



## **Summary Assessment of the Outcome of the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission by delegates\***

Bangkok  
25 April - 1 May 2013

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\* Prepared by the Programme Planning and Partnerships Division based on written feedback to a survey questionnaire provided to the government delegates who attended the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission.

## **Summary Assessment of the Outcome of the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission**

### **I. Introduction**

The 69<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission was held in Bangkok from 25 April to 1 May 2013.

A questionnaire assessing the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the Commission session was distributed to delegates. The total number of returned individual questionnaires was 73. The responding delegates came from 38 of the 47 ESCAP members and associate members in attendance at the session, and nine observer organizations. The overall response rate is therefore 62%. The present assessment was prepared on the basis of these questionnaire responses.

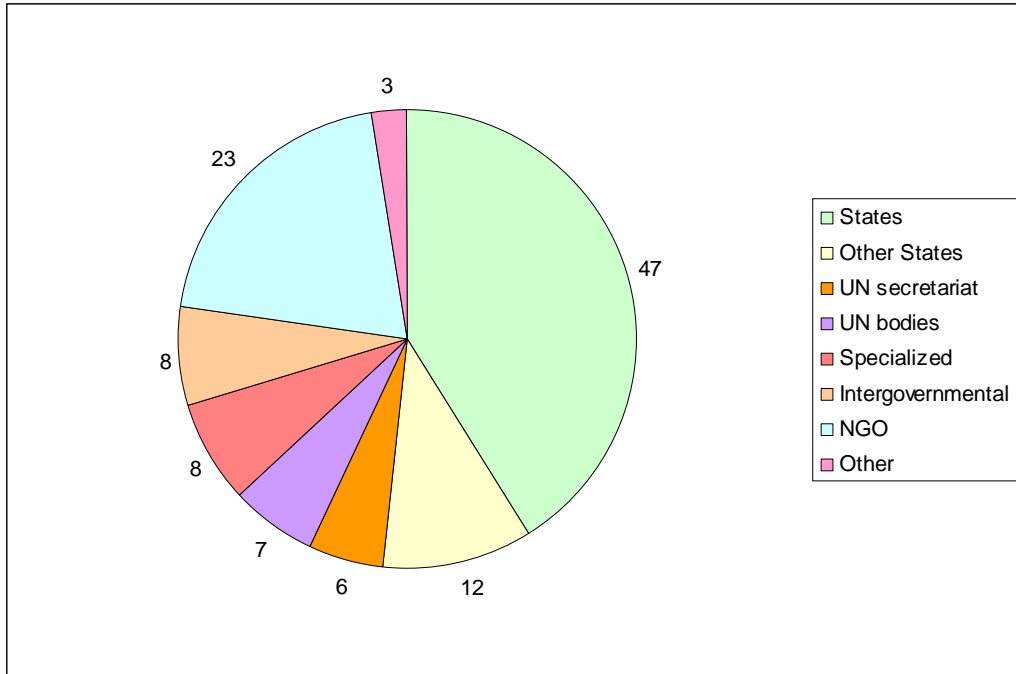
For the first time this year, in line with the secretariat's efforts to reduce the use of paper and move towards paper smart meetings, an online version of the questionnaire was offered alongside the traditional paper version.

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

### **II. Attendance**

A total number of 590 participants attended the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission. Of that total, 460 were from the 47 participating ESCAP members and associate members, while 130 participants were from the 67 other entities present, as described in the chart on page 2 (for further details see Annex I, II and III). 76% of all ESCAP members and associate members participated in this session of the Commission.

Twenty-five governments were represented through ministerial level officials, seven of which were full ministers. In terms of the number of ministers in attendance, and in comparison with previous sessions of the Commission held in Bangkok, the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission ranks joint first with the 65<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission, and joint third overall over the past ten years (since the 55<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission in 1999), as can be seen from the chart in Annex III.



**Fig. 1: Type and Number of entities attendance at the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission.**

The questionnaire asked which factors influenced the composition of participating delegations, since attracting representatives at the ministerial level is of great importance to the Commission. The responses centered on the following:

- 1) The relevance of the agenda items (9 delegates);
- 2) the role and importance of ESCAP and its Commission for facilitating inter-regional discussions and exchanges on issues of importance to the region (4 delegates);
- 3) the usefulness of these exchanges as a basis for national policies (5 delegates); and
- 4) the high level of representation (3 delegates).

Delegates were asked what could have increased the level of their participation, and among the suggestions were: early invitations to the Commission; better promotion of events; wider intersectoral participation; and a focus on climate change, disaster risk management, fisheries/oceans, and transportation. It was further noted that the reduced duration of the Commission session from seven days to five, following the adoption of resolution 69/1 at the present session of the Commission, might help attract increased participation in the future.

### **III. Ownership and Participation**

The responses received regarding the sense of ownership and the level of participation at the Commission session were generally positive.

A majority responded that the Commission session was owned and driven by member States to a good or great extent. Similarly, a majority indicated that the benefits of their attendance justified the related costs to a good or great extent.

The majority of respondents agreed that the number of Committees of the Whole (organized as parallel sessions) allowed all delegations to fully participate.

A large majority of respondents indicated that the overall outcome of the deliberations was positive, and a result of a collaborative effort by member States. They also indicated that the draft reports accurately reflected the discussions, decisions and recommendations of the Commission and that the secretariat's in-session interventions contributed to effective conduct and outcome of the session.

<b>To what extent do you agree with the following statements?</b>	<b>To a great extent (1)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>Not at all (5)</b>
a. The Commission session was owned and driven by member States.	18(31%)	27(47%)	10(17%)	2(3%)	1(2%)
b. The benefits of my delegation's attendance at the session justified the costs (travel, time, opportunity cost of absence from the office).	21(36%)	23(40%)	10(17%)	3(5%)	1(2%)
c. The number of Committees of the Whole [parallel sessions] allowed all delegations to participate fully in the Commission session.	19(32%)	26(44%)	12(20%)	1(2%)	1(2%)
d. The overall outcome of the deliberations was positive and a result of a collaborative effort by member States.	27(44%)	23(38%)	9(15%)	2(3%)	0(0%)
e. The draft reports accurately reflected the discussions, decisions and recommendations of the Commission.	24(41%)	23(39%)	10(17%)	2(3%)	0(0%)
f. The secretariat's in-session interventions contributed to effective conduct and outcome of the session.	24(41%)	23(39%)	10(17%)	2(3%)	0(0%)

#### **IV. Overall relevance and outcomes**

In general, respondents saw the Commission session as a relevant mechanism for the consideration of issues related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in the region, and the 69<sup>th</sup> session as having achieved a satisfactory outcome.

The vast majority of respondents agreed to a good or 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.

Similarly, a vast majority of the respondents agreed 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 were overall positive, but also indicated that further improvement could be made.

The theme topic chosen for the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission, “Building Resilience to Natural Disaster and Major Economic Crises”, was seen by a large majority to have reflected the current needs and priorities of the region to a good or great extent.

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.	41(56%)	26(36%)	5(7%)	1(1%)	0(0%)
b. 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.	37(51%)	29(40%)	2(3%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
c. 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.	30(42%)	31(43%)	10(14%)	1(1%)	0(0%)
d. The theme for the sixty-ninth Commission session: “ <b>Building Resilience to Natural Disaster and Major Economic Crises</b> ” reflects the current needs and priorities of the region in general, and my country/territory in particular.	42(58%)	22(31%)	6(8%)	2(3%)	0(0%)

#### a. Outcomes of the Senior Officials segment

Respondents generally viewed the Senior Officials segment as an effective mechanism for discussing issues of importance to the region.

A majority responded that the deliberations during the Senior Officials segment were focused and effective to a good extent at identifying key emerging issues affecting the region. Similarly, a majority responded that the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries was successful to a good or great extent in highlighting priority concerns of these countries and identifying measures to address those concerns through regional cooperation.

A majority also responded that the deliberations were effective to a good or great extent at providing guidance to the work of the secretariat, in particular the draft programme of work for the 2014-2015 biennium.

While responses were generally positive with respect to the deliberations on the decisions regarding the recommendations of the committees, they were less so, indicating some scope for improvement.

Overall, while the responses were generally positive, some scope remains for improving the perception of the effectiveness of the senior official's segment even more.

<b>To what extent do you agree with the following statements regarding the <u>Senior Officials segment</u>?</b>	<b>To a great extent (1)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>Not at all (5)</b>	<b>N/A</b>
a. The deliberations were focused and effective at identifying the key emerging issues that merit policy attention in the region.	19(28%)	34(50%)	10(14%)	1(2%)	0(0%)	4(6%)
b. The deliberations were effective at discussing progress achieved and gaps requiring priority attention with regard to the implementation of Commission resolutions and decisions.	19(28%)	34(50%)	10(14%)	1(2%)	0(0%)	4(6%)
c. The deliberations were effective at deciding on the recommendations of the subsidiary bodies.	16(24%)	30(45%)	15(22%)	1(2%)	0(0%)	5(8%)
d. The deliberations were effective at providing guidance to the work of the secretariat, in particular the draft programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015.	20(29%)	31(46%)	9(13%)	3(4%)	0(0%)	5(7%)
e. The Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries was successful in highlighting the priority concerns of these countries and identifying measures to address these concerns through regional cooperation.	18(27%)	30(45%)	9(14%)	3(5%)	0(0%)	6(9%)

#### **b. Outcomes of the Ministerial segment**

The views on the outcomes of the Ministerial segment were positive.

A majority responded that the deliberations were effective both in highlighting areas for regional cooperation to address key socio-economic issues, and at generating policy options. Similarly, a majority responded that the resolutions and decisions adopted reflected the key outcomes of the sixty-eighth session of the Commission to a good extent.

<b>To what extent do you agree with the following statements regarding the <u>Ministerial segment</u>?</b>	<b>To a great extent (1)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>Not at all (5)</b>	<b>N/A</b>
a. The deliberations were focused and effective at generating policy options for addressing key socio-economic issues affecting the region.	22(33%)	31(46%)	6(9%)	1(1%)	0(0%)	7(10%)
b. The deliberations were effective in highlighting areas for regional cooperation to address key socio-economic issues affecting the region.	25(37%)	27(40%)	7(10%)	1(1%)	0(0%)	7(10%)
c. The resolutions and decisions adopted reflected the key outcomes of the sixty-eighth session of the Commission.	25(38%)	27(41%)	6(9%)	1(2%)	0(0%)	7(11%)

## V. Organizational aspects

Overall, responses demonstrated that the secretariat effectively and efficiently serviced the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission, but that there were also areas for improvement.

### a. Organization and servicing by the secretariat

A majority of respondents agreed that sufficient time was allocated to agenda items during the session. The majority was also positive in their feedback on the organization of work in-between sessions: the responses indicated that there was good communication between member States and the secretariat in-between Commission sessions which contributed to the effective functioning of the Commission.

Particularly positive feedback was received regarding the servicing by the secretariat, in terms of enabling effective outcomes.

The responses indicated that some member States may have required more time for reviewing draft resolutions before the commencement of the Commission session, indicating that draft resolutions could have been submitted by member States in a timelier manner. Similarly, it was indicated that some agenda items might have benefited from being allocated some more time.

To what extent do you agree with the following statements?	To a great extent (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	Not at all (5)
a. Sufficient time was allocated to agenda items during the session.	20(31%)	30(47%)	12(19%)	1(2%)	1(2%)
b. The servicing by the secretariat facilitated effective outcomes.	27(43%)	27(43%)	8(13%)	1(2%)	0(0%)
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.).	24(39%)	29(47%)	8(13%)	0(0%)	1(2%)
d. The communication between the secretariat and member States between Commission sessions contributed to the effective functioning of the Commission session.	23(37%)	28(44%)	11(17%)	1(2%)	0(0%)
e. 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.	17(28%)	26(43%)	13(22%)	3(5%)	1(2%)

f. 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.	21(33%)	29(46%)	12(19%)	1(2%)	0(0%)
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### b. Working Group on Draft Resolutions

Particularly positive feedback was received regarding the conduct of the meetings of the Working Group on Draft Resolutions, in terms of enabling interactive discussions and reaching consensus.

To what extent do you agree with the following statements?	To a great extent (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	Not at all (5)
a. The conduct of the meetings of the Working Group on Draft Resolutions was effective for enabling <b>interactive discussions</b> .	25(40%)	25(40%)	10(16%)	2(3%)	0(0%)
b. The conduct of the meetings of the Working Group on Draft Resolutions was effective for <b>reaching consensus</b> .	25(43%)	21(36%)	11(19%)	1(2%)	0(0%)

### c. Documents

In general, respondents viewed the documentation for the Commission session positively.

A large majority responded that the pre-session documents conveyed clear messages concerning the issues placed on the agenda. The availability of online documentation was seen to have greatly facilitated their review by delegations prior to the session. At the same time, some room for improvement was identified regarding the timeliness with which the pre-session documents were issued.

To what extent do you agree with the following statements?	To a great extent (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	Not at all (5)
a. The pre-session documents conveyed clear messages concerning the issues placed on the agenda.	27(42%)	27(42%)	9(14%)	2(3%)	0(0%)
b. The pre-session documents were issued in a timely manner.	21(33%)	30(47%)	11(17%)	2(3%)	0(0%)
c. The posting of documents through the ESCAP website facilitated my delegations review.	33(51%)	19(29%)	12(18%)	1(2%)	0(0%)



## VI. Awareness and recognition of ESCAP

For the first time, this year's questionnaire contained questions on delegates' awareness and recognition of ESCAP, and the answers were encouraging.

Almost all respondents indicated that they had visited the ESCAP website, and most also reported visiting the ESCAP social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube). A majority indicated that they drew on their knowledge about the work of ESCAP to support or improve their activities. Similarly, a majority found the content of the ESCAP website to be useful.

	<b>Often (1)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>Never (5)</b>
d. How often do you visit ESCAP social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube)?	5(8%)	15(24%)	19(30%)	12(19%)	12(19%)
e. How often do you visit the ESCAP website (www.unescap.org)?	16(25%)	23(36%)	14(22%)	10(16%)	1(2%)
f. How often do you draw on your knowledge about the work of ESCAP to support or improve your activities?	13(21%)	27(43%)	16(25%)	4(6%)	3(5%)
	<b>Very high (1)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>Very low (5)</b>
g. How do you rate the usefulness of the information on the ESCAP website?	22(34%)	27(42%)	11(17%)	3(5%)	1(2%)

## VII. 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 most successful features of the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission were noted as: the Ministerial Roundtable; the High-level Panel; the Theme Study; the relevance of the topics for the region; and the participation of high level government and UN representatives.

On the other hand, the time management of some sessions, and a lack of consensus on the draft resolution regarding Rio+20 were mentioned as least successful features.

## VIII. Conclusion and additional comments

This assessment demonstrates that the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission successfully attracted high and wide representation and was conducted efficiently, enabling participants to discuss and negotiate issues of importance for the region.

Among the additional remarks from delegates were the following two points:

Firstly, that the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission was unprecedented in terms of the quality of the high-level panels and roundtable discussions, and the high-level representation, which included Deputy Secretary General Mr. Jan Eliasson.

Secondly, that the secretariat's efforts to reduce the use of paper during the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission were overall welcomed, but that some scope remains for improving to the quality of the wireless internet connection and for simplifying online access to documents.

In conclusion, delegates expressed general satisfaction with the preparations for, servicing and outcome of the 69<sup>th</sup> session, and continue to consider the Commission an important regional body for discussing issues of regional and global importance.

## Annex I

### Attendance of ESCAP member States at the 69th session of the Commission

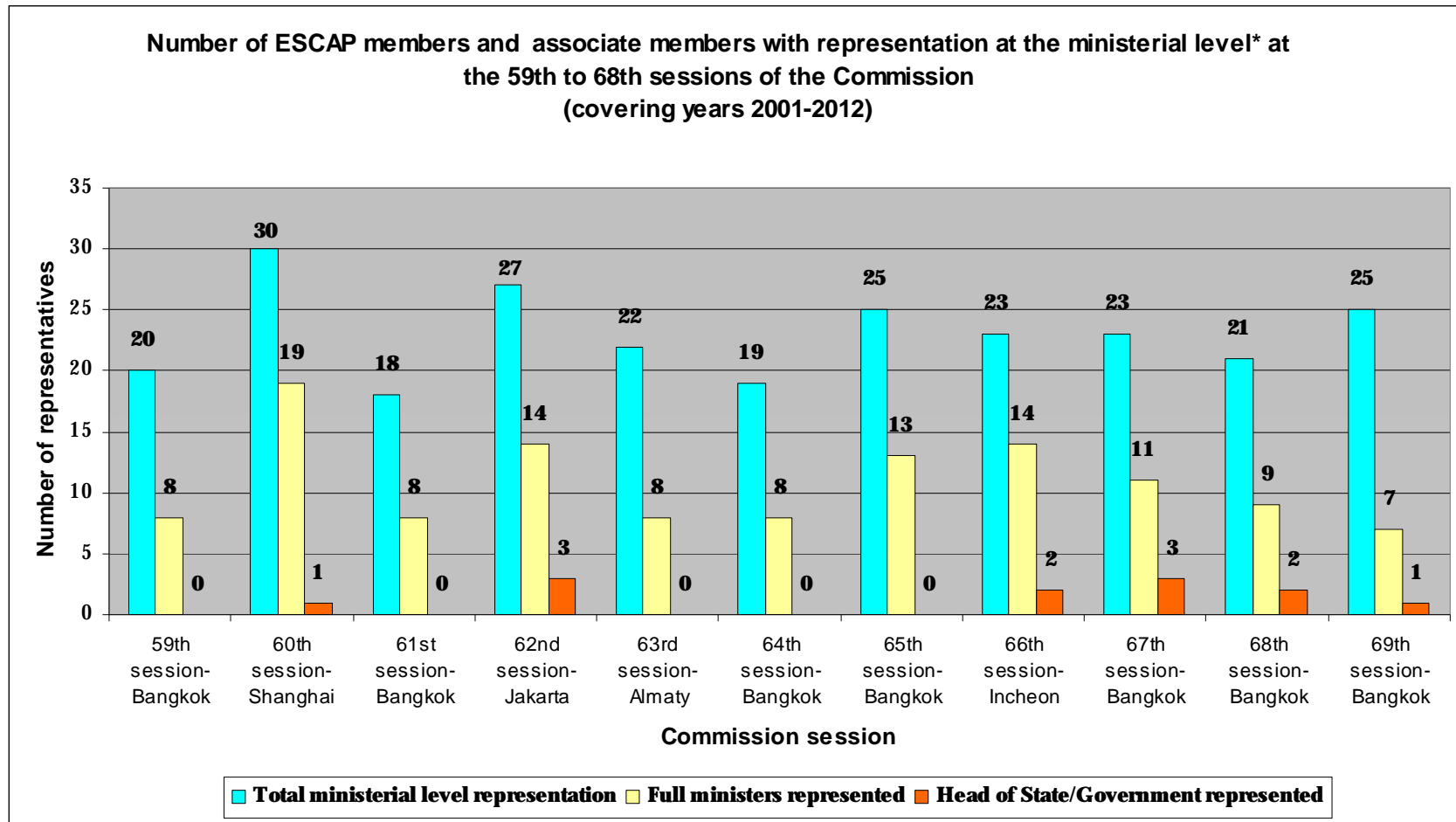
	Country	No. of participants		Country	No. of participants
1	Afghanistan	3	33	Palau*	-
2	Armenia	1	34	Papua New Guinea	7
3	Australia	2	35	Philippines	11
4	Azerbaijan	1	36	Rep. of Korea	22
5	Bangladesh	7	37	Russian Federation	18
6	Bhutan	4	38	Samoa	1
7	Brunei Darussalam	5	39	Singapore	2
8	Cambodia	9	40	Solomon Islands	8
9	China	12	41	Sri Lanka	7
10	DPRK	6	42	Tajikistan*	-
11	Fiji	6	43	Thailand	102
12	France	1	44	Timor-Leste	21
13	Georgia*	-	45	Tonga*	-
14	India	11	46	Turkey	9
15	Indonesia	43	47	Turkmenistan	2
16	Islamic Rep. of Iran	14	48	Tuvalu	2
17	Japan	14	49	UK	1
18	Kazakhstan	5	50	USA	6
19	Kiribati	2	51	Uzbekistan	1
20	Kyrgyzstan*	-	52	Vanuatu	9
21	Lao PDR	17	53	Viet Nam	6
22	Malaysia	10			
23	Maldives*	-		<b>Associate members</b>	
24	Marshall Island	1	54	American Samoa*	-
25	Micronesia*	-	55	Cook Islands	1
26	Mongolia	4	56	French Polynesia*	-
27	Myanmar	22	57	Guam*	-
28	Nauru	5	58	Hong Kong, China	2
29	Nepal	5	59	Macao, China	8
30	Netherlands*	-	60	New Caledonia*	-
31	New Zealand*	-	61	Niue*	-
32	Pakistan	4	62	Northern Mariana Islands*	-
				<b>Total no. of member State participants : 460</b>	

*\* Countries did not attend*

**Annex II**
**Attendance of other participants at the 69th session of the Commission**

		No. of participants			No. of participants
	<b>Other States</b>			<b>Intergovernmental Organizations</b>	
1	Cuba	1	34	ADB	2
2	Denmark	1	35	CIRDAP	1
3	Germany	2	36	CICA	1
4	Holy See	4	37	CCOP	2
5	Israel	2	38	EEC	4
6	Kenya	2	39	OECD	1
7	Luxemburg	1	40	WMO/ESCAP PTC	1
8	Mexico	5	41	TYPHOON COMMITTEE	1
9	Nigeria	1			<b>13</b>
10	Norway	1		<b>Non-Governmental Organizations</b>	
11	South Africa	2	42	AANS	1
12	United Arab States	2	43	ADF	1
		<b>24</b>	44	APDF	3
	<b>United Nations Secretariat</b>		45	APFWLD	1
13	RCNYO	1	46	AP-DPO UNITED	2
14	OHRLLS	1	47	APRU	1
15	ESCWA	3	48	CBM	2
16	ECA	2	49	CCLP WORLDWIDE	1
17	ECE	2	50	CADF	1
18	ECLAC	2	51	CCEDC	1
		<b>11</b>	52	CBR	1
	<b>United Nations Bodies</b>		53	DAISY CONSORTIUM	1
19	ILO	1	54	DAWN	1
20	UNAIDS	3	55	DPI/AP	7
21	UNICEF	2	56	ICC	1
22	UNCCD	3	57	IFNGO	1
23	UNDP	14	58	LDC WATCH	1
24	UNEP	1	59	NCWT	1
25	UN-HABITAT	1	60	PDF	1
		<b>25</b>	61	RI	1
	<b>Specialized Agencies</b>		62	SADF	1
26	FAO	7	63	TEI	3
27	IFC	1	64	WASME	2
28	IMO	1			<b>36</b>
29	ITU	3		<b>Other entities</b>	
30	UNESCO	1	65	APCD	1
31	UNIDO	2	66	IFRCS	2
32	UPU	1	67	SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA	1
33	WHO	1			<b>4</b>
		<b>17</b>			
			<b>Total no. of non-member State participants</b>		<b>130</b>

**Annex III**



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

**Annex IV**  
**Questionnaire Comments**  
*[Verbatim from the completed questionnaires]*

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

- More time and space should be given to major group stakeholders in order for them to raise issues affecting the majority population of the region. These groups work closest to the ground realities and have some of the best insight into problems and solutions
- ODA / South South Cooperation
- To have more open time given to the open panel discussions.
- South-south collaboration
- More inclusiveness of SIDS, and how ESCAP can address their needs
- Since large no of representatives participated at the session, there should be kind of separate group discussions in order to get everybody's attention.
- Subregional activities for development
- Specific focus on the priority needs of the less developed and disadvantaged minority group countries
- More time for intervention from everybody
- Ensure sound Internet access. Simplify access to all session documents.
- Smart paper conference; reduce duration of the CS from 7 to 5 days.
- More home work by the delegates
- To encourage the committee which are set up as subsidiary structure.
- It is more fruitful to discuss the issues raise in the committee of the whole session widely using an expert panel.
- Framework ,focal points, measurement and evaluation
- Bring more voices of DPOs at grassroots level related to particular issues.
- To give more time for interactive discussions rather than statements.
- Given more time to the expert panelists to deliver without repeating the same country panelists.
- More extensive discussion on role of UNESCAP on the theme.
- More countries may be asked to share the success stories for the benefit of others to learn and equip themselves to avoid possible mistakes.
- Ensure senior level representation from each country
- More Panel Discussion

- Give more time for discussion and less time for speeches and country statements
- A clear and concise account of what is the status quo of developments/progress since the last session, in particular and also for at least the last five sessions.
- Efforts must continue to enhance interactive nature of various sessions, more focus on policy debate, and a manageable number of side events.
- The work of the various intergovernmental bodies within ESCAP should also contribute to the theme of the commission.
- Delegates to be given more substantive time to participate in sharing best practices in dealing with disasters and economic crisis
- Member states should be encouraged to include CSOS in delegation

**What could have been done to improve the Senior Officials segment of the Commission session?**

- More interactive discussions could be adopted to facilitate greater deliberation.
- Take one more day for meeting
- Structured South-South Cooperation
- To be stricter with the time on discussions from the floor and to mirror the open panel discussion during the ministers segment.
- inter-regional session
- Improve the agenda to address SIDS development needs
- Try to get more attention
- More meeting
- It would have been better too send the respective country Representative the paper presented in the panel discussion on various is their email.
- Sufficient
- Clarify and add transparency to the procedure of adoption of commission decisions
- Receiving comments on the outcome documents before formal starting session.
- Sufficient time is needed to receive the draft resolutions.
- More agencies outlines and frames ahead are very supportive effort to improve the CS.
- Propose to develop the linkages between the senior official segment and the ministerial segment by filling all the gaps.
- Sustaining the standard and updating the resent changes in policy and focus on employment generation programs.

- More discussion between member states
- Might have time for each regional grouping to discuss issues of interest before taking it up before the entire meeting so as to have a good insight on issues each groups have in common and those in divergence to find the most practical way during the meeting to address them.
- We would appreciate a greater and more substantive focus on the issues of the Pacific region, as one half of the Asia and the Pacific region. Of course, the Asian part of the Asia/Pacific region is always of great interest to us as well.
- Possibilities should be explored to have better time management and some thematic focus during SOM.
- Presentation of more issue or policy papers as basis for evidence-based discussion and in reaching agreements or next steps

**What could have been done to improve the Ministerial segment of the Commission session?**

- More time could be given to the panel discussion to tackle more substantial issues or less panelists could be considered.
- More structured strategy for implementation of programme and projects geared to addressing social, economic problems with in the region.
- To have more time designated to the open panel discussions.
- Keep going with Ministerial panel discussion to hear lessons learn on the topic discussed
- More country decision makers
- We need more SIDS, especially the Pacific issues to be more visible and heard
- All addresses in English language,
- Schedule policy deliberations before side-event
- This is the best
- To find the specific ways forward the intergovernmental cooperation.
- Same as the previous observation on SO segment
- Country statements should be given less time; we need more time for discussions on during the Ministerial segment so as to raise issues directly to our leaders who attend the Ministerial segment.
- Again, some balance between the two regions' representation, i.e especially the island member states which are at the frontline of climate change challenges such as Kiribati, Tuvalu, etc; noting also the relevance of the theme of the 69th session to



the Pacific region vulnerabilities. Thank you for giving Fiji the opportunity to be a part of the Ministerial Panel segment. This is very much appreciated!

- Panel speakers to provide or share discussion papers to the delegates to insure intelligent interactions and analysis of their propositions

**What could have been done to improve the organization and servicing of the Commissions session?**

- Encourage delegations to sustain their prospect resolutions to give more time for consultation.
- Outcomes of the daily sessions were not put out on the website on time...little bit late.
- It would be useful if Members could be notified in advance time allowed for each Statement in the "Policy Issues for the Asia Pacific Region" session.
- It would be useful if Members could be notified in advance time allowed for each Statement in the "Policy Issues for the Asia Pacific Region" session.
- To allow countries more time to review the draft resolutions.
- Secretariat is already good
- Secretariat must make time to meet the delegations from the PSIDS, many of whom don't know your system, and key people to help address their needs to be part of the agenda.
- Allocate more time for discussions
- Requested to send the panel discussion presentation by various experts to the participants email address
- Despite paper draft resolutions still need to be printed out and circulated among participants of IWDR.
- Request to develop a system to upgrade the knowledge of member countries via email website and media.
- It would be useful if Members could be notified well in advance time allowed to each statement in the "Policy Issues for the Asian Pacific Region" session.
- Some important commodities, which can retain farmers in the rural areas and providing employment opportunity may be identified for drafting better policy and programs for sustaining such Crops/Commodities.
- Commission to notify states earlier on the resolutions.
- Efficient and effective, given the resources available. Responsiveness of member states needs to be sharpened, i.e. through improved national capacity building.

Secretariat was highly responsive/very accommodating and helpful to communications from our national stakeholders. We had some last minute requests which were kindly and efficiently facilitated by the Secretariat. Thank you!

- The present arrangements are quite effective and should continue.

**What motivated your Government to designate the level of your delegation to participate in the Commission session?**

- Commitment to ESCAP work and partnership with ESCAP.
- Have followed the economic and social development of the Asian and Pacific countries, actively participated in international cooperation for disaster reduction in Asia-Pacific region and in other fields, and actively participated in the consultation process of the MDG and post-2015 development agenda.
- The organization's responsibility
- Matters/ and UN frameworks involving Transport Policy and Security
- Being one of the fastest growing economy in the Pacific region and home to 6-7% of the world's biodiversity, sustainable development is at the core of the development agenda for the country. And so the government fully supports the Commissions work and felt the need to send a delegation to attend the session.
- The agenda and expected level of representation
- It was an independent participation.
- The agenda and expected level of representation.
- To have senior officials work in plenary as well as working group levels of the commission and to report back to our capitol.
- Sharing information and lesson learn
- Not enough time for your communication to arrive at our capitol.
- As the focal point of the United Nations in Asia.
- Malaysia was waiting for the general election. Therefore, no minister was available. Wrong timing.
- The usefulness of the session for review the progress and designing future policies
- The Embassy to the kingdom of Thailand is also observer to ESCAP since a few years.
- Our internal and Foreign policy priorities
- The importance of sessions decisions for further commission
- Review of substantive issues

- Relevancy of the agenda topic.
- Substantive items
- To participate in regional cooperation and international networking.
- To generate policy options through identification of key socio-economic issues affecting the region.
- More appropriate and relevant delegation is designated to take participation.
- Highly motivated to prepare for Commission Session.
- Climate Issues
- Among others, the agenda and level of representation of Members.
- Base on the focal points and what each delegate is responsible to (with regarding the issues to be discussed in ESCAP) in the our government Ministries.
- Due to elections in Pakistan, Government was not in a position to send a Ministerial delegation.
- To learn and share knowledge on important issues affecting the region

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

- Yes, PNG we have now establish a Working Group to address all the Resolution drawn from the meeting. We hope to invite our PM to be on the Delegation for 70th Session of UN ESCAP Meeting in 2014.
- The meeting report and proposed actions are drafted for wider representation by the country at the next session...
- A wider (intersectoral) representation could definitely help. Better promotion of events and active seeking of more organizations that work at grassroots.
- Early invitation
- For PSIDS; if the agenda is friendlier to address our issues, not trade, but climate change, disaster risk management, Fisheries/Oceans, transportation.
- Our team is big enough
- Schedule at the right time.
- Participation oh higher rank representation is sufficient, but in future commission session it needs more sectoral participation. Because, the role of Myanmar in international collaboration is coming high.
- Attended at the highest level
- The shorter duration, following the decisions taken at the 69th Commission Session, should be one of the reasons to attract higher level participation.
- The Philippine delegation is composed of high level officials of the country

**What was the most successful feature of the sixty-eighth session of the Commission?**

- Very good session
- The ministerial panel of the theme topic and break gave delegations the opportunity to network
- Highest number of resolutions
- Representations from all countries in the Asia Pacific reflected, and achievement of the Commission's mandate as the main economic and social development center.
- The out come of the meeting in each session and each sector
- Roundtable on Theme Study and High Level Panel where there were interactive discussions.
- The forum was successful in bringing together significant number of governments and groups of the region and gave a fair chance to all to put forth their agendas.
- Ministerial Segment
- The open panel discussion in which Ministers or former ministers were invited to have open and frank discussions with delegates.
- Building common interest
- Considering sectoral concerns in some of the agreed policies and resolutions
- Panel discussions from various government leaders and eminent people
- Two panel discussions participated by experts in relevant ares and moderated by the Executive director
- Building resilience to natural disasters
- Well organised
- Review of the development framework from MDG to a more comprehensive and longer term framework
- The panel discussion on various issues of socio-economic development
- Inviting to Ministers, dealing with important topics.
- Panel discussion
- Theme topic to exchange views on Disaster prevention and knowledge sharing
- High level Panels
- Adoption of the agreement on dry ports.
- Ministerial panel and Sustainable Development and the development agenda beyond 2015
- Every session is achieving and most effective member countries.
- Interactive session

- Comprehensive, Inclusive.
- The theme
- Senior official segment resolution and decisions
- Panel discussions on DDR, Social Development are most successful in cooperation among the member states and development partners.
- Committee of the whole sessions in the Senior Official segment.
- Co ordination co operation capacity building and responsibility
- The Ministerial (and other) Panel sessions. The panel consisted of candidates that had a wealth of knowledge that were key to relevant needs of the region and to bestow such knowledge and experience was key.
- The adaptation of the resolution on the Conference Structure is found to be the most successful feature of the 69th session.
- To strengthen network
- To give Delegates the opportunity to discuss the current problems of the Region and their solutions.
- Panel discussions
- Roundtable on Theme Study and High Level Panel where there were likely dialogues and discussions.
- The ex tempore speech of the Dr.Noelen Heyzer and her moderation of a session was excellent. The content and sharing experience is the best way to correct/ learn from the lessons.
- Selection of the theme
- Panel Discussion
- The panel groups during the Ministerial segment
- High level awareness of the environmental problem in Asian and Pacific area
- The interactive panel sessions and wide participatory approach using live audience both online and in-session.
- High-level participation, presence of Deputy Secretary General of UN from New York, and interactive nature of Ministerial panels. Opening Ceremony as well as Executive Secretary's round up was most successful events.
- The relevance of the issues for our region, and having substantive resolutions and outcome for this priority issues.
- High level panel meeting on building resilience to natural disaster and economic crisis

**What was the least successful feature of the sixty-sixth session of the Commission?**

- Many issues critical to the majority population (poor) of the region were not highlighted and not given the platform they deserved. Such as, agriculture in the realm of SDGs.
- Formal Country Statements
- Building fairness on trade
- Being too general
- Small Islands Agenda continues to be very weak
- Suggestions made by country representatives.
- Trade & Investment
- Addressing the development needs of the least developed countries
- Not enough discussion.
- Side event during the lunch
- Wireless access to Internet failed often. Difficulties in accessing draft resolutions and Commission Decisions.
- Conference structure of the commission
- Too many agenda in one go
- Time management
- Sharing in knowledge and experience in trade and investment sector.
- DPOs contribution
- Different level of representation from different countries. Some have been represented by senior level delegation and some have been represented by delegation who does not have power or authority to follow actions on implementation of commission's recommendation
- Less participation by delegations towards the end of the session.
- Ensuring optimal participation in side-events.
- It seems that the regional offices of UN agencies and bodies should have a strong presence in the plenary meetings and COWs of the Commission to contribute to the relevant issues that are within their mandates.

**Please provide any additional comments you may have on the sixty-eighth session of the Commission and any suggestions for the improvement of the future sessions.**

- More emphasis on the issues of agricultural sustainability and those of farmers as they comprise a significant population, majority in some countries, of the Asia-Pacific region.

- To allow more time for the circulation of pre-session documents.
- People decrease everyday
- Your agenda needs to be more inclusive in looking at Pacific Islands needs, and bigger voice in guiding the agenda, because a lot of the discussion do not relate to our needs, and challenges.
- Some kind of cultural activities of Thailand for the participants during leisure hours.
- Many participants has observed that the meeting hall temperature is very cold. It is better to maintain a warm temperature in the meeting hall
- First attempt to organize paperless session reveled a number of drawbacks (internet access, ESCAP website access, draft evaluation access etc) which need to be targeted and eliminated.
- Sessions should be held at (each time) UNCC, ESCAP, Bangkok
- We need to be more pragmatic and practical in all we say and the results during the sessions.
- The 69th Session was unprecedented in terms of level of participation as well as quality of Ministerial panel discussions, and relevance of issues for policy debate. The UN Deputy Secretary General's presence was equally important in showcasing the Commission's work to Secretary General's team in New York. Similar efforts should continue in future.
- Some of the panels were excellent especially on Natural Disasters and regional commissions

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