



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

Bangkok, 22–26 April 2024

Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission: social development**Composition of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032****Note by the secretariat*****Summary*

The present document provides the background and nomination process for the formation of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032, and the proposed composition of the Working Group for the period 2024–2032.

In the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032, members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific requested the Executive Secretary to continue to utilize the guidance of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, as appropriate, to support the effective implementation of the Jakarta Declaration. To this end, the secretariat has called upon members and associate members, as well as civil society organizations, to express interest in being represented in the Working Group. The proposed composition of the Working Group for the period 2024–2032 is set out in the present document.

The Commission may wish to endorse the proposed composition of the Working Group.

* ESCAP/80/1.

** The present document was submitted late owing to the need to complete the nomination process for membership in the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032, for the period 2024–2032.

I. Background

1. The Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, was established in 2013 to provide technical advice and support to members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for the full and effective implementation of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific¹ and the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022.²

2. The Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, was composed of 30 members, comprising 15 members and associate members of the Commission and 15 civil society organizations. The Commission endorsed the membership at its sixty-ninth session, through decision 69/4 on the membership of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, for the period 2013–2017, and at its seventy-fourth session, through decision 74/30 on the proposed composition of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, for the period 2018–2022.

3. In 2022, at the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, members and associate members of the Commission adopted the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032, promulgating the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032. In 2023, in its resolution 79/5, the Commission endorsed the Jakarta Declaration. In the Jakarta Declaration, members and associate members requested the Executive Secretary to continue to utilize the guidance of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, as appropriate, to support the effective implementation of the Jakarta Declaration. In pursuance of resolution 79/5, the secretariat facilitated the formation of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032.

II. Objective of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032

4. The objective of the Working Group is to provide technical advice and support to members and associate members for the full and effective implementation of the Jakarta Declaration, as set out in the terms of reference of the Working Group.³

5. In pursuance of the objective stated above, the Working Group shall advise members and associate members of the Commission on the following:

(a) Ways and means to promote the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032, at the regional, subregional and national levels to increase its visibility and influence;

(b) Technical issues pertaining to the six priority areas of accelerated action identified in the Jakarta Declaration;

¹ Commission resolution 69/13, annex, appendix I.

² Ibid., annex.

³ ESCAP/80/6, annex II.

(c) Regional and subregional cooperation to advance the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032;

(d) Multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships among governments, organizations of persons with disabilities and other stakeholders to advance disability-inclusive development at the regional, subregional and national levels;

(e) Reviews of progress concerning the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration.

6. As mandated by the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, the Working Group shall advise the secretariat on its ongoing efforts to ensure disability inclusion.

III. Nomination process

7. The secretariat invited members and associate members of the Commission to submit, from 11 September to 27 November 2023, expressions of interest in being represented in the Working Group. The secretariat received expressions of interest from the Governments of 20 member States.

8. The secretariat announced the call for civil society organizations to submit, from 29 December 2023 to 31 January 2024, expressions of interest in being represented in the Working Group. The announcement was published on the Commission's website and the "Make the Right Real" portal.⁴ The secretariat received a total of 30 expressions of interest from civil society organizations.

9. The secretariat based its proposed selection of civil society organization members on the set of eligibility criteria indicated in the call for expressions of interest. Consideration was also given to ensuring the representation of persons with diverse disabilities and a balance across subregions. The core eligibility criteria were as follows:

(a) It must operate at the regional or subregional levels in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) It must be an organization or network that represents, supports or promotes the interests of persons with diverse disabilities;

(c) It must have technical expertise relevant to advancing one or more of the six priority areas identified in the Jakarta Declaration;

(d) It must be able to designate a focal point to represent the organization at the activities of the Working Group, the working language of which is English.

IV. Composition of the Working Group for the period 2024–2032

10. Twenty Governments expressed interest in being represented in the Working Group for the period 2024–2032. In line with the general principle of having an equal number of Governments and civil society organizations in the composition of the Working Group, as set out in the terms of reference, 20 civil society organizations have been recommended for membership in the Working Group.

⁴ See www.maketherightreal.net/.

11. The proposed government members are: Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Georgia, India, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

12. The proposed civil society organization members are: Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Autism Network; ASEAN Disability Forum; Asia-Pacific Community-Based Inclusive Development Network; Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability Foundation; Asia-Pacific Disability Forum; Asia-Pacific Disabled Peoples' Organizations United; Asia-Pacific Down Syndrome Federation; Central Asian Disability Forum; Digital Accessible Information System Consortium; Disabled Peoples International, Asia-Pacific region; Humanity and Inclusion; International Foundation for Electoral Systems; Pacific Disability Forum; Rehabilitation International, Asia-Pacific region; South Asian Disability Forum; Transforming Communities for Inclusion; World Blind Union – Asia-Pacific; World Federation of the Deafblind; World Federation of the Deaf Regional Secretariat for Asia; and World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry.

V. Issues for consideration by the Commission

13. The Commission may wish to endorse the proposed composition of the Working Group for the period 2024–2032.
