



Summary Assessment of the Outcomes of the 65th session of the Commission*

Bangkok, Thailand
23-29 April 2009

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* Prepared by the Programme Management Division based on written feedback to a questionnaire survey provided by the governments that attended the 65th session of the Commission.

Summary Assessment of the Outcomes of the 65th session of the Commission

I. Introduction

The purpose and scope for the monitoring and review of the ESCAP conference structure is outlined in ESCAP resolution 64/1 on the restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission, which requests the Executive Secretary to, “undertake systematic monitoring and evaluation of the conference structure and its link to the programme priorities of the Commission.” The Executive Secretary is to report to the sixty-seventh session of the Commission (year 2011) on, “the implementation of [resolution 64/1], focusing in particular on whether the conference structure has served the purpose of improving efficiency and attracting higher and wider representation from members and associate members...”. This report should form “the basis for a midterm review of the functioning of the conference structure to be conducted during the sixty-seventh session” and inform “a review of [the] conference structure, including its subsidiary structure” at the sixty-ninth session of the Commission (year 2013). Thus, the overall purpose is to inform the decisions of the Commission on improvements to the conference structure so that it more effectively meets its mandate.

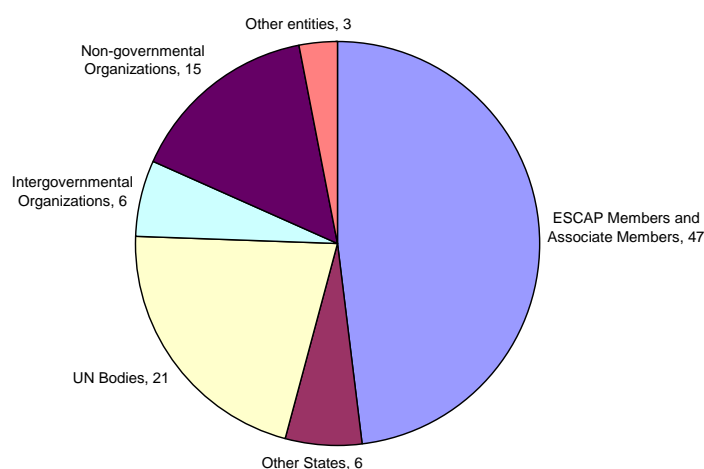
The 65th session of the Commission was held from 23 to 29 April 2009 in Bangkok. The present assessment of the outcomes of the 65th session of the Commission forms part of the systematic monitoring of activities under the Commission’s conference structure. Although assessments of the Commission session were completed in the past, the process has been revised in order to gather systematic information on the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the Commission session in order to feed into the mid-term and final reviews of the conference structure.

A questionnaire was distributed by the secretariat during the 65th session of the Commission. The response rate to the questionnaire was 74%; 35 of the 47 ESCAP member and associate members, which had attended the 65th session of the Commission, provided feedback to the secretariat. The present assessment has been prepared on the basis of the feed-back received from those delegations.

II. Attendance

416 participants attended the 65th session of the Commission. Of that total, 332 were from the 47 participating ESCAP members and associate members, and 84 participants were from the 51 other entities present, as described in the chart below (for further details see Annex I and Annex II). 76% of all ESCAP members and associate members participated at the 65th session of the Commission.

Type and number of entities in attendance at the 65th session of the Commission



Twenty-five governments were represented at the ministerial level at the 65th session of the Commission, thirteen of which were full ministers. The 65th session of the Commission ranks first when comparing the number of ministers in attendance at Commission sessions held in Bangkok and third overall over the past ten years (since the 55th session of the Commission in 1999), as can be seen from the chart in Annex III.

Attracting representatives at the ministerial level to the Commission session is an issue of great importance to the Commission, thus the questionnaire sought feedback on the factors that influenced the composition of participating delegations. The responses centered on two issues:

- 1) The role and importance of ESCAP in terms of facilitating inter-regional discussions on issues of importance to the region (8 delegations); and
- 2) The relevance of the theme topic (7 delegations).

III. Ownership and Participation

The responses received regarding the sense of ownership and level of participation at the Commission session was positive but also indicated that there is room for improvement.

The majority responded that the Commission session was owned and driven by member States to a good extent. Respondents had a relatively stronger feeling that the benefits of their delegations attendance at the Commission session outweighed the costs.

The number of parallel sessions of the Committees of the Whole may have presented a barrier for full participation of some delegations, as indicated by the mixed responses received regarding this issue.

The majority responded that the draft report accurately reflected the discussions, decisions and recommendations of the Commission to a great extent. While

respondents were positive about the overall outcome of the deliberations, responses also indicated that the deliberations could have achieved a more positive outcome and collaborative process.

The majority of respondents felt that the secretariat's in-session interventions contributed to the effective conduct and outcome of the session to a great extent.

1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?	To a great extent (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	Not at all (5)	No answer
a. The Commission session was owned and driven by member States.	31% (11)	51% (18)	14% (5)	-	-	3% (1)
b. The benefits of my delegation's attendance at the session justified the costs (travel, time, opportunity cost of absence from the office).	43% (15)	48% (17)	3% (1)	3% (1)	-	3% (1)
c. The number of Committees of the Whole [parallel sessions] allowed all delegations to participate fully in the Commission session.	40% (14)	40% (14)	14% (5)	3% (1)	-	3% (1)
d. The overall outcome of the deliberations was positive and a result of a collaborative effort by member States.	37% (13)	57% (20)	3% (1)	-	-	3% (1)
e. The draft reports accurately reflected the discussions, decisions and recommendations of the Commission.	51% (18)	43% (15)	3% (1)	-	-	3% (1)
f. The secretariat's in-session interventions contributed to effective conduct and outcome of the session.	54% (19)	43% (15)	3% (1)	-	-	-

IV. Overall relevance and outcomes

The feed-back indicated that participants were of the view that the Commission session was a relevant mechanism for the consideration of issues related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in the region.

The vast majority of respondents agreed to a great extent that the Commission session was a key intergovernmental forum and the most representative body for the Asian and Pacific region for considering the afore-mentioned issues. Additionally, the theme topic chosen for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission was seen by the majority to have reflected the current needs and priorities of the region to a great extent. The majority also responded that the session contributed to a great extent to the achievement of the Commission's mandate to serve as the main economic and social development centre of the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region.

The responses regarding the synergies and partnerships built by the Commission with other relevant intergovernmental and international (including UN system) organizations was overall positive, but also indicated that further improvement could be made.

2. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?	To a great extent (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	Not at all (5)
a. The Commission is a key intergovernmental forum and the most representative body for the Asian and Pacific region to consider issues related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development.	74% (26)	20% (7)	6% (2)	-	-
b. The theme for the sixty-fifth Commission session: “Towards sustainable agriculture and food security in the Asia-Pacific region,” reflects the current needs and priorities of the region in general, and my country/territory in particular.	68% (24)	26% (9)	6% (2)	-	-
c. The session contributed to the achievement of the Commission’s mandate to serve as the main economic and social development centre of the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region.	54% (19)	43% (15)	3% (1)	-	-
d. The Commission is achieving synergies and building effective partnerships with other relevant intergovernmental and international (including UN system) organizations at the regional and subregional levels.	34% (12)	46% (16)	20% (7)	-	-

a. Outcomes of the Senior Officials segment

The responses regarding the outcomes of the Senior Officials segment demonstrated that it was an effective mechanism for discussing issues of importance to the region, particularly countries with special needs. However, the feedback also indicated that the session could have been more results-oriented.

The majority responded that the deliberations under the Senior Officials segment were focused and effective to a great extent at identifying key emerging issues that merit policy attention in the region. Similarly, the majority responded that the Special Body on Least Developed and Land Locked Developing Countries was to a great extent successful in highlighting the priority concerns of these countries with special needs and identifying measures to address these concerns through regional cooperation.

The majority also responded that the deliberations were effective to a great extent at providing guidance to the work of the secretariat, in particular the draft programme of work for the 2010-2011 biennium.

While responses were overall positive on the deliberations on progress achieved and gaps requiring attention with regard to the implementation by the secretariat of Commission mandates, they also indicated that they could have been more effective. Similarly, the deliberations on the decisions with respect to the recommendations of the committees were seen to be relatively less effective than the discussions surrounding the key and emerging issues for the region.

3. To what extent do you agree with the following statements regarding the <u>Senior Officials segment</u> ?	To a great extent		(3)	(4)	Not at all (5)	No answer
	(1)	(2)				
a. The deliberations were focused and effective at identifying the key emerging issues that merit policy attention in the region.	54% (19)	29% (10)	8% (3)	3% (1)	-	6% (2)
b. The Special Body on Least Developed and Land Locked Developing Countries was successful in highlighting the priority concerns of these countries with special needs and identifying measures to address these concerns through regional cooperation.	51% (18)	31% (11)	9% (3)	-	-	9% (3)
c. The deliberations were effective at providing guidance to the work of the secretariat, in particular the draft programme of work for the 2010-2011 biennium.	49% (17)	31% (11)	11% (4)	3% (1)	-	6% (2)
d. The deliberations were effective at discussing progress achieved and gaps requiring priority attention with regard to the implementation of Commission resolutions and decisions.	40% (14)	37% (13)	17% (6)	-	-	6% (2)
e. The deliberations were effective at deciding on the recommendations of the subsidiary bodies.	43% (15)	40% (14)	11% (4)	-	-	6% (2)

b. Outcomes of the Ministerial Officials segment

The views on the outcomes of the Ministerial Officials segment were positive. Nevertheless, the responses indicated that the Ministerial Officials segment could have been more results-oriented in terms of translating policy options into actions for regional cooperation.

The majority responded that the Senior Officials segment provided a useful basis for the deliberations under the Ministerial segment.

The majority also responded that the deliberations were focused and effective to a great extent at generating policy options for addressing key socio-economic issues affecting the region. The responses regarding the deliberations on highlighting areas for regional cooperation to address key socio-economic issues affecting the region were overall positive, but relatively less so than the question on the deliberations regarding the generation of policy options, indicating the need for more action-oriented discussions.

The majority responded that the resolutions and decisions adopted reflected the key outcomes of the sixty-fifth session of the Commission.

4. To what extent do you agree with the following statements regarding the Ministerial segment?	To a great extent				Not at all (5)	No answer
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)		
a. The Senior Officials segment provided a useful basis for the deliberations under the Ministerial segment.	51% (18)	37% (13)	3% (1)	6% (2)	-	3% (1)
b. The deliberations were focused and effective at generating policy options for addressing key socio-economic issues affecting the region.	54% (19)	31% (11)	12% (4)	-	-	3% (1)
c. The resolutions and decisions adopted reflected the key outcomes of the sixty-fifth session of the Commission.	49% (17)	29% (10)	11% (4)	-	-	11% (4)
d. The deliberations were effective in highlighting areas for regional cooperation to address key socio-economic issues affecting the region.	46% (16)	43% (15)	8% (3)	-	-	3% (1)

V. Organizational aspects

The responses on the organizational aspects of the Commission session demonstrated overall that the secretariat effectively and efficiently serviced the 65th session of the Commission, but there were also areas for improvement.

a. Working Group on Draft Resolutions

The responses indicated that some member States may have required more time for review of draft resolutions before the commencement of the Commission session, indicating that draft resolutions could have been submitted by member States in a timelier manner.

The views were positive regarding the pre-session servicing by the secretariat of the informal ACPR Working Group on Draft Resolutions (IWGDR) related to preparation and review of the draft resolutions, indicating that the IWGDR provided a useful basis for decision-making by the Commission.

The majority responded that the conduct of the meetings of the Working Group on Draft Resolutions was effective to a great extent for enabling interactive discussions but posed a greater challenge with respect to reaching consensus.

5. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?	To a great extent				Not at all	No answer
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
a. The submission of draft resolutions by member States before the commencement of the Commission session allowed sufficient time for review by members and associate members of the Commission.	34% (12)	40% (14)	14% (5)	3% (1)	-	9% (3)
b. Pre-session servicing by the secretariat through the informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions related to preparation and review of the draft resolutions for tabling provided a useful basis for decision-making during the Commission session.	40% (14)	43% (15)	6% (2)	-	-	11% (4)
c. The conduct of the meetings of the Working Group on Draft Resolutions was effective for enabling interactive discussions .	55% (19)	23% (8)	11% (4)	-	-	11% (4)
d. The conduct of the meetings of the Working Group on Draft Resolutions was effective for reaching consensus .	40% (14)	43% (15)	6% (2)	-	-	11% (4)

b. Documents

The views on the servicing by the secretariat with regard to documentation were positive. The majority responded that the pre-session documents conveyed clear messages concerning the issues placed on the agenda, and that the posting of documents through the ESCAP website facilitated review by delegations to a great extent.

There was general satisfaction with regard to the timing of the issuance of pre-session documents, but the responses indicated that there was room for improvement.

6. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?	To a great extent				Not at all	No answer
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
a. The pre-session documents conveyed clear messages concerning the issues placed on the agenda.	63% (22)	31% (11)	3% (1)	-	-	3% (1)
b. The pre-session documents were issued in a timely manner.	49% (17)	34% (12)	14% (5)	-	-	3% (1)
c. The posting of documents through the ESCAP website facilitated my delegations review.	60% (21)	31% (11)	3% (1)	3% (1)	-	3% (1)

c. Organization and servicing by the secretariat

The majority of respondents were positive about the organization of and servicing by the secretariat of the sixty-fifth session of the Commission. Responses indicated that

sufficient time was allocated to agenda items during the session, and the servicing by the secretariat facilitated effective outcomes.

The majority responded that communication between the secretariat and member States between Commission sessions and the organization of work between Commission sessions (including ACPR, Committees, Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions (IWGDR), communication with the secretariat, etc.) contributed to the effective functioning of the 65th session of the Commission.

7. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?	To a great extent				Not at all	No answer
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
a. Sufficient time was allocated to agenda items during the session.	51% (18)	37% (13)	9% (3)	-	-	3% (1)
b. The servicing by the secretariat facilitated effective outcomes.	63% (22)	31% (11)	3% (1)	-	-	3% (1)
c. The organization of work between Commission sessions contributed to the effective functioning of the Commission session (ACPR, Committees, Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions (IWGDR), communication with the secretariat, etc.).	51% (18)	43% (15)	3% (1)	-	-	3% (1)
d. The communication between the secretariat and member States between Commission sessions contributed to the effective functioning of the Commission session.	51% (18)	40% (14)	6% (2)	-	-	3% (1)

VI. Most and least successful features

The questionnaire provided space for respondents to comment on the most and least successful features of the Commission session. The Ministerial Roundtable on the theme topic, "Towards sustainable agriculture and food security in the Asia-Pacific region" received the highest number of comments as the most successful feature of the Commission session. The High-level panel on the economic crisis received the second highest number of comments. With regards to the High-level panel, respondents were particularly impressed by the timeliness and relevance of the topic.

The deliberations on the theme topic for the sixty-sixth session of the Commission received the highest number of comments as the least successful feature of the Commission session.

VII. Conclusion

The sixty-fifth session of the Commission was the first session after the mandated restructuring of the conference structure (resolution 64/1), thus many challenges may have been presented during the planning and implementation of the 65th session of the Commission. However, this assessment demonstrates that this did not impede the quality of the session, as the session successfully attracted high and wide representation and was conducted efficiently enabling the participants to discuss issues of importance for the region.

The key lessons from the respondents include the following:

- a) The theme topic and Ministerial Roundtable on the theme topic is of particular importance for members;
- b) The deliberations of the Commission session could be more action-oriented;
 - a. Active participation is important for high-level discussions and action-oriented outcomes;
 - b. The secretariat could provide more guidance and support to delegations to prepare them for the Commission session, including on technical drafting of resolutions;
- c) The linkage between the Senior Officials segment and the Ministerial segment could be enhanced;
- d) The facilitation of partnerships through the Commission session is important to some ESCAP members;

It can be concluded that member States consider the Commission session to be an important regional mechanism to discuss issues of regional and global importance, and that overall, there was general satisfaction with the preparations for, and servicing and outcome of the sixty-fifth session of the Commission.

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Annex I

ESCAP members and associate members attendance at the 65th session of the Commission

	Country	No. of participants		Country	No. of participants
1	Afghanistan	2	33	Palau	1
2	Armenia*	-	34	Papua New Guinea	7
3	Australia	5	35	Philippines	8
4	Azerbaijan*	-	36	Rep. of Korea	19
5	Bangladesh	5	37	Russian Federation	12
6	Bhutan	3	38	Samoa	3
7	Brunei Darussalam	4	39	Singapore	3
8	Cambodia	11	40	Solomon Islands	2
9	China	11	41	Sri Lanka	4
10	DPRK	4	42	Tajikistan*	-
11	Fiji	4	43	Thailand	79
12	France	2	44	Timor-Leste	1
13	Georgia	1	45	Tonga	1
14	India	11	46	Turkey	4
15	Indonesia	21	47	Turkmenistan*	-
16	Islamic Rep. of Iran	9	48	Tuvalu	2
17	Japan	14	49	United Kingdom*	-
18	Kazakhstan	6	50	United States of America	5
19	Kiribati	1	51	Uzbekistan	2
20	Kyrgyzstan*	-	52	Vanuatu	3
21	Lao PDR	9	53	Viet Nam	6
22	Malaysia	11			
23	Maldives	4		Associate members	
24	Marshall Islands*	-	54	American Samoa*	-
25	Micronesia*	-	55	Cook Islands*	-
26	Mongolia	4	56	French Polynesia*	-
27	Myanmar	7	57	Guam*	-
28	Nauru	2	58	Hong Kong, China	2
29	Nepal	6	59	Macao, China	5
30	Netherlands	2	60	New Caledonia*	-
31	New Zealand	1	61	Niue*	-
32	Pakistan	3	62	Northern Mariana Islands*	-
Total no. of member and associate member participants				332	

* Members/associate members which did not attend

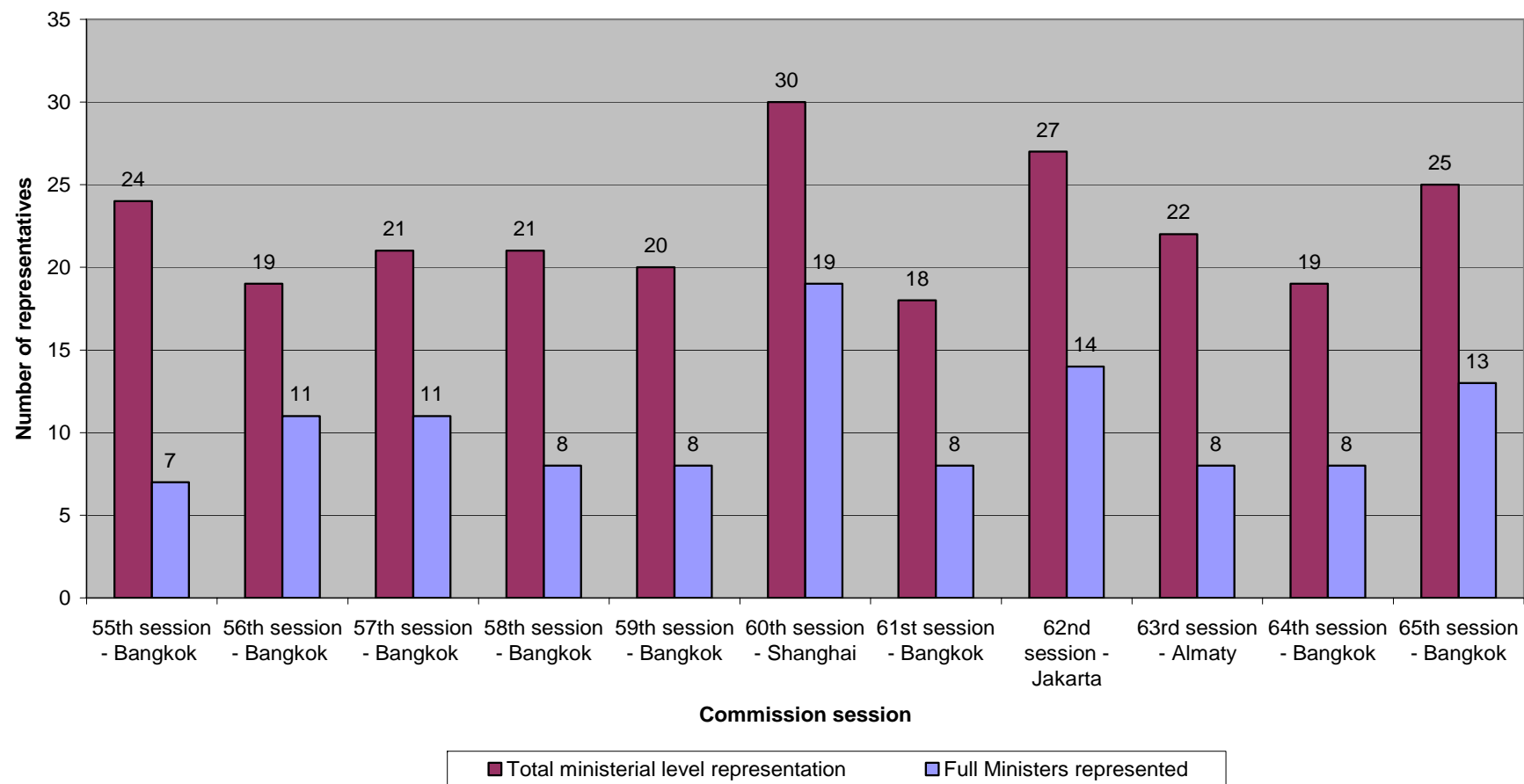
Annex II

Other participants attendance at the 65th session of the Commission

		No. of participants			No. of participants
	Other States			Intergovernmental Organizations	
1	Bulgaria	1	28	APCC	1
2	Czech Republic	2	29	ADB	1
3	Holy See	3	30	APT	4
4	Mexico	3	31	CICA	2
5	Romania	1	32	IOM	2
6	Switzerland	1	33	PIFS	1
	<i>subtotal</i>	<u>11</u>		<i>subtotal</i>	<u>11</u>
	United Nations Secretariat			Non-Governmental Organizations	
7	OHRRLLS	1	34	AFPPD	1
8	RCNYO	1	35	BIC	1
9	ESCWA	1	36	DPI	2
10	ECA	2	37	ICSW	1
11	ECE	2	38	IFAP	1
	<i>subtotal</i>	<u>7</u>	39	IFBPW	1
	United Nations Bodies		40	ATDFW	1
12	ITC	1	41	IPPF	2
13	UNAIDS	2	42	ITUC	1
14	OHCHR	1	43	LDC Watch	2
15	UNHCR	2	44	PPSEAWA	3
16	UNICEF	2	45	WASME	1
17	UNCCD	2	46	WCRP	1
18	UNIFEM	1	47	WVF	2
19	UNDP	1	48	ZI	1
20	UNEP	3		<i>subtotal</i>	<u>21</u>
21	UNMC	1		Other Entities	
22	UNOPS	1	49	ADPC	2
23	UNFPA	2	50	GTZ	1
	<i>subtotal</i>	<u>19</u>	51	IFRC	1
	Specialized Agencies			<i>subtotal</i>	<u>4</u>
24	FAO	7			
25	UNESCO	1			
26	ITU	2			
27	WMO	1			
	<i>subtotal</i>	<u>11</u>			
Total no. of non-member State participants			84		

Annex III

**Number of ESCAP members and associate members
with representation at the ministerial level* at the 55th to 65th sessions of the Commission
(covering the years 1999-2009)**



*Includes Ministers, Vice-Ministers, Deputy-Ministers, Assistant-Ministers or their equivalents.

Annex IV
Questionnaire Comments
[Verbatim from the completed questionnaires]

Part I

Question 2 – What could have been done to improve the overall relevance and outcome(s) of the Commission session?

- Commission should focus more in coordinating with other regional and UN bodies.
- Cambodia is of the view that there is a need for ESCAP to build more partnership with development partners and pay more attention to assist countries with special needs with sincere manner.
- Time slot for member countries from developing countries (SID) to meet partners from donor member countries on possible technical cooperation based on programmes/projects emerging from theme study.
- It's already good.
- Support to the weak and small countries in the region on the implementation of the DOHA Plan of Action.

Question 4 – What could have been done to improve the Senior Official segment of the Commission session?

- Intervention by member countries during Committee of the Whole sessions must ensure inclusive of that from LDCs and SIDs and how this arrives at the point of draft resolutions.
- It's good.
- Engage active participation of all senior officials of the regional countries.
- An informal session to better outline the key issues in the biennial POW would have been useful to better inform the discussion.

Question 6 – What could have been done to improve the Ministerial segment of the Commission session?

- Delegation be encouraged to arrange and facilitate bilateral meeting with ESCAP and Partners from member countries pertaining to current bilateral programmes and further assist new bilateral programmes.
- It's good enough.
- Country statements and papers presented during panel discussions should be made available to delegates.
- The Q&A segment to be limited to questions that stimulate debate.
- Invite the participation of all relevant ministers of the region.
- I saw little link between the senior officials segment and the Ministerial discussions. Secretariat might want to explore technical advisory assistance to members in drafting of resolutions (background research, common usage terms etc.)

Part II

Question 4 – What could have been done to improve the organization and servicing of the Commissions session?

- Internet services provided was a challenge. This needs improvement in future Forums.
- Materials and documents were not sent to us before arrival. Much communication is needed on a technical level.
- More frequent ACPR meetings; further pre-sectional consultation with all active members; well-organized delivery of documents (the hard copies) would be appreciated.
- It's good already.
- Not enough time sometimes. More time needed.

Part III

Question 3 – What motivated your Government to designate the level of your delegation to participate in the Commission session?

- Previous experience and practice.
- The importance of the UNESCAP Commission and its relevance to the region.
- We are committed to participate in the Commission session at Ministerial level since we start paying more attention to UNESCAP process, but should follow a policy of less talk more action on the ESCAP framework.
- The theme topic of the 65th Commission session.
- Importance of the issues stressed by session.
- Relevance of the theme topic.
- My country has a long standing association with ESCAP and gives great importance to its sessions. It was thus decided to have representation at Minister level.
- Theme topic.
- a) The approach of my country to strengthening UN bodies world-wide; b) To strengthen UNESCAP as the integration engine of Asia and the Pacific region; c) Establishing the new sub-regional offices and expansion of UNESCAP towards uncovered areas in particular South and South-West; d) Development issues as well as realization of MDGs.
- As an opportunity to deliberate on key socio-economic issues affecting the region with participants at the Ministerial level.
- My country knowledge the important role played by UNESCAP, therefore, we designated the concerned officers to take part.
- No representation at the ministerial level because of the reshuffling of ministerial portfolios at the current moment.
- Issues raised at ESCAP forum were very relevant and important to our needs.
- Theme topic relevance and special body meeting which focused on Land locked developing countries.
- The invitation extended by the ESCAP.
- Our intention was for a ministerial level attendance but exigencies resulted in change of plans.
- My country's next session hosting in 2010.

- 1) UNESCAP is an important body of the UN in Asia and the Pacific; 2) This year marks the 60th Anniversary of ESCAP in Thailand; 3) The issues to be raised at the session.
- Important meeting that provides new insights/knowledge.
- Past practice.

Question 4 - Is there anything that could have been done to encourage higher (rank) and wider (intersectoral) representation from your delegation at the Commission session?

- Finance by ESCAP one or two delegates.
- We are LDC, one of countries with special need. What we need are concrete measures, pragmatic outcome and result-oriented.
- Improved consultation with higher ranks of member countries within the sub-regional platform.
- To raise the awareness of the public that the Commission is a key intergovernmental forum and the most representative body for the region to consider key issues affecting the region.
- It is good enough.
- Wider participation from sectors constrained by budget during this crises year.
- We believe ESCAP had done necessary steps to seek the requisite representation.
- Tuvalu represented by high ranking delegation.
- No.

Question 5 - What was the most successful feature of the sixty-fifth session of the Commission?

- Ministerial Roundtable and High level Exchange on Food Fuel and Financial crises in the Special Body on LDCs.
- Commitment made by the members to strengthen cooperation among the members, giving particular attention to LDCs & LLDCs.
- Ministerial Round Table on theme topic of 65th session of Commission.
- The deliberation on the Theme Topic of Food, Fuel and Financial Crisis and Climate Change.
- Roundtable on economic crisis.
- High-level participation from developing countries.
- The spirit of consensus shown by all delegations towards adoption of resolution and decisions.
- Ministerial roundtable.
- a) The role of affiliated institutes especially CAPSA and SIAP were duly strengthened, b) The outcome of the deliberations on theme topic was satisfactory and constructive for all, c) Establishment of the new sub-regional offices attracted the attention of many countries to the future constructive role of UNESCAP in the region.
- The organizing of the session was fully well done.
- Discussions of the High Level Panel on the Economic Crisis.
- Special Body on LDC and LLDC.
- 1) Ministerial Roundtable on addressing threats to development; 2) High Level Panel on the Financial Crisis, Apr 28, 2009.

- The Ministerial round table was the most outstanding programme.
- The overall conduct of the event with time given for debate was its most successful feature.
- Timely choosing the topic for High-level panel.
- All sessions were equally good other than the fact that availability of time.
- 1) The Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand presided over the opening session. This is the symbolic moment of another milestone of ESCAP in Thailand;
- 2) ESCAP can both pursue theme study and address the current crisis in the session.
- Panel discussion of the theme topic was well-organized and interesting.
- UNESCAP reform: 3 former Committees had been transformed into 8 Committees.

Question 6 – What was the least successful feature of the sixty-fifth session of the Commission?

- Not being able to reach an agreement early on the theme of the next Commission.
- 66th theme topic selection, time punctuality.
- The tea-coffee break and desserts should have been improved.
- Internet access.
- These were certain shortcomings in the procedure but nothing which can be deemed as least successful.
- The discussion on the theme topic for the next session was quite lengthy. However, it's positive to see that finally the member countries can show some flexibility to reach an agreement.
- Handling of the question of the locations of the proposed sub-regional centers was not well done.

Question 7 – Please provide any additional comments you may have on the sixty-fifth session of the Commission and any suggestions for the improvement of the future sessions.

- Internet access for 15 minutes in one time is insufficient.
- Information provided by ESCAP through your notes was very useful; and the clarifications and additional information given by ESCAP during the session were also good.
- My delegation wishes to suggest that the developed countries should use ESCAP Commission session to interact and get to know concern of LDCs. They can pledge to provide technical support and assistance to the countries with Special Needs during the Commission session.
- Secretariat should coordinate closely with ACPR. - Technical matter on sound system
- It could be helpful if ACPR would have an opportunity to discuss the result of the assessment carried out through this questionnaire.
- To speed up uploading of pre-session documents on line.
- For 66th session, High level representation from ADB, World Bank and other financial institutions and representatives (high level) from the finance ministries.
- My delegation would like to express our deep appreciation to the ES and secretariat staff for their excellent arrangement for the session.

- Comments already given are our views on the event.
- There should have been more interactions among the delegates especially during the roundtable discussions. The duration of the Commission meeting can be shortened.
- Successful and enlightening.
- Funding for LDCs to include 1 official please!!
- Finding ways to improve the technical quality of draft resolutions would have saved much negotiating time. E.g. draft resolution on the Bali conference was received very late and was of poor technical quality, which consumed much time in the WGDR sessions.

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