.

VIII. Conclusion

Overall, delegations felt that the first session of the Committee on Energy was successful.

The session was seen as relevant to the needs of the region; especially in identifying priority areas and emerging issues. The issue of addressing gender in the field of energy warrants some attention in future sessions with a view to further improving its effectiveness.

The efficiency of the session received positive feedback, in particular, the servicing of the session by the secretariat.