

**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific****Eightieth session**

Bangkok, 22–26 April 2024

Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Management issues**Proposed programme plan for 2025******Note by the secretariat******Summary*

The proposed programme plan for 2025 is submitted to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for its consideration.

In preparing the proposed programme plan, every effort has been made to reflect the priorities of member States and the vision of the secretariat to support member States in achieving a prosperous Asia and the Pacific based on inclusive and sustainable development. Furthermore, the following were taken into consideration: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, lessons learned from the implementation of past programme plans and the outcomes of a series of evaluations. The proposed programme plan is also aimed at ensuring a balance between the Commission's normative, analytical and capacity-building work and at maximizing its comparative advantages, including through the adoption of multisectoral approaches with a strong focus on issues that are regional in nature. The proposed programme plan builds on partnerships between organizations within and outside of the United Nations system and strengthens linkages between subregions within the Asia-Pacific region for the mutual benefit of all member States.

The present document sets out the overall orientation of the programme of the Commission and the programmes of work for each subprogramme or subprogramme component. Each subprogramme or component framework covers: (a) the objective to which the subprogramme or component contributes; (b) the strategy for achieving the objective; (c) information on programme performance in 2023; (d) the planned results for 2025; and (e) the deliverables for the period 2023–2025.

The Commission may wish to endorse the proposed programme plan and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

After it is considered by the Commission, the proposed programme plan for 2025 will be reviewed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly. The Secretary-General's proposed programme budget document for secretariat entities will subsequently be submitted to the Assembly for approval at its seventy-ninth session.

* ESCAP/80/1.

** The summary of the present document is being circulated in all the working languages of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The text of the proposed programme plan for 2025, which follows the summary, is being issued without formal editing, in the language of submission only.

*** The present document was submitted after the deadline owing to the need for internal review by the Office of Programme Planning, Finance and Budget, Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance.

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Proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023

Overall orientation

Mandates and background

1. As the principal intergovernmental platform of the United Nations in the region, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) assists its members and associate members in pursuing solutions for sustainable development. Its mandates derive from the priorities established in relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The Commission was established by Council resolution 37 (IV), and Council resolution 1895 (LVII) amended its mandate to include the social dimension of integrated development.
2. The work of ESCAP is also grounded in its resolution 79/1, by which the Commission reaffirmed its commitment to promoting multilateralism and international cooperation, and its resolution 78/1, in which the Commission stressed its leadership role in catalysing regional cooperation and supporting actions to confront regional, transboundary and common challenges faced by its membership.
3. Through its three core functions, namely, research and analysis, the facilitation of intergovernmental consensus-building and norm-setting, and capacity development, ESCAP supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In fulfilling these functions, ESCAP is guided by General Assembly resolutions, including Assembly resolution 74/4, and the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific, endorsed by the Commission in its resolution 73/9, which serve as reference frameworks.

Strategy and external factors for 2025

4. The Commission's overall programme strategy aims at the balanced integration of the economic, social, and environmental dimensions to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. It is implemented through its nine subprogrammes at the regional and subregional levels and addresses the needs and requests of its members States. In implementing its strategy, ESCAP accords priority to support countries in special situations which constitute more than half its member States. It does so by mainstreaming the various programmes of action into the work of all subprogrammes to assist least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in attaining relevant goals and targets.
5. In the Political Declaration of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (GA/RES/78/1), member States committed to bold, ambitious, accelerated, just and transformative actions, anchored in international solidarity and effective cooperation at all levels and the promotion of a systemic shift towards a more inclusive, just, peaceful, resilient and sustainable world for people and planet, for present and future generations. In honouring this commitment and within its expertise, ESCAP will assist member States in implementing the continuous, fundamental, transformative, and urgent actions outlined in the Political Declaration.
6. Amid fiscal constraints, rising debt vulnerabilities, and tight financial conditions, the scaling up of financing and the reprioritization of scarce capital are needed to bridge the financing gap for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (Goals) in Asia and the Pacific. To assist member States on macroeconomic policies and debt distress matters, ESCAP will conduct research on long-term and development-oriented public debt sustainability assessments, domestic resource mobilization, affordable financing access for development and international cooperation on debt resolution, aiming to increase investments in sustainable development. It will also convene meetings for member States and stakeholders to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development taking

into account its midterm review and keeping in view the need to accelerate financing for poverty reduction and sustainable development. Building on its research relevant to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, ESCAP will provide support for their means of implementation to member States, ensuring that such research and support are rooted in and linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

7. To strengthen regional and subregional cooperation to accelerate climate action in Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP supports members States in enhancing cooperation efforts with a view to taking action to combat climate change and its impacts. In 2025, ESCAP will provide regional assessments, facilitate information-sharing, policy dialogues, and extend technical support on policies for climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable development. It will foster collaboration across various sectors of the economy to address climate change, including by supporting regional cooperation on sustainable, low-emission and energy-efficient modes of transport. To this end, the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026), serves as the framework to address the negative externalities generated by freight transport, including greenhouse gas emissions and provides the basis upon which ESCAP implements capacity-building projects to strengthen regional and interregional transport connectivity and promote the integration of the environmental aspects of international supply chains and the introduction of digital and intelligent transport systems.
8. Building on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, ESCAP will support the implementation of the framework by strengthening regional and subregional cooperation mechanisms to secure financing for resilience-building, including through the private sector. In response to member States’ requests, ESCAP will facilitate policy dialogue on transformative adaptation, which protects lives, livelihoods and food, energy and other critical systems, taking a balanced and comprehensive disaster and climate risk management approach that includes the scaling up of innovations to address transboundary hazards. It will further develop a regional strategy to support the achievement of early warnings for all by 2027 by strengthening multi-hazard early warning systems in Asia and the Pacific in coordination with member States and relevant partners, as applicable. ESCAP will facilitate enhancing national capacities for disaster preparedness, adaptation, and resilience through initiatives such as the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network that utilizes digital and geospatial applications for sharing information, expertise, resources and good practices for the development of regional multi-hazard early warning systems.
9. ESCAP is committed to promoting cooperation among member States in the region to effectively implement Goal 7 and other energy-related Sustainable Development Goals. As an outcome of the third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, ESCAP will conduct analytical studies on key energy trends and will compile and disseminate pertinent energy information and data, including through the Asia-Pacific Energy Portal, to facilitate informed intergovernmental discussions. Upon request, ESCAP will also assist member States in developing national roadmaps for the implementation of Goal 7 and in formulating and implementing their long-term strategies on sustainable energy transitions.
10. The role of trade is central to implementing efforts towards sustainable development. Therefore, ESCAP will focus on making trade in the Asia-Pacific region more competitive, sustainable and inclusive. This will involve expanding its analytical research, capacity-building, and technical assistance efforts in relation to matters of common concern, including e-commerce and digital trade, trade digitalization, sustainability of trade, trade resilience in time of crises, graduation from least developed country status, and trade agreements. Moreover, ESCAP will aim to enhance cooperation on cross-border paperless trade, assisting member States in acceding to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific.
11. Recognizing the important role of the private sector in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ESCAP will support member States in the promotion of enterprise and business innovation, in particular promoting inclusive and socially responsible businesses, women-led enterprises and disability-inclusive businesses, building the evidence base of effective policies and facilitating knowledge-sharing and regional cooperation on these agendas. It plans to engage the

private sector through the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network and the Asia-Pacific Business Forum which involves promoting internationally recognized principles and standards of responsible business conduct such as those contained in the United Nations Global Compact and other initiatives, as appropriate. It will further provide technical assistance and capacity-building to promote impact investing and foreign direct investment for sustainable development to elevate the role of business in promoting gender equality, bridging the widening digital divide and addressing social and environmental considerations, including climate change.

12. Members and associate members of ESCAP recognized that the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative could be one of the useful regional platforms for the promotion of digital cooperation. ESCAP will build upon the outcomes of the ministerial conference on digital inclusion and transformation and foster digital cooperation among members to bridge the digital divide, providing digital skills training, enhancing digital connectivity, bolstering digital trust and security, sharing successful policies and practices, and promoting inclusive digital economies and societies, as appropriate. Furthermore, ESCAP will mobilize the collaboration of member States in the digital transformation process, including under the framework of the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026.
13. The Action Plan to Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific is the framework for member States on preventing poverty and reducing vulnerability through the investment in inclusive national social protection systems that improve access to essential services, resources, human capital development, education, employment and decent jobs and strengthen health resilience. ESCAP is guided by the Action Plan in promoting the active participation of women in decision-making and in the design and implementation of social protection policies and programmes.
14. ESCAP is committed to tackling inequalities within and across countries to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies, to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and to ensuring that persons with disabilities and population groups that are most at risk of being left behind actively participate in and equally benefit from sustainable development efforts. To advance the rights of persons with disabilities and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ESCAP will assist member States in the effective implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023-2032, as well as the Incheon Strategy and the Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy.
15. Data and statistics are enablers to facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. ESCAP will deepen its support related to the assessment of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and focus on guiding member States to implement complementary statistics relating to gross domestic product (GDP) that will measure inclusive and sustainable growth and prosperity. Priority will be given to assisting the decision-making of member States by strengthening the capacity of statistical departments to raise the visibility of population groups that are most at risk of being left behind in statistical data by disaggregating data, including by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographical location, as well as other characteristics relevant in national contexts. Across all sectors, ESCAP will invest more in improving data collection, analysis and dissemination. Through its Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, ESCAP will also facilitate the provision of high-resolution satellite imagery and big Earth data analytical tools for consistent natural disaster risk monitoring and reduction, with a focus on countries in special situations.
16. In 2025, the regional follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development will be convened with member States, United Nations development system entities, other international and regional organizations, the private sector and civil society, as appropriate. The multi-stakeholder forum will inform the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and follow up on the outcomes of the Summit of the Future.

17. With regard to cooperation with other entities, ESCAP implements its strategy in collaboration with global, regional and subregional intergovernmental bodies and international organizations, regional and local government associations, civil society networks, and the private sector in an open and transparent manner. Building on its longstanding partnerships, ESCAP will collaborate with international, regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate. It will implement joint activities with international development banks and partner with research institutes, associations and other civil society organizations, as appropriate. ESCAP will also proactively engage with its development partners to strategically implement its programme, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as appropriate.
18. With regard to inter-agency coordination and liaison and in close coordination with the other regional commissions, ESCAP will contribute to global analytical products, and will implement joint projects under the Development Account. It also nurtures close ties with the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States for a coordinated support to the countries in special situations in the region. The subregional offices of ESCAP serve as the main point of contact for resident coordinator offices and United Nations country teams and coordinate ESCAP's contribution to common country assessments and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. At the regional level, ESCAP will provide secretariat services to the Regional Collaborative Platform for Asia and the Pacific and the subprogrammes will support issue-based coalitions. ESCAP will continue to co-lead the issue-based coalition on raising ambitions on climate action with the United Nations Environment Programme, where its expertise, geared to help the achievement of Goals 7 and 13 and the implementation of the Paris Agreement, is of specific relevance.
19. With regard to the external factors, the overall plan for 2025 is based on the following planning assumptions:
 - (a) National Governments maintain and strengthen their commitment to the Commission as the principal intergovernmental platform in the region for leveraging regional cooperation to meet transboundary and common challenges;
 - (b) Governments and other stakeholders continue to collaborate with the Commission in undertaking the proposed programme activities with the necessary capacity and resources;
 - (c) Extrabudgetary funding for technical cooperation continues to be available.
20. ESCAP integrates a gender perspective in its operational activities, deliverables and results, as relevant and appropriate. Gender equality and the empowerment of women is a thematic area for subprogramme 6, while advancing the disaggregation of data, including disaggregation by sex, is a focus of subprogramme 7. In the 2025 programme plan, subprogrammes 2 and 5 to 7 specifically contribute results in this regard, while subprogrammes 2 to 4 and 6 to 9, mainstream gender equality and the empowerment of women in their respective strategies. In 2025, ESCAP will also continue to implement its Gender Equality Policy and Implementation Plan to further anchor the achievements to date across its Programme of Work.
21. In line with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, ESCAP is committed to mainstream disability perspectives and to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all its work through implementing the ESCAP Disability Inclusion Policy and its Action Plan. Subprogramme 6 incorporates disability-specific interventions to protect and empower persons with disabilities and, ultimately, to build disability-inclusive societies.

Legislative mandates

22. The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the programme.

General Assembly resolutions

61/16	Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council	75/233	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
66/288	The future we want		
67/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community	75/290 A	Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council
69/15	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway		
69/137	Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024		Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level
69/142	Realizing the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond		Economic and Social Council
69/277	Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations	75/290 B	High-level political forum on sustainable development
69/283	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030	76/224	Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)	76/258	Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	76/273	Enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities to conferences and meetings of the United Nations system
70/170	Towards the full realization of an inclusive and accessible United Nations for persons with disabilities	76/296	Our ocean, our future, our responsibility
72/279	Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system	77/12	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations
74/3	Political declaration of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway	77/18	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation
		77/21	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
		77/181	Women in development
		77/189	Inclusive development for and with persons with disabilities
74/4	Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly	77/223	Human rights and extreme poverty
		77/323	Extension of the preparatory period preceding the graduation of Solomon Islands from the least developed country category
74/15	Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024	77/330	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
74/297	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system	77/332	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum
		77/338	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
74/306	Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic	78/1	Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (2023)
74/307	United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19	78/69	Oceans and the law of the sea
75/90	The situation in Afghanistan	78/144	Agricultural technology for sustainable development

78/147	Central Asia facing environmental challenges: fostering regional solidarity for sustainable development and prosperity	78/168	Agriculture development, food security and nutrition
78/151	Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Agenda 21	78/178	Promoting social integration through social inclusion
78/158	Combating sand and dust storms	78/189	Rights of Indigenous Peoples
78/160	Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development	78/195	Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies
78/162	Development cooperation with middle-income countries	78/203	The right to development
78/163	Follow-up to the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries	78/231	Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development
78/164	Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)	78/232	Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
78/165	Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	78/233	Follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
78/166	Operational activities for development of the United Nations system	78/259	International day of Science, Technology and Innovation for the South
78/167	South-South cooperation		

Economic and Social Council resolutions

37 (IV)	Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East	2023/10	Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-fifth session
1895 (LVII)	Change of name of the “Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East” to “Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific”	2023/11	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields	2023/14	Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
2013/19	Conclusion of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development	2023/29	Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2022–2031
2016/11	Committing to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific	2023/31	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 75/233 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
2018/5	Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all	2023/33	Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations
2020/5	Strengthening coordination of the statistical programmes in the United Nations system		
2021/10	Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all		
2022/11	A conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to advance sustainable development		

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

66/1	Incheon Declaration	66/15	Strengthening of the evaluation function of the secretariat of the Commission
66/9	Full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and its regional and global outcomes in the Asia-Pacific region	67/14	Cooperation between the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and other United Nations and regional and subregional organizations serving Asia and the Pacific

68/8	Enhancing coordination within the United Nations system and cooperation with regional organizations for promoting regional development	74/10	Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Enhancing Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration to Support the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific
70/11	Implementing the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development	75/2	Committing to strengthening the links between national, regional and global follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific
71/1	Restructuring the conference structure of the Commission to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda	75/3	Advancing partnerships within and across regions for the sustainable development of Asia and the Pacific
71/3	Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024	75/4	Strengthening regional cooperation to tackle air pollution challenges in Asia and the Pacific
71/4	Implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway	75/9	Implementation of the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind
72/6	Committing to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific	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
72/8	Fostering regional cooperation and partnerships to respond to the climate change challenge in the Asia-Pacific region	76/2	Regional cooperation to address the socioeconomic effects of pandemics and crises in Asia and the Pacific
72/9	Regional cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific	77/1	Building back better from crises through regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific
73/2	Strengthening the regional mechanism for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024	78/1	Bangkok Declaration Commemorating the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: A Common Agenda to Advance Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific
73/3	Advancing integrated and seamless connectivity for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific	78/2	A conference structure of the Commission to advance sustainable development
73/5	Strengthening Asia-Pacific's support for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14	79/1	Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development
73/9	Regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific	79/3	Supporting the sustainable development of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in Asia and the Pacific
74/1	Supporting the smooth transition of the least developed countries in Asia and the Pacific towards a sustainable graduation	79/4	Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for a better future for all in Asia and the Pacific
74/6	Advancing disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific		

Subprogramme 1

Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development

General Assembly resolutions

78/136	International financial system and development	78/141	Promoting investments for sustainable development
78/137	External debt sustainability and development		

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

E/CN.11/63	Statistical and economic documentation work	71/5	Implementing the outcome of the Asia-Pacific High-level Consultation on Financing for Development
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**Subprogramme 2
Trade, investment and innovation**

General Assembly resolutions

73/219; 78/134	International trade and development	77/160	Entrepreneurship for sustainable development
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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

68/3	Enabling paperless trade and the cross-border recognition of electronic data and documents for inclusive and sustainable intraregional trade facilitation	72/3 72/4	Statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific
70/5	Strengthening regional cooperation and capacity for enhanced trade and investment in support of sustainable development	72/12	Harnessing science, technology and innovation for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific
70/6	Implementation of the decision of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on a Regional Arrangement for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade	75/8	Advancing science, technology and innovation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

**Subprogramme 3
Transport**

General Assembly resolutions

69/213	Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development	76/294 77/286	Political declaration of the high-level meeting on improving global road safety World Sustainable Transport Day
70/197	Towards comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multimodal transit corridors	78/148	Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals
74/299	Improving global road safety		

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

70/7	Implementation of the Suva Declaration on Improving Maritime Transport and Related Services in the Pacific	72/5	Strengthening regional cooperation on transport connectivity for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific
71/6	Maritime transport connectivity for sustainable development	74/2	Promotion of the regional framework for the planning, design, development and operation of dry ports of international importance
71/7	Adoption of the Regional Cooperation Framework for the Facilitation of International Railway Transport	74/3	Improving road safety in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable transport systems
71/8	Strengthening intraregional and interregional connectivity in Asia and the Pacific	78/3	Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific

Subprogramme 4 Environment and development

General Assembly resolutions

71/222	International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028	77/334	Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028
71/256	New Urban Agenda		
74/212	International Day of Clean Air for blue skies		2025 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
75/212	United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028	78/128	
77/158	International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, 2025	78/155	Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development
77/169	Harmony with Nature		

Economic and Social Council resolution

2017/24	Human settlements		
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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

70/12	Strengthening efforts on human settlements and sustainable urban development for the Asia-Pacific region	79/2	Regional cooperation to accelerate climate action on oceans in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development
71/9	Strengthening cooperation on sustainable management of water resources in Asia and the Pacific	79/6	Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Protecting Our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific
72/2	Statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization	79/7	Advancing regional cooperation for sustainable urban development and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific
74/4	Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development for Asia and the Pacific, 2017		

Subprogramme 5 Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management

General Assembly resolutions

70/125	Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society	78/72	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
		78/120	International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development
77/289	Political declaration of the High-Level Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030	78/132	Information and communications technologies for sustainable development
		78/152	Disaster risk reduction

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2015/14	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations	2018/14	Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters
2015/31	Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management	2023/3	Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society
2016/27	Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management		

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions and decisions

61/1	Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development	75/6	Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030)
71/11	Establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management	75/7	Advancing the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative through regional cooperation
71/12	Strengthening regional mechanisms for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in Asia and the Pacific	Decision 78/6	Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management
72/7	Regional cooperation to combat sand and dust storms in Asia and the Pacific	79/8	Consideration of the modalities for the establishment of the United Nations special programme for the Aral Sea basin
72/10	Regional review of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society action lines	79/9	Implementation of the Jakarta Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific
72/11	Advancing disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific for implementation of internationally agreed development goals	79/10	Promoting digital cooperation and inclusion through the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026
73/7	Enhancing regional cooperation for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in Asia and the Pacific		
75/5	Implementation of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration of the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction		

**Subprogramme 6
Social development**

General Assembly resolutions

49/128	Report of the International Conference on Population and Development	77/139	Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: gender stereotypes and negative social norms
65/234	Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014	77/189	Inclusive development for and with persons with disabilities
65/312	Outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding	78/174	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
68/4	Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development	78/176	Preparations for and observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family
73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	78/177	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
73/326	Format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums	78/179	Policies and programmes involving youth
75/131	United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030)	78/181	Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas
75/156	Strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on women and girls	78/182	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
75/157	Women and girls and the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)		
75/226	International migration and development		
76/266	Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum	78/211	Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2016/25	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development	2022/4	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women
2017/12	Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	2022/5	Thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women
		2023/12	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development
		2023/15	Fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions and decisions

74 (XXIII)	Regional co-operation in the field of population	74/11	Strengthening regional cooperation to tackle inequality in all its forms in Asia and the Pacific
66/12	Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference	Decision 74/26	Report of the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
67/5	Full and effective implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Asia-Pacific region	Decision 75/7	Report of the Midterm Review of the Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development including the Chair's summary
67/6	Enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities at ESCAP	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
69/13	Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific	Decision 77/6	Report of the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
69/14	Implementation of the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing	79/5	Implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032
70/14	Enhancing participation of youth in sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific	Decision 79/6	Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
Decision 70/22	Report of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference		
71/13	Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		
74/7	Towards disability-inclusive sustainable development: implementation of the Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy		

Subprogramme 7
Statistics

General Assembly resolutions

68/261	Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	71/313	Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
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Economic and Social Council resolutions

2006/6	Strengthening statistical capacity	2013/21	Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
2011/15	Revision of the statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific		

2017/7	Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	2022/3	Ensuring that the work in the field of statistics and data is adaptive to the changing statistical and data ecosystem
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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

246 (XLII) 65/2	Statistical services in Asia and the Pacific Regional technical cooperation and capacity-building in statistics development in Asia and the Pacific	69/16	Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific A core set of population and social statistics to guide national capacity development in Asia and the Pacific
67/10	A core set of economic statistics to guide the improvement of basic economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific	71/14	Asian and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade, 2015–2024
67/11	Strengthening statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific	74/8	Accelerating the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific
67/12	Improvement of civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific	78/4	Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Building a More Resilient Future with Inclusive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
69/15	Implementing the outcome of the High-level Meeting on the Improvement of Civil		

**Subprogramme 8
Subregional activities for development**

General Assembly resolutions

63/260 72/283	Development-related activities Strengthening regional and international cooperation to ensure peace, stability and sustainable development in the Central Asian region	78/9	Commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia
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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution

244 (XLI)	The Commission’s Activities in the Pacific
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**Subprogramme 9
Energy**

General Assembly resolutions

65/151	International Year of Sustainable Energy for All	78/149	The pivotal role of reliable and stable energy connectivity in driving sustainable development
67/215	Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy	78/157	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
77/327	International Day of Clean Energy		

Economic and Social Council resolution

2011/14	Promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific
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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

64/3	Promoting renewables for energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific	70/9; 74/9 73/8	Implementation of the outcomes of the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum Strengthening regional cooperation for sustainable energy development in Asia and the Pacific
67/2	Promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific		

Deliverables

23. Table 19.1 lists all cross-cutting deliverables of the programme.

Table 19.1

Cross-cutting deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2023 planned	2023 actual	2024 planned	2025 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	11	9	9	9
Reports for:				
1. The Commission	5	4	3	3
2. The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development	6	5	6	6
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	36	36	36	36
Meetings of:				
3. The Commission	10	10	10	10
4. The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development	8	8	8	8
5. The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	6	6	6	6
6. Expert groups on least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	3	3	3	3
7. The Committee for Programme and Coordination	1	1	1	1
8. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	2	2	2	2
9. The Fifth Committee	2	2	2	2
10. The Regional Collaborative Platform for Asia and the Pacific	4	4	4	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	2	1	2	1
11. On selected issues pertinent to the sustainable development of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	2	1	2	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	5	5	2	2
12. Subregional workshops on priorities of the programmes of action for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	3	2	1	1
13. Policy dialogues based on the <i>Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report</i>	2	3	1	1
Publications (number of publications)	5	5	5	5
14. ESCAP theme study	1	1	1	1
15. <i>Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report</i>	1	1	1	1
16. On the implementation of the 2030 Agenda	1	1	1	1
17. <i>Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Journal</i>	2	2	2	2
Technical materials (number of materials)	4	4	4	4
18. On issues relevant to Asia-Pacific least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	4	4	4	4
C. Substantive deliverables				
Databases and substantive digital materials: Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Goal partnership data portal containing more than 1000 datasets on the SDGs.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: observance of United Nations international days, including United Nations Day; outreach programmes upon demand for the general public, including for academic organizations, for approximately 300 participants.				
External and media relations: press releases and op-ed articles on the work and activities of ESCAP; press conferences/press briefings and press interviews for publications and events.				

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2023 actual</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
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Digital platforms and multimedia content: multimedia promotional content, including videos and educational materials for major publications and events; blog posts for the ESCAP website and content for ESCAP social media accounts.

Evaluation activities

24. The evaluations completed in 2023 have guided the proposed programme plan for 2025:
 - (a) ESCAP: Evaluation of the Asian and the Pacific Centre for Technology Transfer.
25. In response to the results of the evaluation referenced above, ESCAP will create new partnerships with various development institutions to secure funding to implement Asian and the Pacific Centre for Technology Transfer priority initiatives. ESCAP will also enhance the accessibility, flexibility, and cost-efficiency of its capacity-building initiatives by offering online training courses focused on technology transfer and commercialization. This strategic move will broaden the reach of Asian and the Pacific Centre for Technology Transfer's capacity-building initiatives, making them more accessible to a diverse and wider audience.
26. The following evaluations are planned for 2025:
 - (a) ESCAP: Evaluation of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development; and
 - (b) ESCAP: Evaluation of subprogramme 5 on Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management.

Programme of work

Subprogramme 1

Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development

Objective

27. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen the capacity of member States to achieve stable, inclusive and sustainable economic development in Asia and the Pacific.

Strategy

28. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will support member States, including countries in special situations, in transforming their economies in a manner that is consistent with the 2030 Agenda, contributing in particular to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 8–10, 12 and 17, and promote a development approach that goes beyond the primary focus on economic growth. Specifically, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Support member States in exploring, adopting and mainstreaming economic development policies and financing strategies aligned with the achievement of the Goals, through methodologies developed through and policy recommendations emerging from knowledge products, technical advisory and capacity-building efforts and the facilitation of knowledge exchange and consensus-building among member States;
 - (b) Undertake research, advisory and capacity-building services on country-level policymaking and regional-level sharing of policy experiences, guided by the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development of the Commission and further supported through the Consultative Group on Financing Strategies for the Goals;
 - (c) Undertake outreach and follow-up of the subprogramme's research and knowledge products through policy dialogues and closer cooperation of members of the Consultative Group, policy think tanks, resident coordinator offices and United Nations country teams to further integrate the subprogramme's research and capacity-building work;
 - (d) Provide substantive inputs to global and United Nations system-wide processes, task teams and publications coordinated by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and to United Nations system-wide initiatives, in particular on financing for development issues.
29. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) Evidence-based economic policies and development strategies for strengthened economic resilience, inclusive development and environmental sustainability;
 - (b) The strengthened ability of member States, in particular least developed countries, to mobilize and allocate financial resources for sustainable development, including by mainstreaming sustainable development into public and private financing;
 - (c) The improved ability of member States to employ economic and financial policy levers to promote the transformation of their economies towards resilient, inclusive and sustainable development pathways.

Programme performance in 2023

Advancement of digital tax administration solutions in Pakistan

30. The digitalization of tax administration enables a modernized and more efficient tax administration and improves the services for taxpayers. It can also contribute to a reduction in tax evasion and avoidance through enhanced monitoring and detection.
31. Upon direct request from the Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR) of Pakistan, the subprogramme provided technical support to their efforts to strengthen Pakistan’s tax administration through four digital tools: track and trace systems, e-withholding taxes, e-invoicing, and point-of-sale systems. The support comprised an international conference on digitalization of tax administration held in the FBR headquarters in Islamabad in June 2023, an extensive technical report on the four areas of interest to the FBR with an overview of the international and regional experience and detailed recommendations, and a technical training workshop for FBR officials on data analytic tools to enhance tax compliance held in the Internal Revenue Service Academy in Lahore in October 2023.
32. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.2).

Table 19.2
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)
-	Tax administration officials from Asia and the Pacific, including Pakistan, exchanged on the digitalization of tax administration in Asia and the Pacific to identify challenges and solutions	Pakistan Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR) officials launched four key projects to digitalize the tax administration

Planned results for 2025

Result 1: strengthened financing for sustainable development, with a focus on innovative and emerging financing options in the Asia-Pacific region

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

33. The subprogramme’s work contributed to three member States (Bhutan, Cambodia, and Sri Lanka) implementing national strategies and policy initiatives to strengthen financing and resource mobilization and allocation for sustainable development, which met the planned target.
34. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.3).

Table 19.3
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
New policy initiatives or reforms by three member States (Bangladesh, Cambodia and Vanuatu) to	New policy initiatives or reforms by three member States (Bangladesh, Bhutan and Cambodia) to strengthen financing	New policy initiatives or national strategies by three member States (Bhutan, Cambodia, and Sri	New policy initiatives or reforms by three member States to strengthen financing and	New policy initiatives or reforms by three member States to strengthen financing and resource

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
strengthen financing and resource mobilization and allocation for sustainable development	and resource mobilization and allocation for sustainable development	Lanka) to strengthen financing and resource mobilization and allocation for sustainable development	resource mobilization and allocation for sustainable development	mobilization and allocation for sustainable development

Result 2: engagement of member States for evidence-based and forward-looking macroeconomic policymaking aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

- 35. The subprogramme’s work contributed to the relevant ministries of three member States (Cambodia, Mongolia, Sri Lanka) engaging on the organization of substantive macroeconomic policy dialogues on rethinking public debt, which met the planned target.
- 36. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.4).

Table 19.4
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
National policy dialogues on substantive macroeconomic policy involved policymakers as participants	National policy dialogues on substantive macroeconomic policy involved policymakers as participants	Relevant ministries of three member States (Cambodia, Mongolia, Sri Lanka) engaged on the organization of substantive macroeconomic policy dialogues on rethinking public debt.	Relevant ministries of an increasing number of member States engage on the organization of substantive macroeconomic policy dialogues	Relevant ministries of three or more member States engage on the organization of substantive macroeconomic policy dialogues

Result 3: improved policymaking for macroeconomic and financing for development issues

Proposed programme plan for 2025

- 37. Based on its mandate to support macroeconomic policymaking and financing sustainable development, the subprogramme has provided in-depth analyses of global and regional trends and emerging challenges in these areas.

Lessons learned and planned change

- 38. The lesson for the subprogramme was that strengthening updates on the subprogramme’s policy research, monitoring the usage of its research products and direct interactions with policymakers could increase the policy impact of its analytical work. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme plans to make the content and presentation of its analytical products more user-friendly. Additional efforts will be made to take the knowledge to policymakers and devise more detailed feedback and follow up mechanisms on the usefulness and influence of its research products to policymakers.

39. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.5).

Table 19.5
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
Member States accessed macroeconomic policy knowledge and recommendations through the ESCAP website	Member States benefitted from updates on policy research through the Consultative Group on Financing Strategies for the Sustainable Development Goals.	Policymakers engaged in interactive discussions with experts through policy dialogues on flagship publications	At least 60 percent of policymakers acknowledge policy awareness on emerging macroeconomic and financing for development issues.	At least 65 percent of policymakers acknowledge strengthened policy awareness on emerging macroeconomic and financing for development issues.

Deliverables

40. Table 19.6 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 19.6
Subprogramme 1: deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2023 planned	2023 actual	2024 planned	2025 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	4	5	1	4
Reports for:				
1. The Commission	1	1	1	1
2. The Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development	3	4	–	3
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	11	11	11	13
Meetings of:				
3. The Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development	6	5	–	6
4. Subregional Sustainable Development Goal forums, with a focus on financing for development	1	1	1	1
5. Expert groups on financing for development	–	–	4	–
6. Expert groups on the <i>Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific</i>	4	4	4	4
7. The Consultative Group on Financing Strategies for the Sustainable Development Goals	–	1	2	2
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	1	2	1	1
8. On selected economic policy and financing for development issues	1	2	1	1

Category and subcategory	2023 planned	2023 actual	2024 planned	2025 planned
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	4	4	4	4
9. Policy-focused discussions based on research outlined in the <i>Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific</i> and <i>Financing for Development in Asia and the Pacific</i>	4	4	4	4
Publications (number of publications)	2	2	1	2
10. <i>Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific</i>	1	1	1	1
11. <i>Financing for Development Series</i>	1	1	–	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	10	14	10	10
12. Knowledge products on economic issues and policies tailored to countries' specific circumstances	4	8	4	4
13. Working paper series on macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development	2	2	2	2
14. Policy briefs on macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development	4	4	4	4
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: side event on financing for development at the Economic and Social Council; Asia-Pacific side event at the fourth Financing for Development Summit; side event at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP) on Finance Day; side events at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: presentations, videos, brochures and infographics on the <i>Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific</i> .				

Subprogramme 2

Trade, investment and innovation

Objective

41. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen the capacity of member States to implement policies and programmes that more effectively harness the potential of trade, investment, innovation, technology and enterprise for inclusive and sustainable development and regional integration in Asia and the Pacific.

Strategy

42. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Support member States in formulating and implementing policies and measures to promote and facilitate trade, investment, innovation and enterprise in support of inclusive and sustainable development, with a specific focus on the needs of countries in special situations, including countries at the cusp of graduation from least developed country status;
 - (b) Build the capacity of member States, in cooperation with global and regional partners, such as ADB, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), to negotiate and implement trade agreements aligned with the 2030 Agenda and to design and implement trade and investment facilitation policies and measures, including through the adoption of paperless trade systems;
 - (c) Provide capacity-building in close cooperation with the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, including workshops, training activities and policy advice; develop knowledge products on sustainable foreign direct investment (FDI), innovation, technology cooperation

and transfer, emerging and frontier technologies, responsible and inclusive business, social enterprise, impact investment and innovative finance for women's entrepreneurship; and support member States in making progress towards the achievement of Goals 3, 5–9, 11, 13 and 17;

- (d) Support member States in the areas of trade facilitation and support trade digitization, such as paperless and contactless trade, as appropriate, in particular to maintain trade flows of critical goods in times of global and regional crises;
 - (e) Support member States in formulating policies for sustainable FDI, infrastructure financing and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, with a key focus on private sector engagement through the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network and on developing innovative financial and digital tools to support women entrepreneurs with a view to reducing vulnerabilities;
 - (f) Support regional cooperation platforms and expand expert networks in the areas of trade, investment, technology, innovation, and inclusive and sustainable business, including through public-private partnerships, for knowledge transfer and peer learning.
43. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) Reduced trade costs and increased participation and competitiveness of companies, especially micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, in international trade;
 - (b) The adoption by member States of more effective rules and procedures governing trade, leading to more efficient trade outcomes aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals;
 - (c) The adoption by member States of policies and measures aimed at achieving more inclusive and sustainable outcomes of private sector activities, including public-private partnerships;
 - (d) The integration of inclusive and sustainable practices into technology and innovation policies in the region;
 - (e) The increased resilience of supply chains by enabling continued trade activities and using technology and innovation to mitigate the impact of crises.

Programme performance in 2023

Women entrepreneurs access financial services through innovative financing mechanisms

44. The International Finance Corporation estimates a gap of USD 300 billion¹ worldwide in financing for formal, women-owned small businesses alone. Meanwhile more than 1 billion women still do not have access to formal financial systems and 70 per cent of women-owned small and medium-sized enterprises globally have inadequate or no access to financial services. In fact, women-owned and women-led companies secure, on average, 2 per cent of global venture capital investments² currently available.
45. Between 2021 and 2023, the subprogramme has helped to address the gender-finance gap in Asia and the Pacific through the implementation of innovative financing mechanisms, with a strategic focus on supporting women entrepreneurs across the region. Under ESCAP's Catalyzing Women's Entrepreneurship initiative, women entrepreneurs, including those in least developed countries and small island developing States, accessed financing for their businesses. This has been achieved through mechanisms which include FinTech solutions, an investing fund and bonds which

¹ International Finance Corporation. (2015). Banking on Women Bonds. <https://www.ifc.org/content/dam/ifc/doc/mgrt/banking-on-women-bonds-factsheet-november-2015-rev.pdf>

² Monteverdi, D., Ray, M., González Aranda, C., Orstavik, S. L., Kazembe, T., Lockyer, A., Vincensini, V., & Xu, Q. (2023). Gender Finance Booklet: Financial Centres for Sustainability Network 2023. United Nations Development Programme and UN Women. <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/booklet-gender-finance-2023-en.pdf>

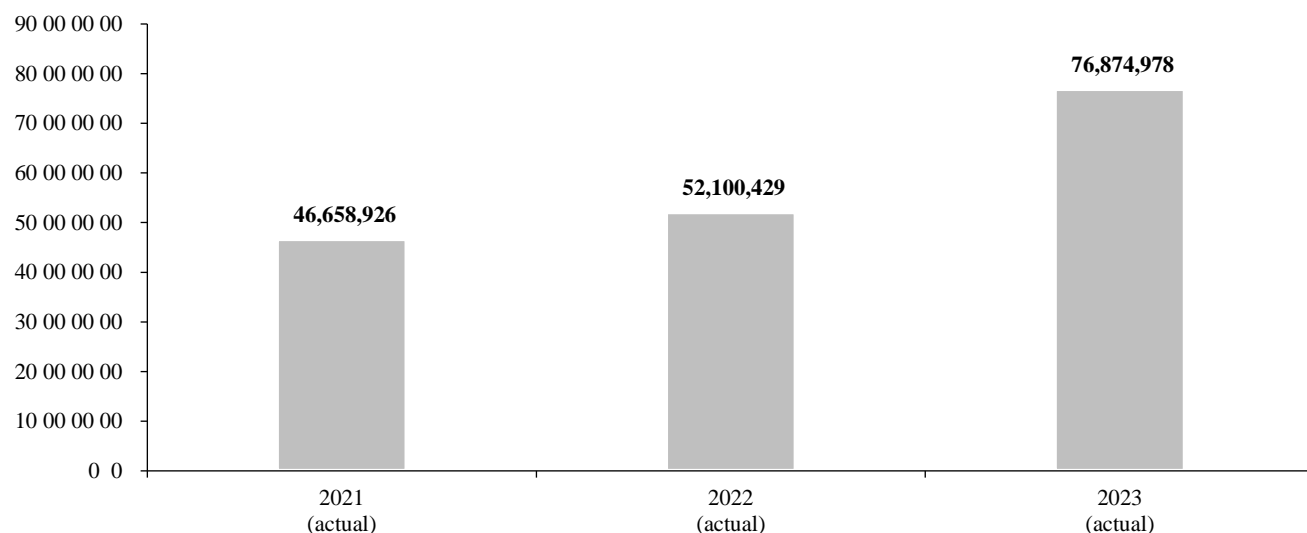
mainstream a gender perspective, the execution of two challenge funds, and the provision of credit guarantees.

46. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.I).

Figure 19.I

Performance measure: value of additional capital leveraged towards women's entrepreneurship objectives (cumulative)

[United States Dollars]



Planned results for 2025

Result 1: strengthened commitment of the private sector in support of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

47. The subprogramme’s work contributed to 298 private sector organizations adopting the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for business, 93 of which are small and medium sized enterprises, which met the planned target.

48. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.7).

Table 19.7

Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
The private sector developed a draft of an Asia-Pacific Green Deal for businesses and gave its full support thereto	A total of 81 private sector organizations, including 33 small and medium-sized enterprises, adopted the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business	A total of 298 private sector organizations adopted the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for business, 93 of which are small and	There is a further increase in the number of private sector organizations that sign a declaration on the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business	Private sector organizations start to track their emissions or other sustainability metrics, inter alia, via the Green Deal

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
		medium sized enterprises	which the majority are small and medium-sized enterprises	for Business digital platform

Result 2: enhanced policy measures to promote inclusive business for sustainable development

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

- 49. The subprogramme’s work contributed to one member State (Viet Nam) implementing an Inclusive Business Accreditation System, and ten member States endorsing a Plan of Action for the Promotion of Inclusive Business in ASEAN (2023 – 2027) and issuing a declaration on Promoting Inclusive Business Models in ASEAN, which met the planned target.
- 50. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.8).

Table 19.8
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
–	Member States (Cambodia, Philippines, and Viet Nam) implemented measures to promote inclusive businesses	Viet Nam implemented an Inclusive Business Accreditation System Ten member States endorsed a Plan of Action for the Promotion of Inclusive Business in ASEAN (2023 – 2027), and issued a declaration on Promoting Inclusive Business Models in ASEAN	Additional policy measures developed by member States to promote inclusive businesses	Two key policy measures to support the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Promotion of Inclusive Business in ASEAN (2023-2027) designed: the ASEAN Inclusive Business Accreditation System and the framework for monitoring and evaluation of progress of the Plan of Action

Result 3: more sustainable and efficient trade processes through increased digital and sustainable trade facilitation measures

Proposed programme plan for 2025

- 51. The subprogramme has a long-standing programme on trade facilitation to help to lower trade costs and enable countries to integrate into regional and global value chains with a focus on supporting member States in implementing cross border paperless trade processes, including through the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific.

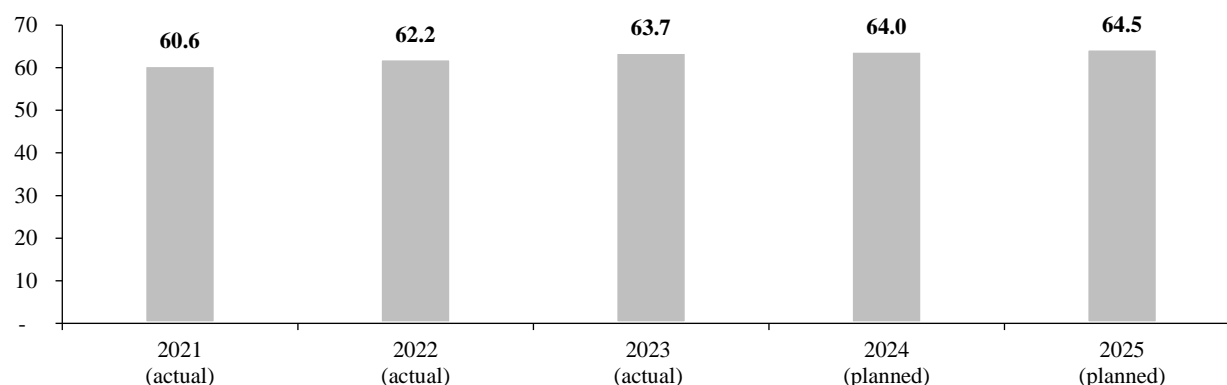
Lessons learned and planned change

52. The lesson for the subprogramme was that trade facilitation measures which can be tailored to various stakeholder groups can help maximize their contribution to inclusive and sustainable development. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will support countries, particularly countries in special situations, to develop more inclusive and sustainable trade facilitation programmes. Research and capacity building activities on trade facilitation will be undertaken to ensure that the needs of women traders, small- and medium enterprises and other disadvantaged populations are more fully taken into account, including in the implementation of cross-border paperless trade. The subprogramme will also implement awareness raising and capacity building activities to mitigate the environmental impact associated with trade procedures and to facilitate the sustainability of trade.
53. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.II).

Figure 19.II

Performance measure: implementation rate of digital and sustainable trade facilitation measures in Asia and the Pacific (annual)

[Percentage]

**Deliverables**

54. Table 19.9 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 19.9

Subprogramme 2: deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2023 planned	2023 actual	2024 planned	2025 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	18	16	12	17
Reports for:				
1. The Commission	1	1	1	1
2. The Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation	6	6	–	6
3. The Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	3	3	3	2
4. The Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement Standing Committee	4	–	4	4
5. The Paperless Trade Council of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific and the Standing Committee of the Framework Agreement	4	6	4	4
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	34	20	28	34

Category and subcategory	2023 planned	2023 actual	2024 planned	2025 planned
Meetings of:				
6. The Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation	6	5	–	6
7. The Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	4	3	4	4
8. The Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement Standing Committee	8	–	8	8
9. The Paperless Trade Council of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific and the Standing Committee of the Framework Agreement	4	6	4	4
10. The expert group on trade, investment and innovation	8	2	8	8
11. The ESCAP Sustainable Business Network	2	2	2	2
12. The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Working Group on Trade	2	2	2	2
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	6	15	6	6
13. On women’s entrepreneurship: innovative finance component	1	1	–	–
14. On the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network and public-private partnerships	–	1	1	–
15. On trade policy and economic partnership	1	5	1	1
16. On trade facilitation and paperless trade	–	–	–	1
17. On innovation, enterprise and investment	1	6	1	1
18. On new and emerging technologies	3	2	3	3
Publications (number of publications)	3	3	3	3
19. <i>Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report</i>	1	1	–	1
20. <i>Studies in Trade, Investment and Innovation</i>	2	2	2	2
21. <i>Innovation in Asia and the Pacific</i>	–	–	1	–
Technical materials (number of materials)	11	11	10	10
22. Trade, Investment and Innovation Working Paper Series	2	2	2	2
23. Policy briefs on trade, investment, and innovation	4	4	3	3
24. Reports on trade facilitation and paperless trade implementation	1	1	1	1
25. <i>Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor</i>	4	4	4	4
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services on trade, investment, innovation, inclusive and sustainable business, technology cooperation and transfer, and emerging and frontier technologies; regional knowledge networks linking researchers, policymakers and practitioners in trade, investment, innovation, and inclusive and sustainable business, including the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade and the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific; advisory support for the task forces of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network; side events on trade, investment and innovation at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.				
Databases and substantive digital materials: two online courses and databases on trade, investment and innovation; the comprehensive trade cost database; the Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Agreements Database; trade performance indicators on non-tariff measures; the online Trade Intelligence and Negotiation Adviser.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: country fact sheets, multimedia materials and briefings on trade, investment, innovation, and inclusive and sustainable business.				

Subprogramme 3

Transport

Objective

55. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to achieve sustainable transport connectivity, logistics and mobility in the Asia-Pacific region.

Strategy

56. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Serve as the secretariat for the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network and the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports, and provide technical expertise to the intergovernmental deliberations of the relevant working groups, including on operational issues and issues of particular relevance to landlocked developing countries;
 - (b) Provide technical assistance and conduct related research and analysis on land and maritime transport, with due consideration for the specific needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, focusing on enhanced operational connectivity through promoting knowledge products and best practices, including efficient operational arrangements and harmonized legal frameworks for multimodal transport, and facilitate systematic regional and, as appropriate, interregional dialogue to foster regional and interregional connectivity;
 - (c) Facilitate the exchange of good practices on the utilization of new and emerging technologies, and support the wider deployment of smart transport systems through the development of a regional road map and by raising awareness through knowledge products and capacity development;
 - (d) Undertake policy advocacy and capacity-building in the areas of sustainable urban transport and low greenhouse gas emissions and logistics, including by promoting and facilitating an accelerated transition to electric mobility, clean and energy-efficient transport and environmentally friendly supply chains;
 - (e) Provide technical assistance in the areas of road safety and inclusive transport and mobility, including through a regional plan of action for road safety and regional guidelines addressing accessibility, to support reductions in poverty and inequality and promote inclusive transport for people with different travel requirements, including but not limited to women, children, older persons, low-income transport users, rural inhabitants and persons with disabilities.
57. These workstreams will support member States in making progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 3, 7, 9, 11–13 and 17 and the objectives of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026).
58. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) A more sustainable, efficient and resilient transport infrastructure along the regional transport networks (Asian highways, trans-Asian railways and dry ports) and at maritime ports to support freight and, where appropriate, passenger operations that are affordable, safe, accessible and environmentally friendly;
 - (b) Enhanced regional land, maritime and interregional transport connectivity to preserve regional and inter-regional transport linkages and foster regional cooperation to support interregional and intraregional trade and people connectivity;
 - (c) The formulation and implementation of sustainable transport and mobility policy initiatives in member countries, including the planning and development of urban public transport systems, measures and mechanisms to promote the use of low-greenhouse-gas-emission transport and

smart mobility approaches, and measures to improve transport safety and promote inclusive transport in the region.

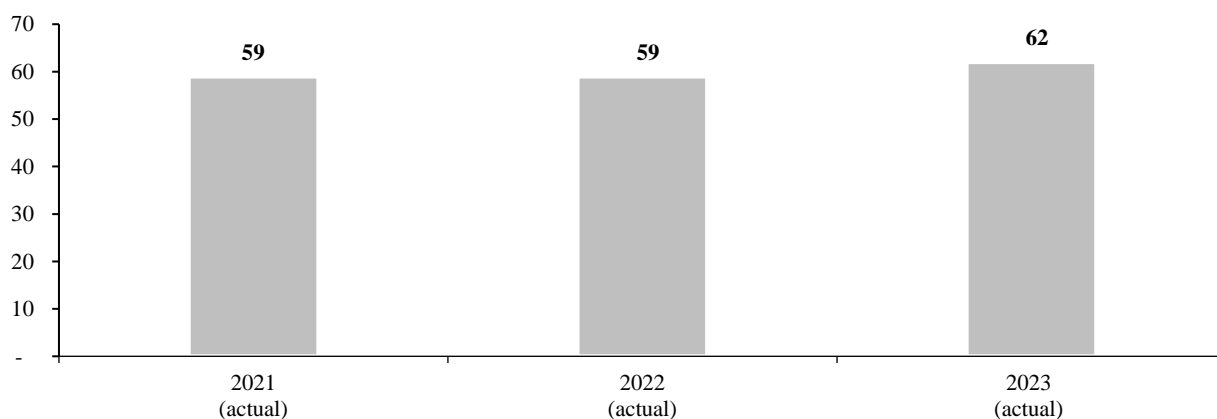
Programme performance in 2023

Increased coverage of the regional land transport network in Asia and the Pacific

- 59. The subprogramme supports member States in the development of the regional land transport network. Greater network coverage helps improve the efficiency and resiliency of transport connectivity in the region, while enabling more countries to enjoy the economic and social benefits of greater connectivity. Designating roads, rail routes and dry ports mentioned respectively in the intergovernmental agreements on the Asian Highway Network, Trans-Asian Railway Network and Dry Ports as part of the regional transport corridors also helps countries consolidate international freight flows and reduce transport time and delays. It allows countries to benefit from economies of scales in their infrastructure investments, helping them cope with the growing freight transport demand in Asia and the Pacific.
- 60. The coordinated development of the regional transport network is formalized by the Intergovernmental Agreements on Asian Highway Network, Trans-Asian Railway Network and Dry Ports. In 2023, the subprogramme provided logistical and substantive support to the Working Groups on the Asian Highway Network, the Trans-Asian Railway Network and Dry Ports for the intergovernmental process of deliberations among Parties to the Agreements and the adoption of a set of amendments expanding their respective networks coverage.
- 61. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.III).

Figure 19.III

Performance measure: number of roads designated as Asian highways in Asia and the Pacific



Planned results for 2025

Result 1: leveraged regional transport network to address the environmental dimension of transport development and international supply chains

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

- 62. The subprogramme’s work contributed to member States welcoming the setup of an inventory of best practices for low-emissions and resilient infrastructure along the Asian Highway Network to address the environmental dimension of transport development and operations, which met the planned target.
- 63. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.10).

Table 19.10
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
Countries utilized the Working Groups on the Asian Highway, on the Trans-Asian Railway Network and on Dry Ports to discuss a regional approach towards enhancing the sustainability of freight transport, listing the environmental dimension of transport development among its priorities	Several member States (China, India, Russian Federation and Thailand) fulfilled their transport-related emission reduction commitments, including the development of long-term polices and road maps to accelerate the transition to electric mobility to support climate action (China, India and Thailand)	Member States welcomed the setup of an inventory of best practices for low-emissions and resilient infrastructure along the Asian Highway Network to address the environmental dimension of transport development and operations	Members of the existing intergovernmental working groups and initiatives introduce more ambitious policy measures to address the environmental dimension of freight transport operations	Member States implement low-emissions transport measures

Result 2: enhanced policies for safe and inclusive transport and mobility

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

- 64. The subprogramme’s work contributed to three member States (Bangladesh, Islamic Republic of Iran and Lao People’s Democratic Republic) formulating national road safety policies and initiatives to improve road safety, which met the planned target.
- 65. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.11).

Table 19.11
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
ESCAP member States agreed to include safe and inclusive transport in the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026) as one of its three overarching objectives	The Regional Plan of Action for Asia and the Pacific for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030 was welcomed by the Committee on Transport ESCAP member States contributed to the development of regional guidelines on enhancing social	Bangladesh, Islamic Republic of Iran and Lao People’s Democratic Republic formulated national road safety policies and initiatives to improve road safety	Three additional member States formulate national measures to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries by at least 50 per cent between 2021 and 2030	Three additional member States including a least developed country, formulate national measures to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries by at least 50 per cent between 2021 and 2030

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
	inclusion and innovations in urban transport systems in Asia-Pacific cities			

Result 3: increased efficiency and resilience of transport connectivity and logistics networks in Asia and the Pacific

Proposed programme plan for 2025

66. Increasing the efficiency and resilience of transport connectivity and logistics is one of the three objectives of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026). The subprogramme has been facilitating negotiations among parties within the context of the Intergovernmental Agreements on Asian Highways, Trans-Asian Railways and Dry Ports to further extend and upgrade the regional transport network.

Lessons learned and planned change

67. The lesson for the subprogramme was that parties to the agreements could benefit from greater support on amending transport routes involving border crossing points. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will develop guidance materials to facilitate countries’ decisions in identifying the transboundary implications of proposed changes to the segments of transport networks. The subprogramme will provide timely consultations to the countries proposing new amendments to the agreements.

68. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.12).

Table 19.12
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
Member States confirmed that further development of the transport networks is necessary for greater connectivity in Asia and the Pacific	Member States proposed amendments to the coverage of the eight Asian Highway routes and eight Trans-Asian Railway routes	Member States adopted amendments to five Asian Highway routes and two trans-Asian Railway routes	Increased consultations among the relevant member States on amendment proposals involving international border crossings	Member States consider the proposed amendments to the configuration of transport networks

Deliverables

69. Table 19.13 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 19.13
Subprogramme 3: deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2023 planned	2023 actual	2024 planned	2025 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	1	4	1

Category and subcategory	2023 planned	2023 actual	2024 planned	2025 planned
Reports for:				
1. The Commission	1	1	1	1
2. The Committee on Transport	–	–	3	–
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	28	23	22	28
Meetings of:				
3. The Committee on Transport	–	–	6	–
4. The Asian Highway Network	4	4	–	4
5. The Trans-Asian Railway Network	4	4	–	4
6. Meetings on dry ports	4	4	–	4
7. The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity	4	4	4	4
8. Expert groups on transport connectivity and logistics	8	6	8	8
9. Expert groups on mobility	4	1	4	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	10	18	8	8
10. On transport connectivity and logistics	3	10	4	4
11. On mobility	7	8	4	4
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	1	1	–	1
12. On transport connectivity and logistics	1	1	–	1
Publications (number of publications)	2	2	3	2
13. On transport developments in Asia and the Pacific	1	1	2	1
14. On transport connectivity, logistics and mobility	1	1	1	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	3	3	2	3
15. On transport connectivity and logistics	2	2	1	2
16. On mobility	1	1	1	1
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: side events on transport at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development				
Databases and substantive digital materials: Asian Highway database, the Trans-Asian Railway Network and the network of dry ports.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: infographics on road safety for regional and global access.				

Subprogramme 4 Environment and development

Objective

70. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to enhance environmental sustainability of development in a holistic and integrated manner and to improve human well-being in urban and rural environments through building the capacity of member States to strengthen integrated environmental policies and sustainable management of natural resources, realize inclusive and sustainable urban development and reduce pollution and waste.

Strategy

71. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Support member States in the development of ambitious climate action policies and plans aligned with the Paris Agreement and the decisions adopted by the Commission, the Committee on Environment and Development, and support the implementation of these policies and plans at the regional, national, subnational and local levels;
 - (b) Review status and trends related to the common environment and the health impacts of environmental degradation in Asia and the Pacific, follow up on the outcomes of the Ministerial Declaration on Protecting Our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific, and provide technical support for integrated policies to promote and strengthen conservation, management and sustainable use approaches, such as nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, sustainable food systems, pollution management, and participatory approaches in environmental matters, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships and engagement including with youth and persons with disabilities, local communities and indigenous people, while taking into account a gender perspective;
 - (c) Promote regional cooperation, including through the operationalization of the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution and the commemoration of the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies, that provide opportunities for partnership-building, dialogues and the exchange of best practices on air quality management which is complemented by technical support to member States on the assessment of air quality, standards and data;
 - (d) Build the capacity of national, subnational and local officials to strengthen sustainable urban planning processes, provide technical and policy support for local review and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, facilitate the adoption of urban resilience strategies, the application of people-centred smart city systems and the financing of climate-resilient urban infrastructure, and increase awareness of sustainable and inclusive urban solutions, including issues related to socio-economic development, the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, resource consumption, infrastructure planning, air pollution, climate change and disaster risk reduction;
 - (e) Support regional cooperation to protect ocean and marine ecosystems for sustainable development including by coordinating the regional implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, by, inter alia, providing participatory, multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms such as the Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean, and by promoting the implementation of international conventions and region-wide initiatives, as appropriate.
72. The above-mentioned strategy will help support member States in their progress towards the achievement of Goals 2, 3, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17.
73. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) Enhanced action to address climate change through accelerating the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution in Asia-Pacific countries;
 - (b) Increased sustainability and resilience of communities and reduced negative impacts of urbanization;
 - (c) Enhanced action to protect the environment and support the transition to conservation, management and sustainable use approaches, such as nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, especially healthy oceans and food systems;
 - (d) Advancement of subregional frameworks to promote participatory approaches in environmental matters;

- (e) A sustainable, low-emission and climate-resilient development for countries graduating from least developed country status;
- (f) Strengthened and revitalized multilateral cooperation on environmental action.

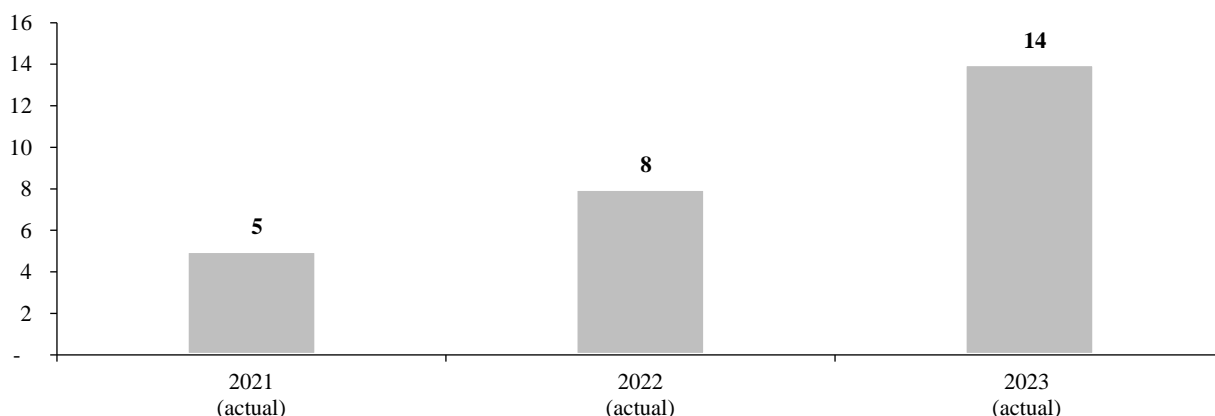
Programme performance in 2023

Strengthened policies on climate action towards low emissions and net zero targets at regional, national, subnational and local levels

- 74. A theme study on transitioning to a net-zero future was published in 2023 to support member States to accelerate climate action in Asia and the Pacific. It provided an outline of the regional context of climate change and identified policies and actions that could be taken in various sectors of the economy to support the global climate agenda. Resolution ESCAP/RES/79/1 was adopted by member States to increase their commitments for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving net zero by mid-century. A technical cooperation project was initiated with five countries with the aim of transitioning towards low-emissions and resilient urban development. Direct technical support was mostly targeted to countries in special situations.
- 75. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.IV).

Figure 19.IV

Performance measure: number of Asia-Pacific countries that benefitted from ESCAP guidance and support for developing policies on climate action towards low-emissions and net zero targets (cumulative)



Planned results for 2025

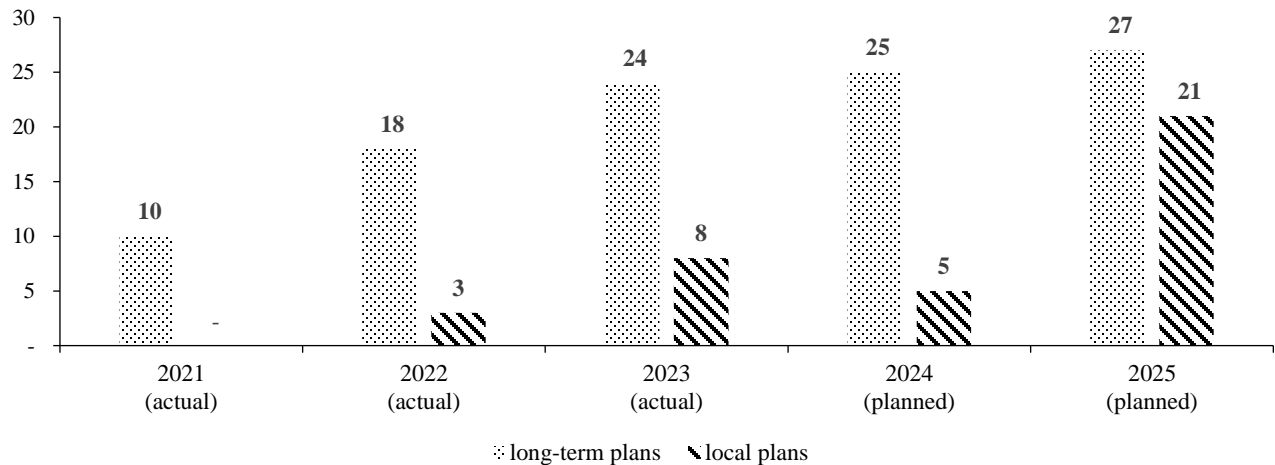
Result 1: accelerated implementation of climate action

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

- 76. The subprogramme’s work contributed to 24 Asia-Pacific countries developing long-term, low-carbon and low-emissions development strategies and eight Asia-Pacific countries developing local climate and/or air pollution action plans, which exceeded the planned target of ten and five countries respectively.
- 77. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.V).

Figure 19.V

Performance measure: number of Asia-Pacific countries that develop local climate and/or air pollution action plans and long-term, low-carbon and low-emissions development and recovery strategies (cumulative)



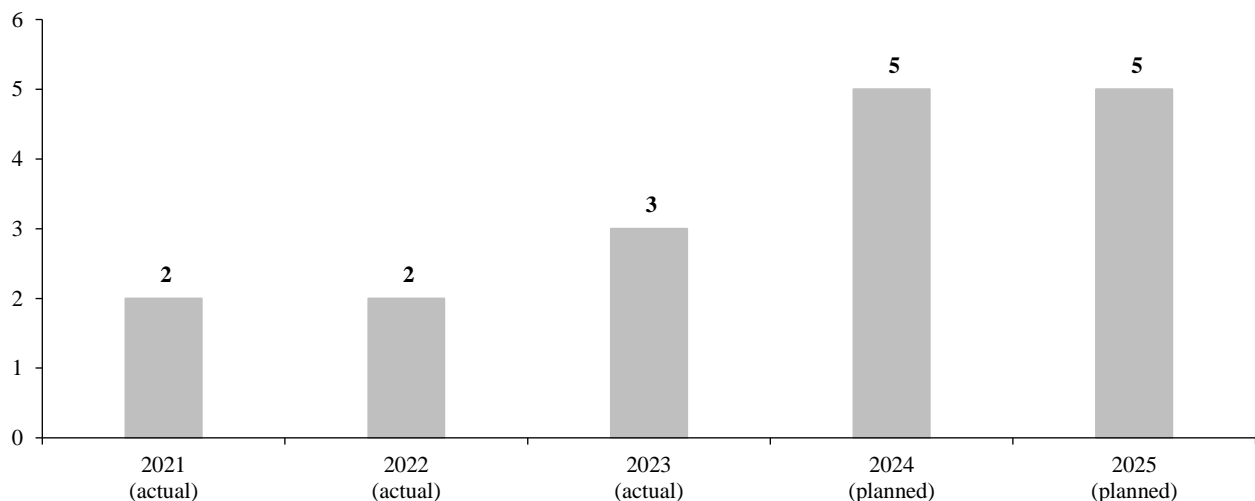
Result 2: local governments localize the Sustainable Development Goals and contribute to national climate strategies

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

- 78. The subprogramme’s work contributed to three cities developing voluntary local reviews and/or Sustainable Development Goals localization plans applying the regional guidelines for voluntary local reviews developed by the subprogramme in 2020, including for cities in countries in special situations, which met the planned target.
- 79. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.VI).

Figure 19.VI

Performance measure: number of cities developing voluntary local reviews and/or Sustainable Development Goal localization plans with the direct support of the Commission (annual)



Result 3: member States in Asia and the Pacific increase cooperation to advance participatory approaches on environmental matters

Proposed programme plan for 2025

80. In the Ministerial Declaration on Protecting Our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific, member States reaffirmed that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is important for sustainable development.

Lessons learned and planned change

81. The lesson for the subprogramme was that expanding the focus of its partnerships can help to promote participatory approaches in environmental matters in the region. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme plans to facilitate deliberations among member States, relevant ESCAP subprogrammes and other UN entities, as appropriate, to provide comprehensive, unified and coherent support. It will offer intra-regional learning activities, providing a space for subregions to exchange on lessons learned and best practices to promote participatory approaches in environmental matters.

82. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.14).

Table 19.14
Performance measure

<i>2021 (actual)</i>	<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>	<i>2024 (planned)</i>	<i>2025 (planned)</i>
A subregional dialogue enhanced the capacity of member States to mainstream participatory approaches in environmental matters	Member States agreed on institutional arrangements to strengthen participatory approaches	Member States enhanced subregional cooperation to promote participatory approaches	Member States consider modalities for promoting participatory approaches	Member States take steps to institutionalize modalities for participation

Deliverables

83. Table 19.15 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 19.15
Subprogramme 4: deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2023 actual</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	1	2	1
Report for:				
1. The Commission	1	1	1	1
2. The Committee on Environment and Development	–	–	1	–
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	23	21	22	17
Meetings of:				
3. The Committee on Environment and Development	–	–	5	–
4. The Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization	2	2	2	2

Category and subcategory	2023 planned	2023 actual	2024 planned	2025 planned
5. The Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery	5	10	5	5
6. Expert groups for the implementation of internationally agreed agendas related to the environment and development	2	1	2	2
7. Expert groups on sustainable and resilient cities in the Asia-Pacific region	8	2	8	8
8. The Asia-Pacific Urban Forum	6	6	–	–
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	7	11	9	9
9. On the sustainable management of natural resources	1	3	1	1
10. On sustainable urban development	1	2	2	2
11. On sustainable agricultural mechanization	2	2	2	2
12. On sustainable economic growth	1	–	1	1
13. To support countries in Asia-Pacific to meet commitments to the Paris Agreement	1	–	–	–
14. On air pollution	–	2	1	1
15. On participatory approaches to environmental matters	–	1	1	1
16. The Seoul Initiative Network on Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth	1	1	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	11	12	6	11
17. On the integrated management of straw residue	1	1	1	1
18. On strengthening human resources for sustainable agricultural mechanization	1	1	1	1
19. Regional forum on sustainable agricultural mechanization in Asia and the Pacific	1	2	–	–
20. On promoting sustainable agricultural mechanization through South-South cooperation	1	1	2	2
21. Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean	1	1	1	1
22. Asia-Pacific Climate Week	5	5	–	5
23. International Day of Clean Air for blue skies	1	1	1	1
Publications (number of publications)	2	2	1	1
24. On environment and development	1	1	1	1
25. On progress towards sustainable urbanization in Asia-Pacific	1	1	–	–
Technical materials (number of materials)	4	9	4	4
26. On the environment and development	1	6	1	1
27. On agricultural machinery	3	3	3	3
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services on environment and development; side events on environment and development at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.				
Databases and substantive digital materials: 16 e-learning courses on the environment and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: information material on agricultural mechanization; International Year of Glacier's Preservation, the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies, World Cities Day, World Environment Day and World Habitat Day.				

Subprogramme 5

Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management

Objective

84. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen regional cooperation on information and communications technology (ICT), space technology applications and disaster risk reduction and management for resilient and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific through the sharing of information and best practices.

Strategy

85. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will support member States in making progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 4, 5, 9–11, 13–15 and 17 by developing norms for secure and inclusive digital connectivity, geospatial data-sharing and disaster risk reduction and resilience-building, supported by policy analysis and evidence-based research. Specifically, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Build capacity, especially of countries in special situations, in the above-mentioned areas, anchored in regional cooperation mechanisms that promote technical cooperation through the South-South and North-South modalities and are augmented by the programmes of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development and the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management;
 - (b) Promote regional policy dialogue, knowledge exchange, and cooperation on transboundary challenges related to connectivity and disaster risks, including those related to major development challenges such as climate change;
 - (c) Under the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026, carry out studies on the digital divide assess policy and regulatory frameworks and provide policy recommendations for inclusive digital transformation, supplemented by advocacy, networking and partnerships in support of regionally agreed frameworks;
 - (d) Guided by the Jakarta Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030), assist member States in harnessing recent advances in space technology applications and geospatial data, facilitate timely and expanded access to space-derived geospatial data, pool expertise and resources at the regional and subregional levels, promote the sharing of knowledge and good practices and create synergies with other existing regional initiatives, as appropriate and upon their request;
 - (e) Augment and leverage subregional and regional cooperation in disaster risk reduction, adaptation and climate-resilient pathways for action, including through the implementation of the activities of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network and the ESCAP multi-donor trust fund for tsunami, disaster and climate preparedness, and disaster information management services provided by the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management, including the activities under the Regional Plan of Action on Sand and Dust Storms in Asia and the Pacific;
 - (f) Further build the resilience of human and institutional capacity, in particular, by providing assistance in the facilitation of inclusive use of digital solutions, such as the use of actionable disaster risk analytics and geospatial data applications and the provision of targeted solutions for the special needs of countries that face a high disaster risk.

86. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) The bridging of the digital divide, and the appropriate use of digital solutions for transformation;
 - (b) Countries of the region apply a transformative adaptation approach to combat climate change in order to leave no one behind;
 - (c) Enhanced applications by member States of integrated geospatial information to support transformative adaptation and accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

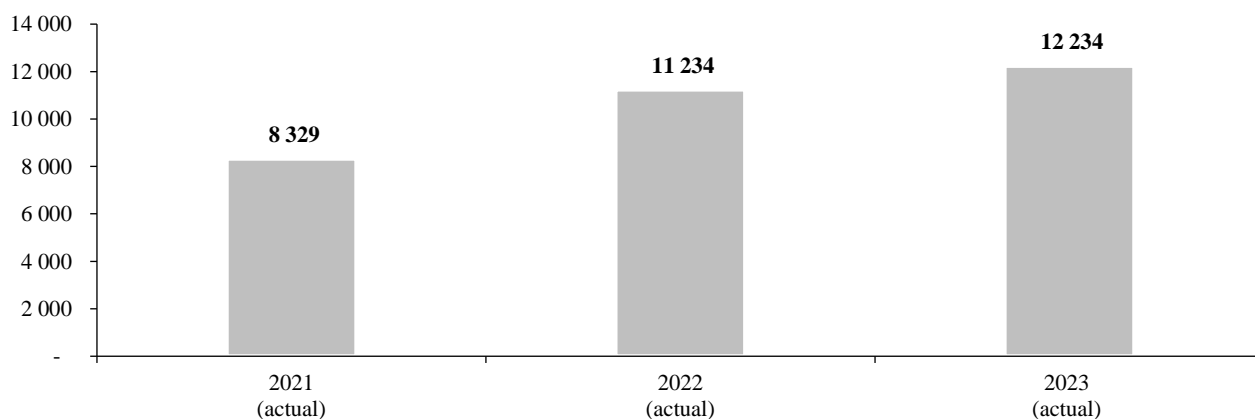
Programme performance in 2023

Enhanced women’s digital skills in Asia and the Pacific

87. The subprogramme developed the Women ICT Frontier Initiative (WIFI) programme to foster women's economic empowerment and thus create more inclusive and sustainable societies. The programme applies a gender-sensitive approach to innovation, technology, and digital education and promotes women's entrepreneurship by strengthening the ICT capabilities of women entrepreneurs to enhance the productivity, growth, and sustainability of their enterprises. Since its launch, the programme has been providing on-site training as well as e-learning courses in the local language of the beneficiaries, promoting accessibility and lifelong learning. Building new partnerships with various stakeholders further amplified the reach and impact of the programme across diverse sectors of society. The WIFI programme is implemented in 22 countries and reached various beneficiaries, not only women entrepreneurs, but also students, youth, older persons, and persons with disabilities.
88. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.VII).

Figure 19.VII

Performance measure: number of participants of the Women ICT Frontier Initiative with enhanced digital skills (cumulative)



Planned results for 2025

Result 1: augmented use of geospatial data for accelerating Sustainable Development Goal monitoring and implementation

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

89. The subprogramme’s work contributed to the establishment of the Central Asia Drought Information System in Kyrgyzstan and the use of satellite data to improve air quality monitoring in the Philippines as part of the subprogramme’s effort to build capacities for integrating geospatial and

sectoral data for monitoring and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, which met the planned target.

90. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.16).

Table 19.16

Performance measure

<i>2021 (actual)</i>	<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>	<i>2024 (planned)</i>	<i>2025 (planned)</i>
Members and associate members gained access to training and tools to enhance the use of geospatial data	Three countries (Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand) initiated policy actions or projects on integrating geospatial and sectoral data for monitoring and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals	Kyrgyzstan established the Central Asia Drought Information System and the Philippines use of satellite data to improve air quality monitoring	Increased availability of geospatial and sectoral data for tracking progress on the Goals in two countries	Five countries, including at least three countries in special situations, capitalize on digitally driven geospatial applications to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals

Result 2: strengthened national and subregional frameworks on disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation**Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025**

91. The subprogramme's work contributed to two subregional organizations (Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat) and the Group of 20 adopting disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation frameworks in line with the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction, and supporting the Early Warnings for All initiative, which met the planned target.
92. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.17).

Table 19.17

Performance measure

<i>2021 (actual)</i>	<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>	<i>2024 (planned)</i>	<i>2025 (planned)</i>
ASEAN member countries translated the declaration into an action plan	Three countries (Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand) translated the action plans into national strategies	Two subregional organizations (Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat) and the Group of 20 adopted disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation frameworks in line with the Sendai Framework for disaster risk	Two additional subregional organizations adopt disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation frameworks and support the Early Warnings for All initiative	Three countries adopt national frameworks to make progress towards Early Warnings for All by 2027

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
		reduction and supported the Early Warnings for All initiative		

Result 3: increased adoption of digitally driven innovations to enable transformative adaptation to climate change

Proposed programme plan for 2025

93. As reflected in the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Asia and the Pacific is exposed to complex disaster risks that are forecast to increase under all climate warming scenarios. Digitally driven innovations are expected to be positive enablers for transformative adaptation to climate change.

Lessons learned and planned change

94. The lesson for the subprogramme was that its technical and capacity building could be further optimized by leveraging accessible, cost-efficient, scalable, and inter-operable technologies. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will implement approaches that can be rapidly scaled, and customized, as appropriate. Through South-South cooperation and partnerships, the subprogramme will increasingly deploy Massive Open Online Courses and relevant technology applications; integrate data delivery; and provide policy support on data governance.

95. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.18).

Table 19.18
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
Members States gained access to disaster risk data analytics	All ESCAP subregions gained access to downscaled climate scenario data through the ESCAP Disaster Risk and Resilience Portal	Members States access an updated version of disaster risk data analytics	Two countries make progress in achieving transformative adaptation in agriculture or the energy sector	Two additional countries make progress in achieving transformative adaptation in agriculture or the energy sector

Deliverables

96. Table 19.19 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 19.19

Subprogramme 5: deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2023 actual</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	4	6	5	4
Reports for:				
1. The Commission	2	2	2	2
2. The Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction	2	4	–	2
3. The Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation	–	–	3	–
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	28	26	32	28
Meetings of:				
4. The Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation	–	–	6	–
5. The Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction	6	6	–	6
6. The Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development	1	1	1	1
7. The Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management	1	1	1	1
8. The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development	4	4	4	4
9. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO)/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones	4	4	4	4
10. The Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development	4	4	4	4
11. The ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee	4	4	4	4
12. Expert groups on space applications	–	–	4	–
13. Expert groups on the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway	–	–	4	–
14. Expert groups on disaster risk reduction	4	2	–	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	9	14	9	7
15. Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management	1	1	1	1
16. On disaster risk reduction	1	2	1	1
17. On promoting ICT connectivity	2	4	2	2
18. On space technology applications	4	6	4	2
19. Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development	1	1	1	1
Publications (number of publications)	3	3	2	2
20. On disaster information management	1	1	–	1
21. On geospatial practices for sustainable development	1	1	1	–
22. On digital transformation for sustainable development	1	1	1	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	5	5	8	6
23. On disaster information management	2	2	3	2
24. On disaster risk reduction	–	–	2	1
25. On ICT, including infrastructure and connectivity	2	2	2	2
26. On geospatial information applications	1	1	1	1
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services for working groups on disaster risk reduction and resilience, including the Issue-Based Coalition on Building Resilience; advice to the task forces of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network; advice				

for committees and consultations with organizations on issues related to disaster risk reduction, space applications and ICT; briefing notes on digital development for senior government officials from ICT-related ministries and agencies and advice on data governance for risk-informed development.

Databases and substantive digital materials: ESCAP Risk and Resilience Portal; digital materials on space technology applications for regional and global access; geospatial practices database and dashboard with 50 new data entries and 10 institutional users; digital material for the development and management of disaster information databases and spatial data infrastructure; two new e-learning courses of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development and guidance on impact-based forecast and early warning.

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: International Day on Science, Technology and Innovation

Digital platforms and multimedia content: multimedia training content on disaster information management.

**Subprogramme 6
Social development**

Objective

- 97. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to realize inclusive and equitable societies that protect, empower and leave no one behind in Asia and the Pacific, with a focus on population and development, social protection, disability, and gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Strategy

- 98. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will bring together Governments on critical issues related to social development in the region and inform these intergovernmental processes through analysis and by drawing upon the complementary strengths of ESCAP through its regional convening power and the capacity of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to support national implementation to advance the Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically, the subprogramme will:
 - (a) Support Governments in the continued implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, by strengthening the evidence base with regard to population and development issues, with a focus on ageing, migration and population dynamics, poverty reduction and leaving no one behind;
 - (b) Facilitate the monitoring of the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development through the framework that was endorsed at the sixth session of the Committee on Social Development;
 - (c) Provide support to member States in identifying the population groups that are at the highest risk of being left behind through its Leave No One Behind methodology, analytical reports and capacity-building;
 - (d) In line with the Action Plan to Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific, consolidate national progress and experiences related to extending social protection coverage in periodic progress reports; develop a regional platform for member States to share good practices; and provide new and innovative analytical tools and products, as well as capacity-development tools and training sessions to Governments;
 - (e) Conduct research and analysis and provide capacity-building support to member States on building disability-inclusive societies, guided by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, and the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032, and support other subprogrammes in mainstreaming disability inclusion;

- (f) Follow up on the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific regional review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, by supporting Governments in accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;
 - (g) Provide technical assistance in developing policies in the context of economic empowerment and entrepreneurship for women and support other subprogrammes in mainstreaming a gender perspective;
 - (h) Provide knowledge products, seminars and technical advice on addressing women’s unpaid care burden and designing strategies and policy initiatives to improve the care economy.
99. The above-mentioned work will help support member States in their progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11 and 17.
100. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) The development of regional frameworks for social development;
 - (b) The development of responsive policies and programmes in the domain of population dynamics and social development;
 - (c) Enhanced skills and knowledge to enable countries to design and implement inclusive social protection policies, including to address the impact of rapid demographic transitions and climate change;
 - (d) Improved national policies and strategies to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment, including through measures to improve the care economy and reduce women’s unpaid care burden;
 - (e) Improved national policies and programmes in support of disability-inclusive development.

Programme performance in 2023

Inclusive population and development policy interventions in Asia and the Pacific entrepreneurship

101. To support the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Asia and the Pacific, and of the commitments contained in the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, the ESCAP Committee on Social Development, at its sixth session, endorsed a region-specific indicator framework, based on the Goals, developed by ESCAP and UNFPA. In preparation for the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference, the subprogramme used the indicator framework, as well as a survey, to enhance the capacities of government agencies and civil society organizations in 33 countries to assess, and subsequently revise and develop, policies and strategies on population and development.
102. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.20).

Table 19.20
Performance measure

<i>2021 (actual)</i>	<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>
Two member States (Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste) integrated ESCAP analytical tools into developing government policies and strategies on population and development	Ten member States assessed policies and strategies on population and development through consultations with ESCAP and UN partners	Thirty-one member States assessed progress on the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development and subsequently identified priorities for further action

Planned results for 2025

Result 1: strengthened national policies and programmes to promote the rights of, and advance the empowerment of, persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

- 103. The subprogramme’s work contributed to three member States (Cambodia, China, and Maldives) adopting and implementing policies and programmes to empower persons with disabilities, which met the planned target.
- 104. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.21).

Table 19.21
Performance measure

<i>2021 (actual)</i>	<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>	<i>2024 (planned)</i>	<i>2025 (planned)</i>
Two ESCAP member States developed and implemented evidence-informed inclusive policies to support persons with disabilities	Bhutan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic and the Philippines adopted and implemented policies and programmes to empower persons with disabilities	Cambodia, China, and Maldives adopted and implemented policies and programmes to empower persons with disabilities	Three ESCAP member States further strengthen their policy frameworks on disability-inclusive development, in particular in the areas of employment, social protection and accessibility	Three ESCAP member States including a country in a special situation, address disability inclusion in policy frameworks in line with priority areas of Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade for Persons with Disabilities, 2023-2032

Result 2: advancement of data and guidance for inclusive and evidence-based policy design and implementation to reduce inequality of opportunity and leave no one behind

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

- 105. The subprogramme’s work contributed to four member States (Cambodia, Fiji, Maldives and Mongolia) generating their own data and evidence to inform inclusive policies using the Leave No One Behind tool, which exceeded the planned target of three member States.
- 106. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure (see table 19.22).

Table 19.22
Performance measure

<i>2021 (actual)</i>	<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>	<i>2024 (planned)</i>	<i>2025 (planned)</i>
An online and interactive Leave No One Behind tool was made available for member States to identify the furthest	Five ESCAP member States (Mongolia, the Philippines, Tonga, Turkmenistan and Tuvalu) conducted	Cambodia, Fiji, Maldives and Mongolia generated their own data and evidence to inform inclusive policies	Twenty per cent of ESCAP member States that commit to voluntary national reviews in 2024 use data and	Six ESCAP member States that produce policy documents in 2025 use data and evidence generated by the Leave No

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
behind groups in relation to 15 Sustainable Development Goal indicators covering nine Goals in more than 25 countries across Asia and the Pacific	national training sessions to enhance understanding and use of the Leave No One Behind tool	using the Leave No One Behind tool	evidence generated by the Leave No One Behind tool to inform inclusive policies	One Behind tool to inform inclusive policies

Result 3: member States develop policy measures on valuing and investing in the care economy

Proposed programme plan for 2025

- 107. The subprogramme has supported member States to accelerate the implementation of Goal target 5.4 including through the development of a framework for valuing unpaid care and domestic work and investing in the care economy and strengthening the care economy.

Lessons learned and planned change

- 108. The lesson for the subprogramme was that the comprehensive nature of the care economy would benefit from increasing engagement with relevant line ministries using a multi-sectoral approach. In applying this lesson, the subprogramme will partner with stakeholders across government to comprehensively assess the value of and design policy measures for investing in the care economy. The subprogramme plans to work with several countries providing advisory services in support of the development of policy initiatives and the adoption of policy measures on the care economy and will develop a policy toolkit for action on the care economy to assist Governments.
- 109. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.23).

Table 19.23
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
ASEAN countries adopted a subregional framework on the care economy.	Cambodia and the Philippines developed strategies on new care economy policy initiatives	Cambodia, China and the Philippines convened national consultations on the care economy	One member State develops a policy initiative on the care economy	Two member States adopt policy measures on the care economy

Deliverables

- 110. Table 19.24 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 19.24
Subprogramme 6: deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2023 planned	2023 actual	2024 planned	2025 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	4	8	5	3

Category and subcategory	2023 planned	2023 actual	2024 planned	2025 planned
Reports for:				
1. The Commission	1	1	1	1
2. The Committee on Social Development	–	–	2	–
3. The regional review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+30)	–	–	2	–
4. The Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference	3	7	–	–
5. Asia-Pacific Regional Review of implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	–	–	–	2
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	20	20	26	24
Meetings of:				
6. The Committee on Social Development	–	–	6	–
7. The regional review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+30)	–	–	6	–
8. The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Thematic Working Group on Gender and Sustainable Development Goals	2	1	2	2
9. The Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023-2032	–	–	–	4
10. The Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference	6	6	–	–
11. Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	–	–	–	6
12. Expert groups on disability inclusion	4	4	–	–
13. Expert groups on social inclusion	–	–	4	4
14. Expert groups on social policies	4	5	4	4
15. Expert groups on population	4	4	4	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	6	11	3	3
16. On gender equality	1	2	1	–
17. On population and development	1	5	–	1
18. On disability inclusion	3	4	2	1
19. On social development	–	–	–	1
20. On inequality	1	–	–	–
Publications (number of publications)	2	2	3	1
21. On disability inclusion	1	1	–	1
22. On gender equality	–	–	1	–
23. <i>Social Outlook for Asia and the Pacific</i>	–	–	1	–
24. On population and development	1	1	–	–
25. <i>Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2024</i>	–	–	1	–
Technical materials (number of materials)	11	15	10	11
26. On gender equality	1	1	–	1
27. On disability inclusion	1	1	1	1
28. On population	2	2	2	2
29. On inequality	2	5	2	2
30. Datasheets on population	1	1	1	1
31. On social development	4	5	4	4

Category and subcategory

2023 2023 2024 2025
planned actual planned planned

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services for working groups on issues related to social development, including the Issue-Based Coalition on Inclusion and Empowerment; side events on social development at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

Databases and substantive digital materials: online databases and resource facilities on social development for regional and global access.

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: International Women's Day; International Day of Older Persons; International Day of Persons with Disabilities; International Day of Care and Support

Subprogramme 7 Statistics

Objective

111. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to improve the availability, accessibility and use of quality data and official statistics in support of sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

Strategy

112. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Support statistical development in the region, regional cooperation and the formulation of regional positions to advance official statistics in line with existing commitments, including advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: a collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community, the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind, and the Ministerial Declaration on Building a More Resilient Future with Inclusive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics;
 - (b) Provide technical assistance, training and capacity-building support, in collaboration with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific:
 - (i) To enhance national statistical capacities to produce, disseminate and communicate statistical products and services, including but not limited to gender-sensitive and sex-disaggregated data and statistics, with an emphasis on those countries left further behind, such as the least developed countries and small island developing States;
 - (ii) To modernize national statistical systems and empower national statistical offices in the region to benefit from the data sources generated by the various components of national data ecosystems, including administrative data and big data produced and owned by other governmental agencies and the private sector;
 - (c) Provide statistical products and services, such as the *Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report* and the Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Goals Gateway, which make regional data and official statistics accessible to assess progress in the Asia-Pacific region towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;
 - (d) Develop and support the production of knowledge products in the form of research papers, working papers, statistics briefs and blogs to raise awareness of and share knowledge and experience relating to official statistics;

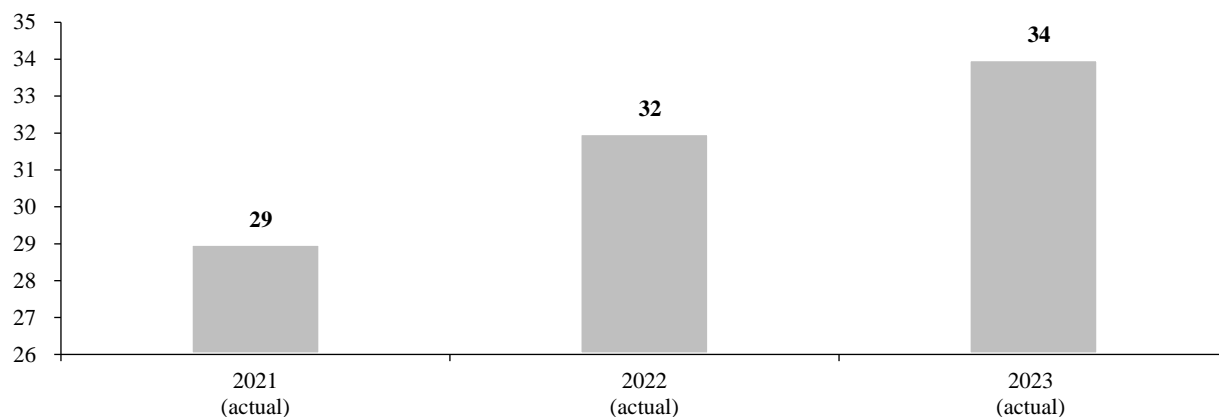
- (e) Promote cooperation and facilitate consensus-building among member States, regional entities and other partners working in data and statistics through regional and country-specific initiatives. This includes, among other things, advancing the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind, data governance and gender mainstreaming in cooperation with member States and development partners, which will constitute the foundation for enhanced statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific;
 - (f) Expand its work to transform national statistical systems so that they are resilient to future shocks like the COVID-19 pandemic, including through virtual platforms and innovations in statistical production processes, which promote cooperation and consensus-building.
113. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) The improved availability, accessibility and use of quality data and official statistics in support of sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific;
 - (b) The improved capacity of national statistical systems to review progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
 - (c) Increased use of statistics in evidence-based decision making across the Asia and the Pacific region.

Programme performance in 2023

Big data sources and tools for improved quality of official statistics

114. In line with the decision of the seventh session of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics to feature big data for official statistics with a focus on sharing country experiences, the subprogramme set up a community of practice for data integration. The community of practice on data integration has provided a forum to share country experiences by member States and international experts on various aspects of big data cutting across areas related to economic, financial, social, environment, population and gender statistics.
115. The subprogramme also strengthened the capacity of national statistical systems to develop and use new big data sources, including geospatial data and mobile phone records. To this end the subprogramme developed guides on using earth observation data for official statistics. In 2023, two Asia-Pacific stats cafes focused on the use of big data and an online seminar on innovations in the production of economic statistics were organized by the subprogramme. In addition, the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific conducted a face-to-face course on big data as well as e-learning courses on machine learning and advanced data visualisation which helped to build the capacity of national statistical offices to use big data sources in official statistics.
116. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.VIII).

Figure 19.VIII
Performance measure: number of countries engaged in the Community of Practice for Data Integration (cumulative)



Planned results for 2025

Result 1: enhanced capacity of Asia-Pacific national statistical systems to measure development progress beyond economic growth

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

- 117. The subprogramme’s work contributed to eleven countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Palau, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, and Türkiye) demonstrating an enhanced capacity of national statistical systems to measure development progress beyond GDP, including on ocean accounts, ecosystem accounts, forestry accounts, disaster-related statistics, climate change and environmental statistics, which met the planned target.
- 118. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.25).

Table 19.25
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
Thirteen countries demonstrated enhanced capacity of national statistical systems to measure development progress beyond GDP	Ten countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, Palau, Samoa, Thailand and Uzbekistan) enhanced capacities to measure development progress beyond GDP, including on sustainability, well-	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Palau, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, and Türkiye demonstrated enhanced capacities to measure development progress beyond GDP, including on sustainability, well-	Twelve countries have enhanced capacities to measure development progress beyond GDP	Thirteen countries have enhanced capacities to measure development progress beyond GDP

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
	being and the environment	being and the environment		

Result 2: national statistical systems advance the mainstreaming of a gender perspective

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

- 119. The subprogramme’s work contributed towards two national statistical systems (Cambodia and Mongolia) applying gender mainstreaming in their statistical work, notably on the relationship between the environment and gender mainstreaming, which exceeded the planned target of one national statistical system.
- 120. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.26).

Table 19.26
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
Statistical training courses for Asia-Pacific countries integrated a gender perspective	Government statisticians from 35 countries attended training courses on how to integrate a gender perspective in statistics	Cambodia and Mongolia have undertaken steps towards gender mainstreaming in their statistical work	Two national statistical systems apply gender mainstreaming in their statistical work	Three national statistical systems apply gender mainstreaming in their statistical work

Result 3: improved data governance by national statistical offices across Asia and the Pacific

Proposed programme plan for 2025

- 121. The emergence of new data sources and data providers emphasizes the increasing importance to reposition national statistical offices from a traditional role of data producer to the role of data steward, managing a national data ecosystem.

Lessons learned and planned change

- 122. The lesson for the subprogramme was that for complex issues, such as data governance, shifting its engagement with national statistical offices to interactive events would provide an environment in which all countries can contribute and learn from each other. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will apply a range of “world-café” style sessions alongside formal presentations in its planned expert exchanges. The subprogramme also plans to expand and promote the compendium of data governance practices in the Asia-Pacific region to collect good practices.
- 123. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.27).

Table 19.27
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
-	The Eighth Committee decided to feature data governance in its future work with an emphasis on sharing country experiences and facilitating the provision of technical assistance.	The Commission session endorsed the revised focus of the Committee	Ten member States contribute to a compendium of country data governance practices helping countries to address the data governance challenges	Five member States take steps to address data governance challenges and contribute to a compendium of country data governance practices

Deliverables

124. Table 19.28 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 19.28
Subprogramme 7: deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2023 planned	2023 actual	2024 planned	2025 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	1	2	2
Reports for:				
1. The Commission	1	1	1	1
2. The Committee on Statistics	–	–	1	–
3. Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	–	–	–	1
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	23	26	24	22
Meetings of:				
4. The Committee on Statistics	–	–	6	–
5. The Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	3	3	3	3
6. The Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	–	–	–	6
7. Expert groups on the use of non-traditional and complementary data sources in official statistics	6	6	3	2
8. The Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	6	6	6	6
9. Expert groups on strengthening national statistical systems for enhanced quality and trust in official statistics	–	–	3	3
10. The technical working group on disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific	6	8	2	2
11. The Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics	2	3	–	–
12. The Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	–	–	1	–

Category and subcategory	2023 planned	2023 actual	2024 planned	2025 planned
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	4	7	4	4
13. On statistics	4	7	4	4
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	13	14	13	10
14. Seminars on statistics	13	14	10	8
15. Seminars and workshops on gender equality-related statistics and issues	–	–	3	2
Publications (number of publications)	1	1	1	1
16. <i>Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report</i>	1	1	1	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	2	3	2	2
17. On a variety of official statistics topics	2	3	2	2
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory support for subregional networks on official social, economic and environmental statistics; side events on statistics at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.				
Databases and substantive digital materials: ESCAP statistical database accessible at the regional and global levels; database on statistical training materials and resources.				

Subprogramme 8 Subregional activities for development

Component 1 Subregional activities for development in the Pacific

Objective

125. The objective, to which component 1 of the subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of the Pacific, which include building resilience against natural disasters and climate change to reduce vulnerabilities and to improve socioeconomic conditions.

Strategy

126. To contribute to the objective, the component will be guided by the new global programme of action for small island developing States and the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. In particular, it will:
- (a) Provide subregional and in-country capacity development support in identifying and valuing ecosystem goods and services for sustainable management of resources and using data standards under the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership, in cooperation with subprogramme 4 and 7;
 - (b) Provide technical assistance to member States and create knowledge-exchange opportunities between member States and civil society to develop nationally appropriate indicator frameworks and promote women’s economic empowerment, social protection and disability policies, in cooperation with subprogramme 6;
 - (c) Provide technical assistance and advisory services with regard to addressing the socioeconomic challenges of the subregion and devising appropriate recovery responses through national frameworks for Goal financing and regional cooperation on transboundary issues, in line with the outcomes of relevant assessments;

- (d) Organize annual meetings and facilitate dialogues on sustainable development, including a subregional forum on sustainable development, among government officials, civil society, experts and other stakeholders, and on the sharing of information on subregional implementation efforts;
- (e) Promote coordination with and collaboration among subregional intergovernmental organizations and member States for an effective representation of subregional perspectives at regional and global consultations, and provide implementation support for the Commission's subprogrammes relating to the subregion's priorities;
- (f) Advance the Pacific Road Map for Sustainable Development and serve as the focal point for the Commission's engagement with the resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams, including through substantive assistance in the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, in particular with regard to the transboundary dimensions of sustainable development, and assist country-level programming by providing subregional perspectives and access to regional networks and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation;
- (g) Strengthen coordination with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and other agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific to deliver the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent in line with the 2030 Agenda.

127. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

- (a) Improved data availability for evidence-based policymaking on climate-resilient, sustainable development;
- (b) Strengthened capacity of member States to implement and monitor the 2030 Agenda while ensuring that no one is left behind and that development activities address socioeconomic conditions and reach people in vulnerable situations;
- (c) Stronger subregional cooperation to address transboundary issues;
- (d) Advanced inclusive economic development in the Pacific subregion.

Programme performance in 2023

Pacific small island developing States advance the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway) priorities

128. To conduct the subregional review of the SAMOA Pathway in the Pacific, the component developed a Pacific SIDS regional review paper and, jointly with DESA, a 10-year progress assessment to assist in the identification of new and emerging priorities, challenges, and opportunities for the sustainable development of Pacific small island developing States. The component organised three consultations with experts, policy makers and academia to review the ideas and recommendations of these analytical papers. Along with the regional review, the component also developed five substantive documents including technical materials and scenario analysis for Pacific policymakers to identify key priorities for the post-SAMOA Pathway action plan until 2034.
129. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.29).

Table 19.29
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)
-	Pacific members and associate members of ESCAP used an indicator framework to assess progress against the SAMOA Pathway at the 6 th Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.	Pacific members and associate members of ESCAP adopted the Nuku'alofa outcome document that serves to strengthen solution-focused approaches for achieving sustainable development

Planned results for 2025

Result 1: Pacific small island developing States strengthen regional cooperation in addressing transboundary issues and building resilience

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

- 130. The component’s work contributed to two additional member States (Vanuatu and Kiribati) formulating a national strategy to address climate- and disaster-related resilience and reduce vulnerabilities, which aligns with regional priorities, which exceeded the planned target.
- 131. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.30).

Table 19.30
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
Pacific island countries considered the development of a regional strategy to address the regional priorities on climate- and disaster-related resilience and reduce vulnerabilities	One member State (Tuvalu) formulated a national strategy to address climate- and disaster-related resilience and reduce vulnerabilities, which aligned with regional priorities	Vanuatu and Kiribati formulated a national strategy to address climate- and disaster-related resilience and reduce vulnerabilities, which aligns with regional priorities	An increased number of Pacific member States join agreed regional frameworks to address transboundary issues related to climate and disaster resilience	Pacific small island developing States align subregional framework on climate- and disaster-related resilience with existing Asia-Pacific regional frameworks

Result 2: advancing implementation of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent for Pacific small island developing States

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

- 132. The component’s work contributed to Pacific small island developing States developing and adopting a regional framework/plan for three of the thematic areas (resources and economic development; climate change and disasters; technology and connectivity) of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, including a regional framework on the Pacific Road Map for Economic Development, which exceeded the planned target.
- 133. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.31).

Table 19.31
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
–	Pacific Islands Forum leaders endorsed the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent	Pacific small island developing States developed and adopted a regional framework/plan for three of the thematic areas of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, including a regional framework on the Pacific Road Map for Economic Development	Pacific small island developing States commence implementation of the regional framework/plan as endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum leaders	Pacific small island developing States agree on progress assessment modalities for the thematic areas

Result 3: pathways to mainstream the new global programme of action for small island developing States into national development strategies

Proposed programme plan for 2025

134. The component organised consultations including through the Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development to identify new and emerging priorities of the Pacific small island developing States.
- Lessons learned and planned change*
135. The lesson for the component was that it could further improve the utility of its technical support to countries through strengthened analytics and policy assessment of different global, regional and subregional strategies, programme of actions and frameworks. In applying the lesson, the component will strengthen technical collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the four Pacific resident coordinator offices and other relevant subregional development partners to mainstream the new and emerging priorities of the Pacific small island developing States. It will develop technical materials and provide advisory services to assist member States in formulating policies and strategies to define clear pathways for implementing key priorities of the new global programme of action for small island developing States within the subregion.
136. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.32).

Table 19.32
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
-	-	Pacific members and associate members agreed on subregional challenges and priorities	Pacific members and associate members support the adoption of the outcome document of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States	Three countries identify pathways to mainstream the new global programme of action for small island developing States

Deliverables

137. Table 19.33 lists all deliverables of the component.

Table 19.33
Component 1: deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2023 planned	2023 actual	2024 planned	2025 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	1	1	1
1. Report for the Commission	1	1	1	1
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	8	8	8	8
Meetings of:				
2. Expert groups on policy and programme options to address emerging sustainable development issues in the Pacific	4	4	4	4
3. The Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development	4	4	4	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	2	5	2	2
4. On institutional programmatic priorities of ESCAP in the Pacific	1	1	1	1
5. On economic and social development	1	4	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	2	1	2	2
6. On sustainable development and building resilience in the Pacific	2	1	2	2
Technical materials (number of materials)	1	1	1	1
7. On regional cooperation and sustainable development in the Pacific	1	1	1	1
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: expert advice to member States in the subregion to strengthen regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development and to build resilience against natural disasters and climate change to reduce vulnerabilities and improve socioeconomic conditions.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: newsletter with updates related to the Sustainable Development Goals in the Pacific.				

Component 2

Subregional activities for development in East and North-East Asia

Objective

138. The objective, to which component 2 of the subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen regional cooperation for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of East and North-East Asia, which includes sustainable connectivity, environmental sustainability and innovation for inclusive and resilient societies.

Strategy

139. To contribute to the objective, the component will:
- (a) Facilitate multisectoral dialogues and promote knowledge-sharing among member States on sustainable development, environmental sustainability, trade, transport, energy and ICT connectivity, as well as on emerging technologies and their deployment in priority sectors, through regional and subregional platforms, including the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation, the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership and the North-East Asia Regional Power Interconnection and Cooperation Forum;
 - (b) Support the implementation of a road map for sustainable power connectivity and promote intergovernmental processes for sustainable connectivity, environmental sustainability and innovation in East and North-East Asia;
 - (c) Develop knowledge products and foster peer-to-peer exchanges on inclusive science, technology and innovation policies and programmes with a focus on people in vulnerable situations, including on ageing societies, disaster resilience and gender equality in the technology industry;
 - (d) Identify and promote innovative approaches to facilitate cross-border connectivity, where applicable such as contactless cross-border trade and transport solutions, and cross-border data exchanges between railway and customs authorities, with a particular focus on Mongolia as the only landlocked developing country in North-East Asia;
 - (e) Build the capacity of member States on the above-mentioned focus areas and promote coordination with and collaboration among subregional intergovernmental organizations and member States for an effective representation of subregional perspectives at regional and global consultations, as appropriate;
 - (f) Provide implementation support for the Commission's subprogrammes relating to the subregion's priorities and serve as the focal point for the Commission's engagement with the resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams, including through substantive assistance with regard to preparing common country assessments and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, in particular with regard to the transboundary dimensions of sustainable development, and assist country-level programming by providing subregional perspectives and access to regional networks and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation.
140. These work streams will help member States make progress towards the achievement of Goals 3, 5, 7, 9–11, 13–15 and 17.
141. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) Policy coherence and coordination of connectivity initiatives among member States, for example, with regard to trade and transport facilitation;

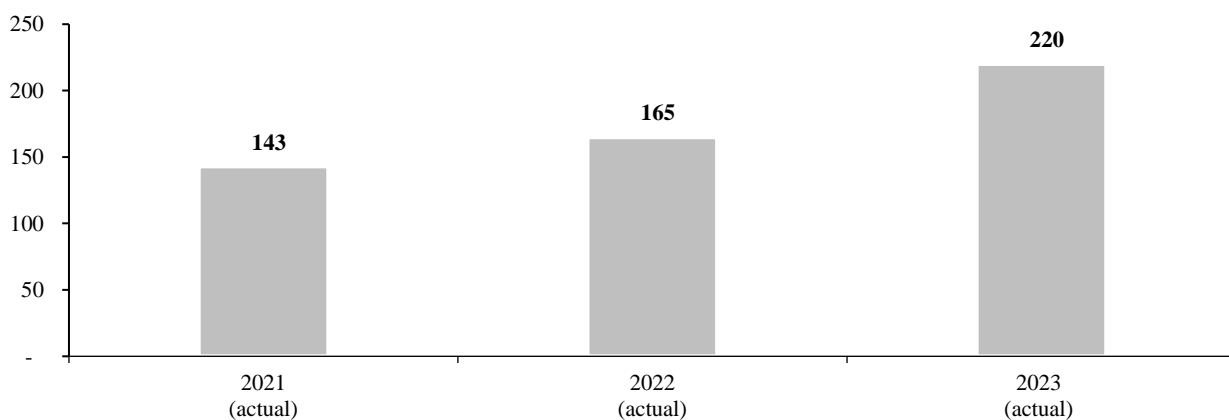
- (b) Coordinated actions among stakeholders and Governments to counter common environmental challenges, including air pollution, and to promote low greenhouse gas emissions;
- (c) Improved use of science, technology and innovation in building inclusive and resilient societies in the subregion, including resilience to natural and human-caused disasters;
- (d) More effective formulation and implementation of policies and strategies consistent with the 2030 Agenda, including through the North-East Asia Multi-stakeholder Forums on the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (e) Enhanced collaboration among Governments, the United Nations, subregional organizations and other stakeholders to address priority challenges in the subregion, as appropriate.

Programme performance in 2023

Strengthened city stakeholder engagement and local-level partnerships on climate actions in East and North-East Asia

- 142. Globally, cities are responsible for 70 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, but they also have the potential to drive transformative change in addressing climate change and achieving global climate goals.
- 143. The component, since 2021, has contributed to accelerating local-level stakeholder engagement on climate actions in East and North-East Asia by bringing representatives of cities, citizens, city networks, academia, civil society and the private sector to the “*International Forums on Low-carbon Cities*” and the “*Forum on Carbon neutrality Goals of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea*”, among others. Through these platforms, various local stakeholders shared their challenges and opportunities in promoting city-led climate actions and exchanged their knowledge and experiences in designing and implementing policies and local initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The component also strengthened youth engagement in local climate action, inviting youth representatives on various platforms, and organized the 2023 Incheon International Education Forum.
- 144. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.IX).

Figure 19.IX
Performance measure: number of organizations globally that participated in climate actions initiatives and forums organized by the component



Planned results for 2025

Result 1: enhanced multilateral and multi-stakeholder cooperation for climate action in East and North-East Asia

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

145. The component's work contributed to member States assessing the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) work programmes related to climate actions and approved the activity plans, including the subregional approach for desertification and land degradation, which met the planned target.
146. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.34).

Table 19.34

Performance measure

<i>2021 (actual)</i>	<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>	<i>2024 (planned)</i>	<i>2025 (planned)</i>
The first International Forum on Low-carbon Cities convened governments, international organizations, regional city networks, academia and research institutions to advance multi-stakeholder cooperation on climate action	Government officials and other stakeholders engaged in subregional cooperation on climate action in East and North-East Asia	Member States assessed the NEASPEC work programmes related to climate actions and approved the activity plans, including the subregional approach for desertification and land degradation.	Member States increase joint activities on environmental conservation and climate action in the subregion	Member States adopt the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation Strategic Plan 2026-2030, that coordinates the joint activities on climate action in East and North-East Asia

Result 2: strengthened collaboration for monitoring and addressing air pollution in East and North-East Asia

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

147. The component's work contributed to the collaboration of member States in addressing air pollution through the engagement of their experts in the collaborative initiatives of the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership, which met the planned target.
148. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.35).

Table 19.35

Performance measure

<i>2021 (actual)</i>	<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>	<i>2024 (planned)</i>	<i>2025 (planned)</i>
The Science and Policy Committee of the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership	Member States approved the plan to publish a policy analysis report on	Collaboration of member States in addressing air pollution through	Two joint activities of member States on addressing air pollution are	The North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership Work Plan 2026-2030,

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
recommended joint activities under the workplan	air pollution in 2023 and organize two policy dialogues by 2024	the engagement of their experts in the collaborative initiatives of the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership	approved or initiated	reflects strengthened collaboration for monitoring and addressing air pollution in East and North-East Asia

Result 3: efficient management of cross-border railway transport and transit

Proposed programme plan for 2025

149. The component has supported member States in strengthening cross-sectoral policy coordination between trade and transport through policy dialogues and capacity building activities related to effective economic corridor management.

Lessons learned and planned change

150. The lesson for the component was that there were opportunities to support the increased adoption of cross-border paperless trade measures with a focus on cross-border electronic information exchange. In applying the lesson, the component will provide capacity building to strengthen countries’ readiness for undertaking paperless transit transport operations. In cooperation with subprogrammes 2 and 3, it further plans to support the implementation of the framework agreement and address the gaps in institutional coordination and cooperation mechanisms related to efficient cross-border transport and transit.

151. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.36).

Table 19.36
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
China acceded to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific	Mongolia and the Republic of Korea acceded to the Framework Agreement	The Russian Federation acceded to the Framework Agreement Member States adopted guiding principles on electronic information exchange among railways and control authorities	Mongolia strengthens its readiness to undertake paperless transit transport operations.	National officials increasingly adopt electronic information exchange for more efficient cross-border railway transport and transit in North-East Asia.

Deliverables

152. Table 19.37 lists all deliverables of the component.

Table 19.37

Component 2: deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2023 actual</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	1	1	1
1. Report for the Commission	1	1	1	1
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	9	10	9	9
Meetings of:				
2. Expert groups on policy and programme options to address emerging economic and social development issues in East and North-East Asia	2	3	2	2
3. Senior officials of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation	3	3	3	3
4. The North-East Asian Multi-stakeholder Forum on Sustainable Development Goals	4	4	4	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	4	6	4	4
5. On institutional programmatic priorities of ESCAP in East and North-East Asia	3	5	3	3
6. North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation	1	1	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	2	2	2	2
7. On transport and energy connectivity	1	1	1	1
8. On science, technology and innovation for low-carbon and low-emissions and resilient cities and on North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation-related events	1	1	1	1
Publications (number of publications)	–	–	1	–
9. On digital literacy among older persons in North-East Asia	–	–	1	–
Technical materials (number of materials)	2	2	1	1
10. On technology and social issues	2	2	1	1
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: expert advice to member States of the subregion on sustainable connectivity, environmental sustainability and innovation for inclusive and resilient societies; side events at the Commission session.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: newsletters, infographics and side activities on major events on sustainable connectivity, environmental sustainability and innovation for inclusive and resilient societies.				

Component 3**Subregional activities for development in North and Central Asia****Objective**

153. The objective, to which component 3 of the subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of North and Central Asia, including sustainable connectivity, economic transformation, and social inclusion and resilience, and through follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

Strategy

154. To contribute to the objective, the component will:

- (a) Provide secretariat support to and coordinate the seven thematic working groups of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia to ensure that priorities emanating from the Governing Council and the Economic Forum of the Special Programme regarding trade facilitation, innovation and technology, transport, energy and digital connectivity, innovative financing and investment tools and environmental sustainability are incorporated into their workplans, and that discussions held in the working groups contribute to the deliberations of the Governing Council and the Economic Forum;
- (b) Coordinate high-level dialogues and working meetings to support landlocked developing countries in the implementation of their priorities and the programme of action for landlocked developing countries;
- (c) Support member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by providing policy advice and technical assistance on subregional connectivity, women's economic empowerment, and climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, helping member States make progress towards achieving Goals 9, 10 and 13;
- (d) Organize annual meetings and facilitate dialogues on sustainable development, including a subregional forum on sustainable development, among government officials, civil society, experts and other stakeholders, and on the exchange of information on subregional implementation efforts, helping member States review progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 17;
- (e) Support voluntary national review processes at the request of member States, including the voluntary national review twinning programme, and build human and institutional capacity for sustainable and resilient development, in line with the 2030 Agenda;
- (f) Further support cooperation with subregional intergovernmental organizations and institutions such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Eurasian Economic Commission and the Eurasian Development Bank for an effective representation of subregional perspectives at regional and global consultations;
- (g) Provide implementation support for the Commission's subprogrammes relating to the subregion's priorities and serve as the focal point for the Commission's engagement with the resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams, including through substantive assistance in preparing common country assessments and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, in particular with regard to the transboundary dimensions of sustainable development, and assist country-level programming by providing subregional perspectives and access to regional networks and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation.

155. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

- (a) Enhanced application by member States of, evidence-based solutions for, and strengthened subregional cooperation on, programmes to improve trade and transport facilitation as well as energy and digital connectivity;
- (b) The adoption of policy options for economic transformation in the subregion;
- (c) Increased knowledge-sharing in cooperation with intergovernmental organizations and bodies;
- (d) Increased skills and knowledge on digital connectivity and digital transformation in the subregion as a driver to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Programme performance in 2023

Strengthened sustainable subregional connectivity

156. The component supported the discussion among countries of North and Central Asia on technical and institutional capacity gaps in the use of new technologies and digital transformation for

enhancing the efficiency and resilience of railway and intermodal transport. Building on the outcomes of the discussion, the component and subprogramme 3 co-organized an expert group to identify priority areas of cooperation on the digital transformation of railway and multimodal transport in the subregion and delivered a capacity-building workshop on transport digitalization. To further enhance subregional connectivity, the component provided technical support to five landlocked developing countries in formulating Article 5 on land transport digitalization of the Agreement on strengthening the interconnectedness of land transport in Central Asia.

157. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.38).

Table 19.38
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)
Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan initiated measures to enhance subregional connectivity	Member States considered options on the operating modalities of the digital solutions centre in Kazakhstan Uzbekistan developed a concept on the thematic scope of the regional centre for the development of transport and communication interconnection with the support of ESCAP	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan signed the Agreement on strengthening the interconnectedness of land transport in Central Asia

Planned results for 2025

Result 1: enhanced subregional cooperation on the use of new technologies for improving railway operational performance

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

158. The component’s work contributed to policymakers adopting article 5 on digitalization of land transport of the Agreement on Strengthening the Interconnectedness of Land Transport in Central Asia concerned about digitalization of land transport in the subregion at the 5th Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asia, which met the planned target.

159. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.39).

Table 19.39
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
Available data on border crossings indicated 39 per cent of transit time in trans-Eurasian transportation was related to customs clearance and	92 per cent of policymakers from Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan reported an increase in awareness of new technologies to increase the	Policymakers adopted Article 5 on digitalization of land transport of the Agreement on Strengthening the Interconnectedness of Land Transport in Central Asia at	Policymakers review and align railway operation standards for the further implementation of digital transformation for resilient and	Policymakers of at least one member State implement practical measures on the implementation of policy guidelines and recommendations

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
documentation formalities	efficiency of rail transport	the 5 th Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asia	competitive railway operation	on digital transformation of land transport operations, including railway transport

Result 2: landlocked developing countries advance the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and the new programme of action beyond 2024

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

- 160. The component’s work contributed to strengthening the dialogue among landlocked developing countries and the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries on the progress and challenges in implementing the Vienna Programme of Action, which met the planned target.
- 161. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.40).

Table 19.40
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
–	Landlocked developing countries in the subregion agreed to strengthen collaboration in developing transport and transit corridors, facilitating energy transit and promoting digital inclusion	Strengthened dialogue among landlocked developing countries and the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries on the progress and challenges in implementing the Vienna Programme of Action	Four countries in the subregion report progress towards reaching the targets of the Vienna Programme of Action	Policymakers from landlocked developing countries in the subregion have increased awareness of the priority areas beyond 2024

Result 3: strengthened cooperation instruments of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)

Proposed programme plan for 2025

- 162. The component has supported SPECA participating countries in strengthening cooperation in areas such as transport, logistics, energy, and information and communication technologies and fostering peer learning exchanges among and beyond North and Central Asian countries.

Lessons learned and planned change

- 163. The lesson for the component was that providing mechanisms to share best practices among participating countries can further enhance subregional cooperation. In applying the lesson, the component will leverage the expertise from ESCAP subprogrammes and ECE to support the open

deliberations among SPECA participating countries on their initiatives for institutional and organizational adjustments to increase the effectiveness of SPECA, as well as on the strategic issues pertaining to economic cooperation within the subregion. It will organize capacity-building activities to promote better alignment and compliance with relevant international legal instruments, norms, guidelines, standards and recommendations.

164. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.41).

Table 19.41
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
SPECA participating countries established an expert group to draft the terms of reference and modalities of a secretariat for Special Programmes	Adoption of Almaty Declaration	SPECA participating countries established a SPECA fund in the UN multi-partner trust fund (MPTF) format.	SPECA participating countries consider strategic directions to further increase economic cooperation in the subregion	Enhanced financial stability of SPECA to implement activities

Deliverables

165. Table 19.42 lists all deliverables of the component.

Table 19.42
Component 3: deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2023 planned	2023 actual	2024 planned	2025 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	1	1	1
1. Report for the Commission	1	1	1	1
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	12	12	12	12
Meetings of:				
2. The Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia	1	1	1	1
3. The Economic Forum of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia	3	3	3	3
4. Expert groups on policy and programme options to address emerging economic and social development issues in North and Central Asia	4	4	4	4
5. The subregional forum on the Sustainable Development Goals in North and Central Asia	4	4	4	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	1	1	–	–
6. On regional cooperation and integration for the landlocked and transit developing countries	1	1	–	–
Technical materials (number of materials)	1	1	1	1
7. On regional cooperation and integration for the landlocked and transit developing countries	1	1	1	1

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: advocacy with member States of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on regional and subregional priority issues.

**Component 4
Subregional activities for development in South and South-West Asia**

Objective

166. The objective, to which component 4 of the subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of South and South-West Asia, including sustainable connectivity, women’s economic empowerment and the sustainable graduation of the least developed countries.

Strategy

167. To contribute to the objective, the component will:
- (a) Provide tailored analytical support, policy advice and technical assistance, and facilitate knowledge exchange and dialogues for member States and other stakeholders, on transboundary or common development priorities, particularly for landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and least developed countries, such as connectivity for economic corridors, disaster risk resilience, energy transition, women’s economic empowerment and disability inclusion;
 - (b) Convene subregional consultations on the Sustainable Development Goals, including through the South and South-West Asia Network on the Sustainable Development Goals, to facilitate the sharing of good practices and the articulation of subregional perspectives that contribute to the relevant ESCAP knowledge products and forums, such as the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and the high-level political forum on sustainable development;
 - (c) Collaborate with subregional intergovernmental organizations for coordination and mutual leverage of subregional initiatives and facilitate ESCAP communication with respective secretariats;
 - (d) Serve as the focal point for the Commission’s engagement with the resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams, including through substantive assistance in preparing common country assessments and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, in particular with regard to the transboundary dimensions of sustainable development, and assist country-level programming by providing subregional perspectives, access to regional networks and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation;
 - (e) Forge partnerships with other development partners, private sector and civil society organizations in common areas of work, for enhanced impact in supporting member States towards their achievement of the Goals;
 - (f) Deepen linkages and synergies with other ESCAP subprogrammes and components in common areas of work, for enhanced harmonization and coherence in the delivery of assistance to member States.
168. The above-mentioned work will help member States make progress towards achieving Goals 1, 5, 7–10, 12, 13 and 17.

169. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) Enhanced connectivity in the subregion, especially for people in landlocked developing countries and least developed countries;
 - (b) Strengthened capacity of member States, especially least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, to reduce the risk of disasters, including those induced by climate change;
 - (c) Enhanced design and implementation of policies and subregional cooperation by member States on the transition to sustainable energy accessible to people in remote areas and in marginalized situations in South and South-West Asia;
 - (d) The exchange of experiences and best practices between governments, civil society, academia/think tanks, the private sector, United Nations agencies, subregional organizations and other international organizations and financial institutions to bridge knowledge gaps for addressing the Sustainable Development Goals.

Programme performance in 2023

Enhanced deliberations among the Group of 20 countries on trade and investment, energy transition and disaster risk reduction

170. In support of the Group of 20 and India’s presidency for 2023, the component coordinated the technical inputs of subprogrammes 2, 5 and 9 with the Government of India and the UN country team to channel ESCAP’s expertise on trade and investment, energy transition and disaster risk reduction to the thematic working groups of the Group of 20. Technical contributions on issues such as trade logistics, early warning and transnational power system connectivity to accelerate energy transition thus informed the Group of 20 New Delhi Leadership Declaration.
171. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.43).

Table 19.43
Performance measure

<i>2021 (actual)</i>	<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>
-	-	Group of 20 Member States adopted recommendations on trade and investment, energy transition and disaster risk reduction.

Planned results for 2025

Result 1: increased integration of disaster risk-related analysis in national and local planning in countries of South and South-West Asia

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

172. The component’s work contributed to policymakers from India and the Maldives using customized planning tools, techniques and guidelines to facilitate the undertaking of disaster risk-related analyses for national and local planning purposes, which met the planned target.
173. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.44).

Table 19.44
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
Evidence-based approaches to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation are not yet institutionalized and operationalized in a practical manner	Disaster management authorities in Maldives identified existing gaps in disaster risk management through the use of customized planning tools, database development and data collection	Policymakers from India and the Maldives used customized planning tools, techniques and guidelines to facilitate the undertaking of disaster risk-related analyses for national and local planning purposes	Enhanced peer learning on improving disaster risk resilience is enabled by two countries in South Asia sharing their expertise in undertaking disaster risk-related analyses for planning purposes with other countries in South and South-West Asia	Two more countries in the region used customized planning tools, techniques and guidelines to facilitate the undertaking of disaster risk-related analyses for national and local planning purposes

Result 2: improved flow of goods and services at border crossing points in Eastern South Asia

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

- 174. The component’s work contributed to four member States (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal) and one subregional organization (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) expressing interest in working jointly to improve the transboundary flow of goods and services at border crossing points between Northeast India and Bangladesh in Eastern South Asia, which exceeded the planned target.
- 175. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.45).

Table 19.45
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
–	The flow of goods and services at border crossing points in Eastern South Asia is hampered due to limited transboundary connectivity in transport, energy, ICT and supply chains in those localities	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and one subregional organization (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) expressed interest in working jointly to improve the transboundary flow of goods and services at border crossing points between Northeast India and Bangladesh in Eastern South Asia	Stakeholders of at least one border crossing point in Eastern South Asia reach a shared understanding of the bottlenecks to be mitigated for enhanced transboundary connectivity and the flow of goods and services	Bottlenecks at two border crossing points in Eastern South Asia reduced, in tandem with an increase in the flow of goods and services across these points

Result 3: accelerated transition to sustainable energy

Proposed programme plan for 2025

176. To support the promotion of sustainable energy policies in South and South-West Asia, the component in coordination with subprogramme 9, developed a paper on energy connectivity in Eastern South Asia and a multi-country study on integrated straw management to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

Lessons learned and planned change

177. The lesson for the component was that there is an increasing demand for advisory services related to the subregion's available hydropower resources and other renewable energy use to advance the energy transition. In applying the lesson, the component will conduct workshops on sustainable energy with relevant national and local governments and facilitate the deliberation of policy priorities on the sustainable energy transition. It will provide technical assistance in the development of action plans to identify and operationalize priorities and strategies for the adoption of sustainable energy policies.
178. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.46).

Table 19.46

Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
Member States endorsed the regional road map on power system connectivity	Bhutan and Pakistan) issued Goal 7 roadmaps	Member States from Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand share their experience on cross-border electricity trading with Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal	Two countries of the subregion identify policy priorities on sustainable energy transition.	Two countries of the subregion draft action plans on the sustainable energy transition
Nepal issued a Goal 7 roadmap				

Deliverables

179. Table 19.47 lists all deliverables of the component.

Table 19.47

Component 4: deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2023 planned	2023 actual	2024 planned	2025 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	1	1	1
1. Report for the Commission	1	1	1	1
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	6	5	4	4
Meetings of:				
2. Expert groups on policy and programme options to address emerging sustainable development issues in South and South-West Asia	2	–	–	–
3. The South and South-West Asia Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals	4	5	4	4

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2023 actual</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	2	2	1	–
4. On institutional programmatic priorities of ESCAP in South and South-West Asia	2	2	1	–
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	2	3	2	2
5. On thematic areas related to sustainable development	2	3	2	2
Technical materials (number of materials)	5	5	5	5
6. Development paper series on economic and social development	5	5	5	5
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: expert advice to member States of the subregion in implementing the 2030 Agenda and promoting regional economic cooperation and integration.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: a newsletter related to the Sustainable Development Goals in South and South-West Asia.				

Component 5 Subregional activities for development in South-East Asia

Objective

180. The objective, to which component 5 of the subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of South-East Asia, including sustainable connectivity, inclusive and equitable societies, the efficient management of natural resources and resilient development.

Strategy

181. To contribute to the objective, the component will:
- (a) Coordinate high-level dialogues and working meetings to support the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations (2021–2025), as well as the complementarities road map for the period 2020–2025;
 - (b) Create knowledge products, in collaboration with relevant subprogrammes, on regional and subregional perspectives on global issues for member States in South-East Asia;
 - (c) Further expand cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) through increased engagement with the ASEAN secretariat and relevant sectoral bodies and committees, as appropriate, and on initiatives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and subregional goals, including through support for the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework;
 - (d) Promote coordination with and collaboration among subregional intergovernmental organizations and member States for an effective representation of subregional perspectives at regional and global consultations;
 - (e) Further develop partnerships and cooperation with civil society organizations in support of people in vulnerable situations to enhance synergy and effective participation at the subregional Sustainable Development Goals forum and raise awareness of the Goals among youth through a collaboration with the Association of Pacific Rim Universities in mutual areas of interest;

- (f) Provide implementation support for the Commission's subprogrammes relating to the subregion's priorities, serve as the focal point for the Commission's engagement with the resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams, including through substantive assistance in preparing common country assessments and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, in particular with regard to the transboundary dimensions of sustainable development, and assist country-level programming by providing subregional perspectives and access to regional networks and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation;
 - (g) Support coordination among the various agencies and partners, with a focus on sustainable investment and finance, inclusive and equitable societies, the efficient management of natural resources and resilient development, while ensuring synergy in the implementation of the processes;
 - (h) Support the countries in special situations in the subregion to implement their relevant programmes of action.
182. The above-mentioned work will help support member States in their progress towards the achievement of Goals 3, 5, 9, 10, 13 and 17.
183. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) Enhanced policy environment to support inclusive business and investment for sustainable development in the subregion;
 - (b) Fairer and more equitable access to social protection, especially for those most vulnerable, such as women, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, and strengthened disability statistics, ageing and disability policies and social protection floor costing;
 - (c) The improved coordination and coherence of technical assistance provided under the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework in the subregion.

Programme performance in 2023

Engaging youth for innovative solutions towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Southeast Asia

184. Youth bring unique perspectives and ideas, to address socio-economic challenges and advocate for the Sustainable Development Goals.
185. In collaboration with the UN Regional Coordinator Office in Thailand, a South-East Asia Sustainable Development Goals Youth Dialogue was organized during the ninth session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in 2022. It marked the first effort of the component to include youth in an inclusive policy dialogue. In 2023, at the tenth session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, the component continued its youth engagement, collaborating with the Rural Revitalization, Youth and Social Entrepreneurship Platform. This collaboration focused on engaging young social entrepreneurs to discuss innovations for rural revitalization and accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The component also engaged student representatives from the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) highlighting commitments to sustainability issues and advancing the implementation of the Goals through collaborative education initiatives.
186. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.48).

Table 19.48
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)
ASEAN member States launched the implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2021-2025	First engagement of youth from Southeast Asia at the ninth Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development	Student representative and young social entrepreneurs addressed sustainability issues at the Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development

Planned results for 2025

Result 1: increased use of innovative financing policies and instruments to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

- 187. The component’s work contributed to member States advancing the drafting of an overarching framework to guide the development of a sustainable financing ecosystem in the subregion to facilitate innovative financing mechanism in the subregion, which met the planned target.
- 188. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.49).

Table 19.49
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
Member States agreed to further study the use of sustainable and Sustainable Development Goal-linked bonds as an instrument to address post-COVID-19 financing needs and achieve the 2030 Agenda	Consensus is achieved among member States on using Sustainable Development Goal-linked bonds as an instrument to catalyse energy investment opportunities to address post-COVID-19 financing needs and achieve the 2030 Agenda	Member States advanced the drafting of an overarching framework to guide the development of a sustainable finance ecosystem in the subregion	Member States adopt guidelines on sustainable environmental finance that will facilitate innovative financing mechanisms towards climate mitigation and adaptation	Member States translate the guidelines into national policies or directives to support innovative financing mechanisms for climate mitigation and adaptations

Result 2: improved sustainable foreign direct investment strategies in the subregion

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

- 189. The component’s work contributed to 80 per cent of member States reporting an increase in capacity to promote sustainable FDI in the subregion, which met the planned target.
- 190. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.50).

Table 19.50
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
The ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Investment, the ASEAN secretariat and member States organized a session on sustainable investment at the fifth South-East Asia Multi-stakeholder Forum on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals to kickstart the discussion on subregional sustainable FDI	Member States in the subregion agreed to promote intraregional sustainable FDI as a means for inclusive recovery and development	Eighty per cent of member States reported an increase in capacity to promote sustainable FDI in the subregion	One member State in the subregion develops a national strategy to attract sustainable FDI	One additional member State in the subregion develops a national strategy to attract sustainable FDI

Result 3: aligned investment policies and regulations for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

Proposed programme plan for 2025

- 191. The component organized a forum to explore the investment opportunities aimed at strengthening the subregion as a sustainable private investment hub to support the recovery from the pandemic and accelerate progress towards achieving the Goals in the subregion.

Lessons learned and planned change

- 192. The lesson for the component was that focussing technical advice on the alignment of investment policies among countries in the subregion can help create a conducive investment environment for investors to expand their business in the subregion. In applying the lesson, the component will invite policymakers from relevant ministries including investment, trade and finance to a series of capacity-development activities aimed at identifying steps that facilitate the alignment of investment policies across the subregion. It will also provide advisory services and develop technical materials to support member States in aligning national regulations to promote investment opportunities within the subregion.
- 193. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.51).

Table 19.51
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
-	-	Member States agreed to develop a subregional action plan on sustainable investments to accelerate the implementation of the Goals	Member States adopt a subregional action plan on sustainable investments to accelerate the achievement of Goals	Member States align their investment policies with the investment priorities of the subregional action plan on sustainable investments

Deliverables

194. Table 19.52 lists all deliverables of the component.

Table 19.52
Component 5: deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2023 planned	2023 actual	2024 planned	2025 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	1	1	1
1. Report for the Commission	1	1	1	1
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	9	6	9	9
Meetings of:				
2. Expert groups on policy and programme options to address emerging sustainable development issues in South-East Asia	2	1	2	2
3. The South-East Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals	4	4	4	4
4. ASEAN member States, the ASEAN secretariat and the ASEAN sectoral working groups on sustainable development in South-East Asia	3	1	3	3
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	1	0	1	1
5. On institutional programmatic priorities of ESCAP in South-East Asia	1	0	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	2	2	2	–
6. On the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations (2021–2025)	1	1	1	–
7. On the implementation of sustainable FDI indicators	1	1	1	–
Technical materials (number of materials)	1	1	1	1
8. On the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations (2021–2025)	1	1	1	1
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: consultations and advisory support to the subregional member States on sustainable connectivity, inclusive and equitable societies, the efficient management of natural resources and resilient development; advocacy				

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2023 actual</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
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with member States on the subregional findings of the Commission's publications; side events at the Commission session; side events at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

Subprogramme 9 Energy

Objective

195. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Asia and the Pacific by enhancing member States' capacity for energy access, renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy connectivity.

Strategy

196. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will enhance the evidence base for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7 and Goals with interlinkages to it, and support member States in progressing towards Goal 7. Specifically, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Facilitate intergovernmental dialogue and develop and disseminate evidence-based policy recommendations and guidance related to expanding access to modern energy, growing the share of renewable sources of energy in the energy mix, adopting energy efficient technologies and approaches, and increasing energy connectivity;
 - (b) Provide capacity-building activities focused on facilitating planning and policy development for achieving Goal 7, including in least developed countries, based on local contexts and in alignment with national priorities, in cooperation with resident coordinator offices to leverage institutional resources and ensure the efficiency of work programme implementation;
 - (c) Produce and contribute to the development of knowledge products focused on broadening understanding of the benefits and implications of energy connectivity for energy security and resilience, affordability and sustainability;
 - (d) Provide access to up-to-date data, policy information and energy infrastructure maps through the Asia Pacific Energy Portal and other knowledge platforms;
 - (e) Provide support through the development and implementation of road maps and plans (Goal 7 road maps, the regional road map on power system connectivity and national cooling action plans), as applicable, and by promoting the use of modelling and policy planning tools and methodologies;
 - (f) Focus capacity-building efforts on the acceleration of progress towards SDG 7 targets and emissions reductions, in particular access to clean cooking fuels and technologies; sustainable cooling; sustainability of supply chains for minerals, materials and technologies critical for energy transitions; cleaner use of fossil fuels; and energy connectivity, with special emphasis on countries in special situations;
 - (g) Mainstream a gender perspective by facilitating dialogue and producing knowledge products that include the energy system's impacts on women and highlight their contribution to a sustainable energy transition, working jointly with subprogramme 6.
197. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) The adoption of evidence-based policies, strategies and plans to increase energy access, energy efficiency and the use of renewable sources of energy and enabling technologies at the national and subnational levels;

- (b) Improved capacity to implement policies for the transition to renewable sources of energy, environmentally sound energy technologies and net-zero emissions goals, targets and ambitions;
- (c) Increased capacity of policymakers and regulators to plan and implement power system connectivity initiatives that enable the scaling up of renewable energies;
- (d) Greater recognition among policymakers of a gender perspective in the sustainable energy transition, including the potential for women to accelerate progress.

Programme performance in 2023

Enhanced commitment to sustainably manage minerals and materials critical for energy transitions

- 198. The subprogramme developed a study to consider challenges to extractive industries for sustainable development, particularly the extraction and processing of critical raw materials (CRMs) and their broader social-economic implications. It also organized two policy dialogues on CRMs to examine the implications of the energy transition on demand for CRMs. The subprogramme further organized the Asia-Pacific Energy Forum at which member States discussed key issues in the study and recognized the need for sustainable management of value chains of minerals critical for energy transition. Additionally, the subprogramme provided support to ASEAN to develop a set of principles to manage sustainable minerals development.
- 199. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.53).

Table 19.53
Performance measure:

<i>2021 (actual)</i>	<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>
		Energy ministers at the Third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum adopted the “Ministerial Declaration on Building a Secure, Sustainable and Interconnected Energy Future for Asia and the Pacific” acknowledging that “certain minerals, materials and technologies are critical for energy transitions and there is a need to maintain reliable, responsible and sustainable supply chains of such minerals and materials.”

Planned results for 2025

Result 1: evidence-based strategies for increasing sustainable power system connectivity

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

- 200. The subprogramme’s work contributed to ESCAP member States analysing gaps in policies, regulations and standards in each subregion, which met the planned target.
- 201. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.54).

Table 19.54
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
Committee on Energy endorsed the regional road map on power system connectivity at its third session, and the Commission endorsed it at its seventy-seventh session	ESCAP member States provided updates on connectivity activities on a voluntary basis at meetings of the Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity Time frames for achieving the road map milestones have been met or are under development	ESCAP member States analysed gaps in policies, regulations and standards in each subregion	At least one subregion demonstrates progress on establishing multilateral power trading	At the Committee on Energy, member States consider endorsement of the principles for enabling sustainable power system connectivity and a regional grid master plan At least one new grid interconnection agreement signed

Result 2: increased ambition of national commitments by member States towards modern and clean energy in support of Goal 7

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

- 202. The subprogramme’s work contributed to member States agreeing on accelerated Goal 7 actions in the areas of energy access, energy efficiency, and renewable energy in support of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement under the Ministerial Declaration adopted by ESCAP member States at the Third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum in October 2023, which met the planned target.
- 203. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.55).

Table 19.55
Performance measure

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
At the Committee on Energy, member States announced commitments to increasing energy access, energy efficiency and renewable capacity	Member States provided updates on the development of sustainable energy policies at meetings of the Expert Working Group on Universal Access to Modern Energy Services, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Cleaner Use of Fossil Fuels	Member States agreed on accelerated Sustainable Development Goal 7 actions in the areas of energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy, in support of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement under the Ministerial Declaration adopted	Member States announce more ambitious national commitments to increase the share of energy from renewable sources, and to adopt advanced energy efficiency and enhance access to electricity and clean cooking technologies, research, technology and	Member States in Asia and the Pacific announce commitments to close gaps on achieving Goal 7 targets

2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (planned)	2025 (planned)
		by ESCAP member States at the Third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum in October 2023	investments in clean energy	

Result 3: countries adopt “National Cooling Action Plans”

Proposed programme plan for 2025

204. The cooling sector is a significant driver of rising electricity demand and contributes to greenhouse gas emissions. Member States are committed to action in this sector, including through the Global Cooling Pledge.³ The subprogramme has supported the development of a national cooling action plan methodology and has provided technical support to member States to develop comprehensive National Cooling Action Plans, which include multisectoral cooling demand assessments, recommendations for advancing sustainable passive and active cooling, and pathways to integrate comprehensive action to reduce cooling-related energy consumption and emissions.

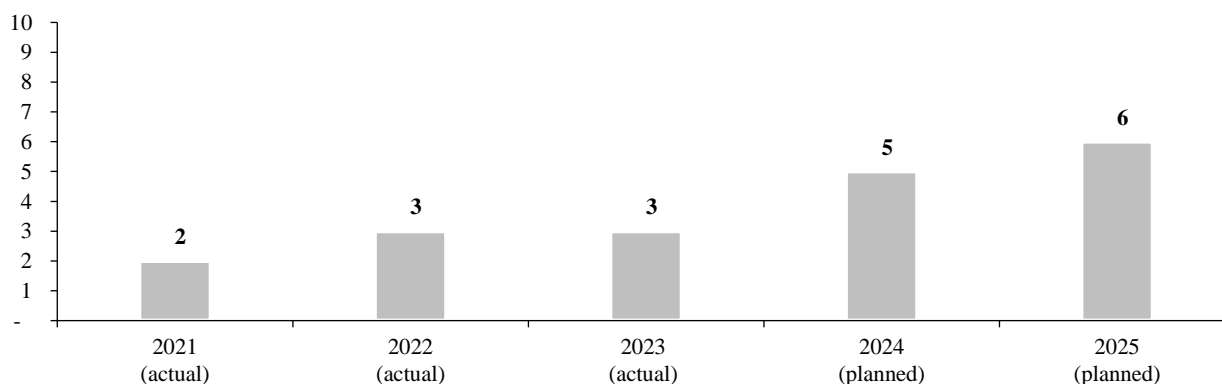
Lessons learned and planned change

205. The lesson for the subprogramme was that coordination and cooperation between ESCAP and UN implementing partners and stakeholders could be further improved to ensure timely institutional and organizational agreements are put in place and activities effectively delivered without duplication. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme plans to deliver capacity building activities, working with UN Environment Programme, UN country teams and resident coordinators on assessing the met and unmet needs of the cooling sector and the impacts of policy interventions under various development scenarios. Alignment and synergies with nationally determined contributions, Goal 7, and national policies and programmes will be pursued to build on the existing knowledge and experience base, while working to achieve national energy and emissions related objectives.

206. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.X).

Figure 19.X

Performance measure: number of national cooling action plans issued by member States (cumulative)



³ The Global Cooling Pledge was launched at COP28. <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/global-cooling-pledge>

Deliverables

207. Table 19.56 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 19.56

Subprogramme 9: deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2023 actual</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	4	5	1	2
Reports for:				
1. The Commission	1	1	1	1
2. The Asian and Pacific Energy Forum	3	4	–	–
3. Committee on Energy	–	–	–	1
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	16	11	10	16
Meetings of:				
4. The Asian and Pacific Energy Forum	6	3	–	–
5. Committee on Energy	–	–	–	6
6. The Expert Working Group on Universal Access to Modern Energy Services, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Cleaner Use of Fossil Fuels	4	4	4	4
7. The Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity	4	3	4	4
8. The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment (energy-related issues)	2	1	2	2
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	1	10	2	2
9. On the implementation of Goal 7	1	10	2	2
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	1	2	1	1
10. Policy dialogues on energy	1	2	1	1
Publications (number of publications)	3	3	2	2
11. On ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	3	3	2	2
Technical materials (number of materials)	1	3	4	5
12. On ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	1	3	4	5
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: policy advice to all member States, upon request, on the implementation of Goal 7 and energy connectivity; side events on energy at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.				
Databases and substantive digital materials: Asia Pacific Energy Portal (containing more than 200 data sets, 3,000 policy documents and a mapping of more than 6,000 power plants).				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: information materials on sustainable energy, primarily for government officials and technical experts in the region; International Day of Clean Energy.				