

Summary Assessment

Committee on Social Development, fifth session **Bangkok** **28-30 November 2018**

I. Introduction

The Committee on Social Development, fifth session was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 28-30 November 2018.

A questionnaire assessing the relevance, effectiveness and quality of the meeting was distributed to each delegation of ESCAP members and associate members. In total, 13 of the 26 members and associate members in attendance submitted questionnaires. The overall response rate is therefore 50 per cent. The present assessment was prepared on the basis of these questionnaire responses.

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

II. Attendance

The Committee on Social Development was attended by 42 per cent of all ESCAP members and associate members (26 of 62). Some 16 of delegations (62 per cent) were headed by officials from the respective capital, including 2 participants at ministerial level. In total there were 109 individual participants, of whom 49 were female (45 per cent).

A number of other entities participated, including United Nations bodies and agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations. From these entities, there were 55 participants of whom 30 were female (55 per cent). Therefore, the total number of participants from both governments and other entities is 164 individuals and the total number of female participants is 79 (48 per cent).

III. Relevance of the session

Respondents agreed that the agenda items reflected the present development trends and issues in the Asian and Pacific region. The respondents also rated positively on relevance to the needs and priorities of their countries/territories (See table 1).

There were some suggestions and comments on the relevance of the session:

- Establish a frame work for social protection that is disability – inclusive and other vulnerable groups which can be used by countries as guide in the context of “leaving no one behind”.
- A few case studies should be discussed.
- Representatives of Civil Society Org representing vulnerable and disadvantaged groups should be part of panel of discussion to speak on how respective social protection programme are effective and inclusive of their needs in the respective countries and subregions and what areas of creating inclusiveness is important but are not addressed by the governments and regional bodies.

Table 1

EVALUATED STATEMENT	INDEX (0-100) ¹
The agenda items reflected the present development trends/issues of the Asian and Pacific region.	88
The agenda items are relevant to the needs and priorities of my country/territory.	85

IV. Effectiveness of the session

The respondents rated favorably regarding the session effectiveness in highlighting regional development trends and issues; in identifying priority areas and emerging issues in the region; in promoting dialogue on regional and subregional approaches to social development; and that the session documents were of high quality, concise and clear. The respondents also rated positively but slightly less in addressing gender-related issues. (See table 2).

There were some suggestions and comments on the effectiveness of the session:

- The session was relevant and interactive so effective.
- Allot more time on dialogues to engage participants.
- Panelist should focus not only their experience but also general view of related subject.

¹ Methodology, an index between 100 and 0 is given, whereby, at a value of 100, all respondents rate to a great extent to the statement, and, at a value of 0, all respondents rate to not at all.

Index = actual value of all aggregated responses - minimum value of all aggregated responses / maximum value of all aggregated responses - minimum value of all aggregated responses.

Table 2

EVALUATED STATEMENT	INDEX (0-100)
The session effectively highlighted regional development trends and issues.	90
The session effectively identified priority areas and emerging issues in the region.	90
The session effectively promoted dialogue on regional and subregional approaches to social development.	90
The session effectively addressed gender-related issues.	85
The session documents were of high quality, concise and clear.	90

V. Efficiency of the session

The respondents rated positively on the efficiency of accessibility services, such as real-time captioning. The servicing by the secretariat and the communications to the member States on the preparations for the session were also rated positive. However, the respondents gave a slightly lower rating on the time available for discussion during the session. (Table 3).

There were some suggestions and comments on the efficiency of the organizational and servicing aspects of the session:

- More materials in accessible format
- More time needed for panel discussion
- Presentation time is not enough. But very important session and presentation.

Table 3

EVALUATED STATEMENT	INDEX (0-100)
The time available for discussion during the session was adequate.	75
The servicing by the secretariat was efficient and effective.	88
The communications from the secretariat to the member States on the preparations for the session were effective.	83
The session provided adequate accessibility services, such as real-time captioning.	93

VI. Other comments

The respondents indicated concrete actions that their government would take in response to the decisions and recommendations of the session included:

- We will support the development and implementation of a regional framework on social protection.
- Social protection programme will be reviewed on priority.

VII. Conclusion

Overall, in conclusion, responding delegations agreed that the fifth session of the Committee on Social Development was successful.

The session was positively seen as relevant to the needs of the region. The effectiveness of the session was all seen very positive in highlighting regional development trends and issues; in identifying priority areas and emerging issues; in promoting dialogue on regional and subregional approaches to social development. The session documents were also of high quality, concise and clear. The efficiency of the session also received very positive feedback, especially in providing adequate accessibility services, such as real-time captioning.
