



Summary Assessment of the Outcome of the 70th session of the Commission by delegates*

Bangkok

23 May 2014 (Phase I), 4-8 August 2014 (Phase II)

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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 70th session of the Commission.

Summary Assessment of the Outcome of the 70th session of the Commission

I. Introduction

The 70th session of the Commission was held in Bangkok on 23 May (phase I), and from 4-8 August 2014 (phase II).

A questionnaire assessing the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the Commission session was distributed to delegates. The total number of returned individual questionnaires was 27. The responding delegates came from 18 of the 47 ESCAP members and associate members in attendance at the session. The overall response rate is therefore 44%. The present assessment was prepared on the basis of these questionnaire responses.

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 372 participants attended the 70th session of the Commission. Of that total, 293 were from the 47 participating ESCAP members and associate members, while 79 participants were from ESCAP and other entities, 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 governments were represented through ministerial level officials, seven of which were full ministers, and three of which were Heads of State. In terms of the number of Heads of State in attendance, and in comparison with previous sessions of the Commission held over the past ten years (since the 61st session of the Commission in 2005), the 70th session of the Commission ranks joint first with the 62nd and 67th sessions of the Commission, as can be seen from the chart in Annex III.

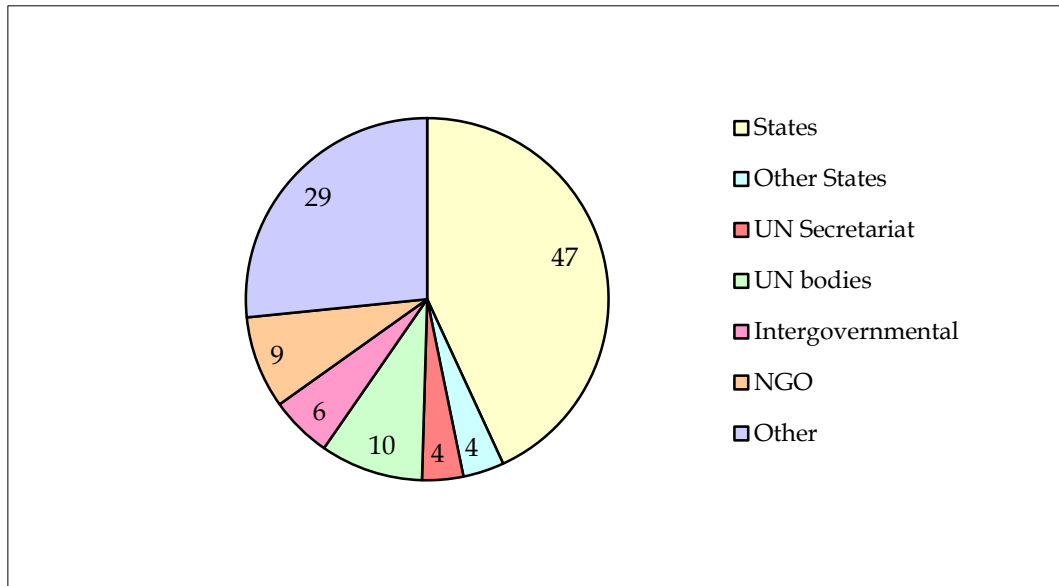


Fig. 1: Type and Number of entities attendance at the 70th session of the Commission.

Delegates were asked what could have increased the level of their participation, and among the suggestions were: secretariat to indicate in the invitation the rank of the representatives; more funded participants; and timely invitation to high ranking officials (for further details please refer to Annex IV).

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 agreed that the Commission session was owned and driven by member States. A slightly smaller majority agreed that the benefits of their attendance justified the related costs.

Many respondents, though not all, agreed that the number of Committees of the Whole (organized as parallel sessions) allowed all delegations to fully participate.

A large majority of respondents agreed 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. Most, but not all, agreed that the secretariat's in-session interventions contributed to effective conduct and outcome of the session.

| To what extent do you agree with the following statements? | Strongly agree (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | Strongly disagree (5) |
|---|--------------------|---------|--------|-------|-----------------------|
| a. The Commission session was owned and driven by member States. | 5(22%) | 13(57%) | 3(13%) | 1(4%) | 1(4%) |
| b. The benefits of my delegation's attendance at the session justified the costs (travel, time, opportunity cost of absence from the office). | 6(27%) | 9(41%) | 7(32%) | 0(0%) | 0(0%) |
| c. The number of Committees of the Whole [parallel sessions] allowed all delegations to participate fully in the Commission session. | 4(17%) | 12(52%) | 5(22%) | 2(9%) | 0(0%) |
| d. The overall outcome of the deliberations was positive and a result of a collaborative effort by member States. | 8(35%) | 12(52%) | 3(13%) | 0(0%) | 0(0%) |
| e. The draft reports accurately reflected the discussions, decisions and recommendations of the Commission. | 6(26%) | 15(65%) | 2(9%) | 0(0%) | 0(0%) |
| f. The secretariat's in-session interventions contributed to effective conduct and outcome of the session. | 7(30%) | 11(48%) | 4(17%) | 1(4%) | 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 70th session as having achieved a satisfactory outcome.

The majority of respondents strongly agreed 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.

Almost half of the respondents strongly agreed that 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.

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

The theme topic chosen for the 70th session of the Commission, "Regional connectivity for shared prosperity", was seen by a majority to have reflected the current needs and priorities of the region.

| To what extent do you agree with the following statements? | Strongly agree (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | Strongly disagree (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. | 14(58%) | 9(37%) | 1(4%) | 0(0%) | 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. | 11(46%) | 11(46%) | 2(8%) | 0(0%) | 0(0%) |
| c. The Commission is achieving synergies and building effective partnerships with other relevant intergovernmental and international (including United Nations system) organizations at the regional and subregional levels. | 7(30%) | 12(52%) | 3(13%) | 1(4%) | 0(0%) |
| d. The theme for the seventieth Commission session: "Regional connectivity for shared prosperity" reflects the current needs and priorities of the region in general, and my country/territory in particular. | 13(57%) | 9(39%) | 1(4%) | 0(0%) | 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.

Almost half of the respondents strongly agreed that the deliberations during the Senior Officials segment were focused and effective at identifying key emerging issues affecting the region.

A majority also strongly agreed that the deliberations were effective at providing guidance to the work of the secretariat, in particular the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017.

More than half of the respondents strongly agreed 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.

The respondents were generally agreed that the deliberations were effective at discussing progress achieved and gaps requiring priority attention with regard to the implementation of Commission resolutions and decisions; and that the deliberations were effective at deciding on the recommendations of the subsidiary bodies.

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 (for further details, please refer to Annex IV).

| To what extent do you agree with the following statements regarding the <u>Senior Officials segment</u> ? | Strongly agree (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | Strongly disagree (5) |
|--|--------------------|---------|--------|-------|-----------------------|
| a. The deliberations were focused and effective at identifying the key emerging issues that merit policy attention in the region. | 11(47%) | 11(47%) | 1(5%) | 0(0%) | 0(0%) |
| b. The deliberations were effective at discussing progress achieved and gaps requiring priority attention with regard to the implementation of Commission resolutions and decisions. | 9(40%) | 11(50%) | 1(5%) | 1(5%) | 0(0%) |
| c. The deliberations were effective at deciding on the recommendations of the subsidiary bodies. | 8(38%) | 10(48%) | 3(14%) | 0(0%) | 0(0%) |
| d. The deliberations were effective at providing guidance to the work of the secretariat, in particular the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017. | 11(50%) | 7(32%) | 3(14%) | 1(5%) | 0(0%) |
| e. The Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries was successful in highlighting the priority concerns of these countries and identifying measures to address these concerns through regional cooperation. | 11(52%) | 6(29%) | 4(19%) | 0(0%) | 0(0%) |

b. Outcomes of the Ministerial segment

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

A majority of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed that the deliberations were effective both in highlighting areas for regional cooperation to address key socioeconomic issues, and at generating policy options. Similarly, they also agreed that the resolutions and decisions adopted reflected the key outcomes of the seventieth session of the Commission.

| To what extent do you agree with the following statements regarding the <u>Ministerial segment</u> ? | Strongly agree (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | Strongly disagree (5) |
|--|--------------------|---------|--------|-------|-----------------------|
| a. The deliberations were focused and effective at generating policy options for addressing key socioeconomic issues affecting the region. | 13(57%) | 6(26%) | 4(17%) | 0(0%) | 0(0%) |
| b. The deliberations were effective in highlighting areas for regional cooperation to address key socioeconomic issues affecting the region. | 10(44%) | 12(52%) | 1(4%) | 0(0%) | 0(0%) |
| c. The resolutions and decisions adopted reflected the key outcomes of the seventieth session of the Commission. | 8(35%) | 11(48%) | 4(17%) | 0(0%) | 0(0%) |

V. Organizational aspects

Overall, responses demonstrated that the secretariat effectively and efficiently serviced the 70th session of the Commission, but that there were also areas for improvement.

a. Organization and servicing by the secretariat

While a majority of respondents agreed that sufficient time was allocated to agenda items during the session, some indicated this aspect could be improved. The majority was also positive in their feedback on the organization of work in-between sessions.

Most of the respondents also agreed that the communication between member States and the secretariat in-between Commission sessions contributed to the effective functioning of the Commission session.

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

Most of the respondents agreed that the submission of draft resolutions by member States allowed sufficient time for review; and that the pre-session servicing by the secretariat through the Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions provided a useful basis for decision-making during the Commission session.

| To what extent do you agree with the following statements? | Strongly agree (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | Strongly disagree (5) |
|---|--------------------|---------|--------|-------|-----------------------|
| a. Sufficient time was allocated to agenda items during the session. | 7(30%) | 10(44%) | 4(17%) | 2(9%) | 0(0%) |
| b. The servicing by the secretariat facilitated effective outcomes. | 11(48%) | 8(35%) | 4(17%) | 0(0%) | 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.). | 9(41%) | 9(41%) | 4(18%) | 0(0%) | 0(0%) |
| d. The communication between the secretariat and member States between Commission sessions contributed to the effective functioning of the Commission session. | 8(36%) | 11(50%) | 2(9%) | 1(4%) | 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. | 10(45%) | 8(36%) | 4(18%) | 0(0%) | 0(0%) |
| 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. | 10(50%) | 7(35%) | 3(15%) | 0(0%) | 0(0%) |

b. 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? | Strongly agree (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | Strongly disagree (5) |
|--|-----------------------|---------|--------|-------|--------------------------|
| a. The pre-session documents conveyed clear messages concerning the issues placed on the agenda. | 12(52%) | 10(44%) | 1(4%) | 0(0%) | 0(0%) |
| b. The pre-session documents were issued in a timely manner. | 10(46%) | 9(41%) | 2(9%) | 1(5%) | 0(0%) |
| c. The posting of documents through the ESCAP website facilitated my delegations review. | 13(57%) | 7(30%) | 3(13%) | 0(0%) | 0(0%) |

VI. Awareness and recognition of ESCAP

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

| | Often (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | Never (5) |
|---|------------------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------|
| 1. How often do you visit ESCAP social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube)? | 1(4%) | 4(17%) | 9(39%) | 5(22%) | 4(17%) |
| 2. How often do you visit the ESCAP website (www.unescap.org)? | 8(35%) | 5(22%) | 6(26%) | 2(9%) | 2(9%) |
| 3. How often do you draw on your knowledge about the work of ESCAP to support or improve your activities? | 6(29%) | 5(24%) | 8(38%) | 2(10%) | 0(0%) |
| | Very high (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | Very low (5) |
| 4. How do you rate the usefulness of the information on the ESCAP website? | 10(46%) | 7(32%) | 4(18%) | 1(5%) | 0(0%) |

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 70th session of the Commission were noted as: the panel discussions, including the theme study; the Ministerial Segment on Regional Connectivity for Shared Prosperity;; adoption of resolutions; preparatory meeting on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs; and discussions among member countries.

On the other hand, the time management of some sessions was mentioned as least successful feature.

VIII. Conclusion and additional comments

This assessment demonstrates that the 70th 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.

In conclusion, delegates expressed general satisfaction with the preparations for, servicing and outcome of the 70th 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 70th session of the Commission

| | Country | No. of participants | | Country | No. of participants |
|----|----------------------|---------------------|----|---|---------------------|
| 1 | Afghanistan* | - | 33 | Palau* | - |
| 2 | Armenia | 1 | 34 | Papua New Guinea | 3 |
| 3 | Australia | 2 | 35 | Philippines | 11 |
| 4 | Azerbaijan | 2 | 36 | Rep. of Korea | 16 |
| 5 | Bangladesh | 7 | 37 | Russian Federation | 16 |
| 6 | Bhutan | 17 | 38 | Samoa | 1 |
| 7 | Brunei Darussalam | 3 | 39 | Singapore | 2 |
| 8 | Cambodia | 10 | 40 | Solomon Islands | 2 |
| 9 | China | 10 | 41 | Sri Lanka | 6 |
| 10 | DPRK | 5 | 42 | Tajikistan* | - |
| 11 | Fiji | 4 | 43 | Thailand | 38 |
| 12 | France | 1 | 44 | Timor-Leste | 11 |
| 13 | Georgia* | - | 45 | Tonga | 6 |
| 14 | India | 10 | 46 | Turkey | 3 |
| 15 | Indonesia | 7 | 47 | Turkmenistan | 1 |
| 16 | Islamic Rep. of Iran | 8 | 48 | Tuvalu | 3 |
| 17 | Japan | 25 | 49 | UK* | - |
| 18 | Kazakhstan | 3 | 50 | USA | 5 |
| 19 | Kiribati | 1 | 51 | Uzbekistan | 1 |
| 20 | Kyrgyzstan* | - | 52 | Vanuatu | 4 |
| 21 | Lao PDR | 8 | 53 | Viet Nam | 5 |
| 22 | Malaysia | 2 | | | |
| 23 | Maldives* | - | | Associate members | |
| 24 | Marshall Island | 1 | 54 | American Samoa* | - |
| 25 | Micronesia* | - | 55 | Cook Islands | 1 |
| 26 | Mongolia | 10 | 56 | French Polynesia* | - |
| 27 | Myanmar | 3 | 57 | Guam* | - |
| 28 | Nauru | 1 | 58 | Hong Kong, China | 1 |
| 29 | Nepal | 6 | 59 | Macao, China | 5 |
| 30 | Netherlands* | - | 60 | New Caledonia* | - |
| 31 | New Zealand | 1 | 61 | Niue* | - |
| 32 | Pakistan | 4 | 62 | Northern Mariana Islands* | - |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | Total no. of member State participants : 293 | |

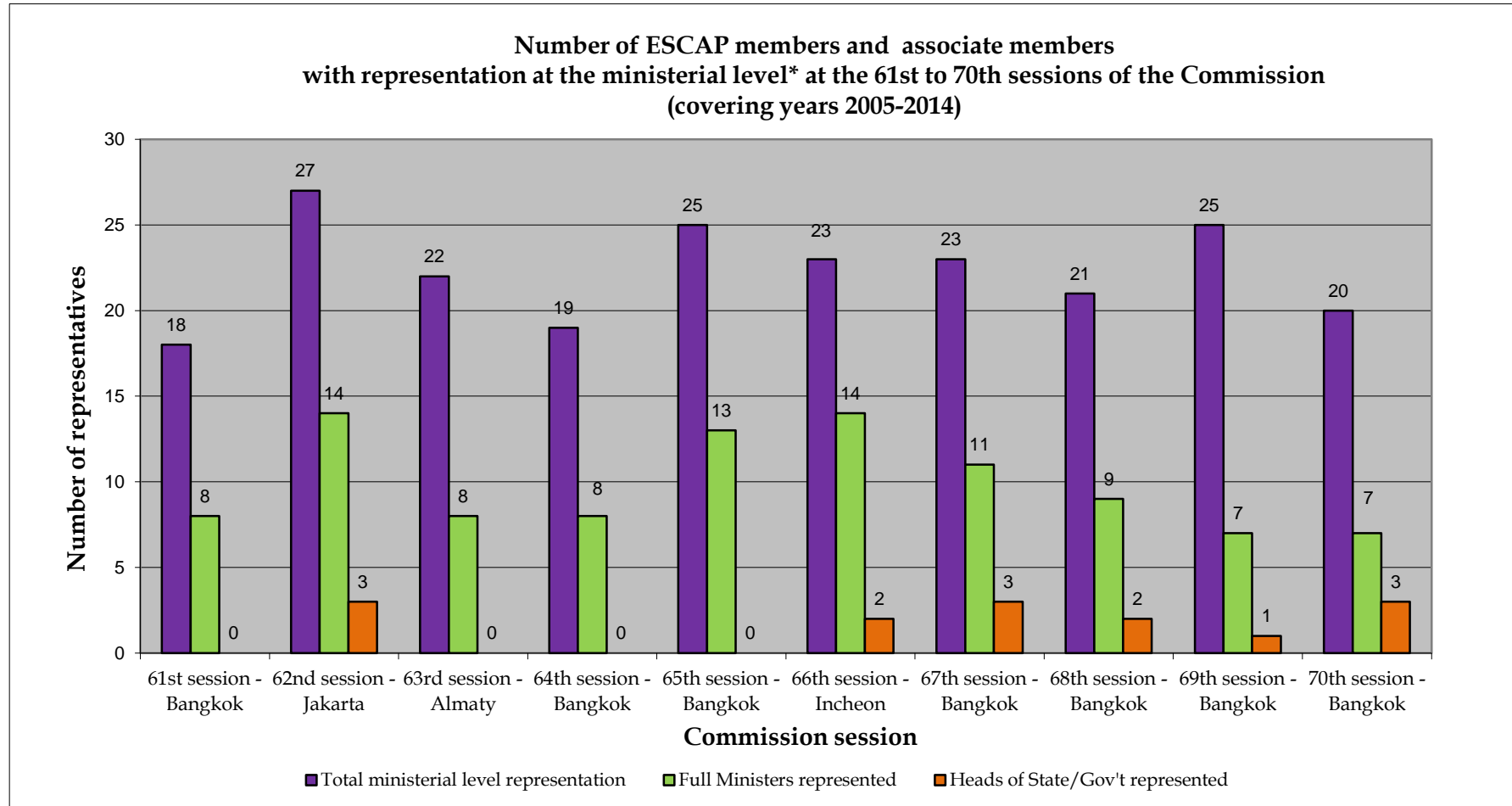
* Countries did not attend

Annex II

Attendance of other participants at the 70th session of the Commission

| | | No. of participants | | | No. of participants |
|---|--|---------------------|--|---|---------------------|
| | Other States | | | Non-Governmental Organizations | |
| 1 | Austria | 1 | | AFPPD | 1 |
| 2 | Belgium | 2 | | Baha'I International Community | 1 |
| 3 | Czech Republic | 1 | | CITYNET | 1 |
| 4 | Hungary | 1 | | FIATA | 1 |
| | | 5 | | LDC Watch | 1 |
| | | | | OFAP | 1 |
| | United Nations Secretariat | | | PPSEAWA | 3 |
| 5 | ESCAP | 2 | | ACWW | 2 |
| 6 | OHRLLS | 1 | | WASME | 3 |
| 7 | RCNYO | 1 | | | 14 |
| 8 | UN | 1 | | | |
| | | 5 | | Other Entities | |
| | | | | APCD | 3 |
| | UN Agencies and Bodies | | | Sovereign Military Order of Malta | 1 |
| | FAO | 1 | | The Holy See | 4 |
| | ICAO | 1 | | | 8 |
| | ITU | 2 | | | |
| | UNICEF | 1 | | Special Guests | 27 |
| | UNCCD | 3 | | | |
| | UNEP | 1 | | | |
| | UNIDO | 1 | | | |
| | WHO | 1 | | | |
| | WMO | 1 | | | |
| | WTO | 1 | | | |
| | | 13 | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | Intergovernmental Organizations | | | | |
| | APCC | 1 | | | |
| | ADB | 2 | | | |
| | IPC | 1 | | | |
| | IOM | 1 | | | |
| | PTC | 1 | | | |
| | Typhoon Committee | 1 | | | |
| | | 7 | | | |
| | | | | Total no. of non-member State participants | 79 |

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?

- Be more focus rather than trying to cover too many broad areas!
- Need more interactive panel discussion.
- No comments
- Not overload the commission with too many events.
- Some logistical aspects could have been improved.
- The Questions and Answer session for panel discussions was very adequate.
- Talk to our Regional Office. Beef up your small ESCAP Regional Office in Suva, and improve our capacity and focal points in member countries to ensure what is on our national priorities be addressed in your agenda. Improve your connectivity in our region, by more visits to know and understand us better. Seeing is believing, such as you see the Pacific in action, when Samoa hosted the most successful SIDS meeting. Don't wait another 20 years to implement our developmental "asks" that was communicated to the world, thru our theme "genuine and durable partnership", so what was agreed and promised be actioned now, rather than 20 years later.
- We ought to have taken a bold step to see a balance in developmental projects especially as the Pacific lagging countries are concerned
- Participation at higher political level from member states need to be encouraged more. 2. Relevance towards the outcome can be increased through more interactive discussions. 3. UNESCAP role to be transformed from normative action to a more substantial way forward.

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

- It was adequate.
- More interactive discussion to make it participative and lively.
- No comments
- Taking some time to send delegates to survey the landlocked Pacific Islands developing countries.
- There are two options to be effective: 1. give more time; 2. limit issue to be discussed.
- Improved your connectivity with Pacific Governments. It is very weak and distance, and as mentioned, dialogue must happen more frequent and more engaging in our relevant Regional CROPS Agencies, and governments themselves, so the Commission will be informed of their national priorities and assist where relevant, and needed.

- There is hardly anything different which could have been done given the framework and structure the SOS operated.
- Session's documents should be made available to the member states through website at least a month ago in order to get feedback from their capitals. 2. discussion should be more focused and interactive. 3. Senior officials could be invited as resource persons.

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

- It was adequate
- No comments
- Time management is an area that requires some attention.
- We ought to have given more considerations to the Pacific Islands landlocked countries.
- Ok
- Time management
- More interactive discussion. Need to take some meetings outside Bangkok reflecting the plus point of country or region concerned.
- The message here is for the ESCAP Secretariat to get to know the Pacific Leaders, visit member states that you, the Secretariat have never meet, or get to know, and understand their needs, let alone visit to understand why they request for certain areas of assistance, and not others in line with what the Secretariat has planned. The Pacific is not a "one size fits all" region. Everyone of the member states are unique in their own make, and developmental areas as mentioned earlier.
- There should be more panel discussions to include more agenda items that require attention of higher and political leadership. 2. Ministers could be invited as VIP along resource persons.

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

- Logistical preparation regarding country statement may be improved.
- No comments
- Timely Circulation of documents, specially the theme study and survey will be most appreciated
- We ought to have given constant reminder.
- Draft resolution need to be circulated among member states around two months before the session to receive feedback.
- Need time to coordinate between NY, Fiji, and Capitol. I often cover these ESCAP Meetings on last minute substitution, and would very much like to better support our small regional ESCAP in Suva, had I be given more time to understand the agenda and substance to be part of the Commission agenda. Coordination, and more engagement is very much encouraged. Suva to Pacific Capitols, UN and

ESCAP connectivity, especially for small islands states, like mine, that often call to cover these ESCAP meetings.

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

- Because we need to discuss issues that can help our community from serious poverty.
- Commitment to ESCAP + UN activities
- ESCAP's continuous support to the region
- N/A
- Policy issues discussed in commission and activities of ESCAP
- The importance of CS and the longstanding cooperation between China and ESCAP
- To provide report from the Meetings.
- Value the work of ESCAP as it will benefit Bhutan
- We felt the need to reinvigorate our engagement with ESCAP.
- We value the service provided by ESCAP
- Due to insufficient notice to Capitol, I was asked to attend the last 70th ESCAP Meeting. I, therefore, request that meeting notices, and other communication that go to the RMI, please copy me here in NY, so I can help where I can. I have lots of respect, admiration and gratitude for our Regional Director Iosefa Maiava, Pat, Tim and their small staff for holding up the fort covering the 16 Pacific Islands States to ESCAP, Bangkok, and doing such a brilliant job, given their small budget and presence in Suva.
- As a member state the session is very important for us. We are working very closely with commission
- Strong commitment for regional cooperation and the work of ESCAP as the most representative intergovernmental forum in the A+P region
- Availability motivated our Government to designate the level of our delegation to participate in the Commission session.
- The regional significance and relevance of ESCAP and the theme of the 70th session on regional connectivity.
- Standard obligation as a member state and appreciation of the Pm's nomination as Chair of the 70th Session of ESCAP

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

- Bangladesh was represented at sufficiently higher level.
- More funded participants
- N/A
- Regional integration opportunity

- Secretariat to determine in the invitation letter the minimum rank to be a representative.
- Sure if some cash was to be provided for transportation
- We are happy
- Better planning, especially that our leaders and senior officials are often engaged in other commitments, or on travel duty, and for small islands states, this is often a huge problem, resulting that I attend coming from UN, NY, or no one attends these, otherwise important ESCAP meetings.
- There should be timely invitations to high ranking officials by ESCAP 2. Timely availability of session documents. 3. Business class air travel for VIP resource persons.
- Numbers of meetings throughout the year affect decision of agencies to send representatives to participate in the Commission. If there are too many meetings, agencies are less likely to attach importance to their participation during the Commission.
- The assumption of our Prime Minister as the chair of the 70th Commission session gave impetus to send maximum participations from various sectors in the government.

What was the most successful feature of the seventieth session of the Commission?

- All
- All features were equally important.
- Discussion on common challenges and discuss approaches to move forward.
- Effective and active participation of all member countries in discussion.
- Information sharing/best practices
- Many delegates attended and seemed at ease with the resolutions of the seventieth session.
- Ministerial Segment on 'Regional Connectivity for Shared Prosperity'
- Panel discussions was the most successful.
- Substantive
- The theme topic for the Commission session was the most successful feature.
- Timing and selection of the theme.
- The one day preparatory meeting on LLDCs, LDSC and SIDs was very useful as it allowed these groups to come up with their common and united positions and recommendations. The Ministerial Panels on theme topic and Sustainable Developing and Financing were very educative and useful.
- Most successful feature was the inclusion of all International organizations and bodies to participate and observe in the meetings.
- The one day preparatory meeting on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS is very important to forge a common strategies and position.

- The new Director of ESCAP and UN Under Secretary message to be more supportive to the LLDCs, and SIDS development agenda, which for many years has never been the focused of ESCAP, and for the Pacific SIDS, we often feel left out, and that it is important for the Commission to ensure that the "P" in ESCAP needs to be more bolded, and be more assertive in the work of ESCAP, so that are issues, and challenges be addressed in the context that they be prioritized as not be left behind. The Pacific Region being small, remote, isolated and with small economies, needs more attention and assistance thru the ESCAP. Our challenges are unique, small and poor, yet we feel we are lumped in the bigger economies such as the ASEAN countries that are far richer and more developed in their development and connectivity. We are two different animals, that have what is often "termed" as differentiated, but common, however, the commonality is much too small to balance the ratio between the two; Asia, and remote and underdeveloped Pacific.
- 1. Adoption of 14 resolutions tabled by member states including Pakistan. 2. Panel discussion on the priority theme of regional connectivity and disaster risk reduction.
- The panel discussions on the theme study and the side event on accountability and monitoring were very interesting, but the event on SD and SD finances was the most crucial day the backdrop for way forward.

What was the least successful feature of the seventieth session of the Commission?

- All features were equally important.
- Almost Everything else on the agenda was almost irrelevant to us.
- Controlling time frame
- NIL
- No comments.
- None
- None as such, but felt that choice of panelist could have been more imaginative.
- There was no strong reaction to the needs of the smallest countries of the Pacific's needs.
- all successful
- none

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

- All arrangements for the session have been done professionally.
- I wish I could have borrowed a tablet at the session. I could not find a desk to get one.
- It was very successful.
- No comments.

- Not really, I think Commission has your own plan.
- Please we really need transportation assistance for our delegates
- Thank you, I have said enough for now, but do look forward to help where I can, and continue working with our Suva ESCAP Office. To close, I really liked the message from our new ESCAP Director and Under Secretary, that she will do her best to upgrade the portfolio of the LLDCs, LLCs, and Small Islands Pacific Developing States, and wish her all the best in her new tenure as ESCAP Head.
- - Delegates come to join ESCAP might have other extra schedule with other delegation, such as bilateral talk. Tagging behind schedule makes hard to do such thing. -These are always Bangladesh, China, India, Russia Federation making a lot statement while other states did not. Some statements are not focusing, repeating theories or praising themselves which are not really sharing experience, best practice or policy. Sometimes delegates get bored. - Is it possible for ESCAP to see the statement in advance for making it focus before state delegates read/say out?
- -we should try and cover limited issue so that they are adressed adequately or - more time be given (an extra day) -the meeting should be more interactive. More participatory approach rather than ESCAP taking lead -Minimal involvement of Executive Secretary-ESCAP since she appears nearly all the focus and greater involvement of her senior management team

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