



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

Bangkok, 22–26 April 2024

Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

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

The present document is submitted to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for its consideration. It covers the activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission during the period from June 2023 to February 2024. The Commission may wish to take note of the report and provide comments on it.

I. Introduction

1. The present document covers the activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission during the period from June 2023 to February 2024. The Advisory Committee appointed Mr. Juvencio de Jesus Martins (Timor-Leste) to serve as Rapporteur of the Advisory Committee, with the responsibility of presenting its report to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its eightieth session.

II. Activities of the Advisory Committee

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

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

* ESCAP/80/1.

** The present document was submitted late owing to the need for the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission to consider the report at its 411th session, which was held on 27 February 2024.

4. At its regular sessions, the Advisory Committee was briefed by the secretariat and considered, inter alia, the following matters, with some members asking clarifying questions:

(a) Preparations for the eightieth session of the Commission: the Advisory Committee was briefed by the secretariat on the preparations for the eightieth session of the Commission;

(b) Outcome of the seventy-ninth session of the Commission: in its review of the outcome of the seventy-ninth session of the Commission, the Advisory Committee considered the major achievements of the session such as the adoption of 10 resolutions by the Commission. The Advisory Committee was briefed by the secretariat and provided guidance on the implementation by the secretariat of the resolutions adopted by the Commission;

(c) Proposed calendar of meetings and training programmes of the Commission for 2024 and proposed calendar of intergovernmental meetings for 2025: some members of the Advisory Committee requested the secretariat to provide additional information related to the meetings and their scheduling and organizational aspects;

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

(i) Eighth session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction;

(ii) Third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum;

(iii) Eighth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum;

(iv) Fourth session of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development;

(v) Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference;

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

(i) Eleventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development;

(ii) Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation;

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

(i) Eighteenth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development;

(ii) Nineteenth session of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;

(iii) Nineteenth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology;

(iv) Nineteenth session of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization;

(v) Eighth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management;

(vi) Eighteenth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.

5. Members of the Advisory Committee contributed to the successful outcomes of the intergovernmental meetings held since the previous session of the Commission, with a number of representatives serving on the bureaux of the meetings and helping to steer discussions towards a successful conclusion.

6. While the present document covers the activities of the Advisory Committee during the period from June 2023 to February 2024, it should be noted that the Advisory Committee was also instrumental in facilitating consensus among member States on the outcome of the seventy-ninth session of the Commission in the context of the Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions. Similarly, the Advisory Committee is expected to play an important role in facilitating consensus ahead of the eightieth session of the Commission.

7. The secretariat presented to the Advisory Committee the proposed programme plan for 2025.

8. The Executive Secretary regularly informed the Advisory Committee of: (a) activities relating to the priority issues of the United Nations and of the Commission, as well as the outcome of her participation and engagements at major meetings; (b) cooperation between member States and the secretariat; and (c) administrative and programme matters concerning the Commission. Moreover, the Advisory Committee was briefed by the Executive Secretary on the achievements of the Commission in 2023. In that context, the Advisory Committee was invited to provide guidance to the secretariat on its future work and to bring to the attention of the secretariat other issues and potential expectations for 2024 that could help the Commission to strengthen its support to member States.

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

III. Conclusions

10. The Advisory Committee continued to fulfil its advisory role during the reporting period. The secretariat regularly updated member States on key issues related to the activities and work of the United Nations and of the Commission during the reporting period. The members of the Advisory Committee actively participated in the intergovernmental meetings held since the previous session of the Commission, including by serving in the bureaux, thereby contributing to their success. The Advisory Committee provided guidance on important issues concerning the Commission and the secretariat, including the implementation of resolutions adopted by the Commission and the organization of various intergovernmental meetings and initiatives of the secretariat.

11. The constructive cooperation, collective commitment and mutual support between the Advisory Committee and the secretariat will continue to be instrumental in strengthening the contribution of the Commission towards advancing inclusive, resilient and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

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