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**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific****Seventy-second session**

Bangkok, 15-19 May 2016

Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

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

The present document is submitted to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for its endorsement. It covers the activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission during the period June 2015 to March 2016. The Commission may wish to provide comments on the report.

**I. Introduction**

1. The present document covers the activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission during the period June 2015 to March 2016. The Advisory Committee appointed Mr. Tugsbilguun Tumurkhuleg (Mongolia) to serve as Rapporteur of the Advisory Committee, with the responsibility of presenting the report to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) at its seventy-second session.

**II. Activities of the Advisory Committee**

2. During the period under review, the Advisory Committee held five regular sessions and six informal and special sessions. Some of the topics in the informal and special sessions included: modalities for conducting the first session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology,

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\* E/ESCAP/72/L.1.

\*\* The present document was submitted late owing to the need to take into account the consideration by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission of this report at its 364th session, which was held on 24 March 2016.

Science, Technology and Innovation; the outcomes of the first meeting of the Working Group on the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway; preparations for the fourth session of the Committee on Environment and Development; the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2018-2019; preparations for the seventy-second session of the Commission; preparations for the third session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development; and an introductory briefing on the Commission and the secretariat for new members of the Advisory Committee.

3. At its regular sessions, the Advisory Committee discussed, among others, the following subjects:

(a) Preparations for the seventy-second session of the Commission: the Advisory Committee was briefed by the secretariat on the preparations for the seventy-second session of the Commission and provided useful guidance;

(b) Outcome of the seventy-first session of the Commission: in its review of the outcome of the seventy-first session of the Commission, the Advisory Committee considered the major achievements of the session, such as the adoption of 14 resolutions and 38 decisions by the Commission, including resolution 71/1 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda;

(c) Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its seventy-first session: the Advisory Committee extended advice and provided useful guidance on the implementation by the secretariat of resolutions adopted by the Commission;

(d) Proposed calendar of ESCAP meetings and training activities during the period January to December 2016: the Advisory Committee reviewed the proposed calendar and provided advice to the secretariat on the proposed activities;

(e) Work of the secretariat in the subregions: the Advisory Committee was briefed regularly, through videoconferencing, on ongoing ESCAP initiatives in the subregions and the work of its subregional offices and regional institutions;

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

(i) Second session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development;

(ii) Fourth session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction;

(iii) Fourth Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Week, including the fourth session of the Committee on Trade and Investment;

(iv) Fourth session of the Committee on Environment and Development;

(v) Sixth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum;

(vi) Tenth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, and the Programme's 2015 Economic Forum;

(vii) Third session of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development;

(viii) Eleventh session of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;

- (ix) Tenth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development;
- (x) Eleventh session of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization;
- (xi) Eleventh session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology;
- (xii) Twelfth session of the Governing Council of the Centre for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture;
- (xiii) Fourth session of the Committee on Social Development (preparation only);
- (xiv) First High-level Follow-up Dialogue on Financing for Development in Asia and the Pacific (preparation only);
- (xv) Third session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (preparation only);
- (xvi) Third session of the Ministerial Conference on Transport (preparation only).

4. The Advisory Committee was briefed by the secretariat on the draft strategic framework for ESCAP for the biennium 2018-2019. The Advisory Committee reviewed the draft and provided guidance prior to it being submitted to the Commission at its seventy-second session.

5. The Advisory Committee was also briefed by the secretariat on the proposal for the seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project at the ESCAP premises in Bangkok.

6. Members of the Advisory Committee informed the body of their national plans and priorities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals. They briefed the Advisory Committee on the steps that had been taken and of those that would be taken in due course to ensure the effective implementation.

7. The Executive Secretary also regularly informed the Advisory Committee of activities relating to the priority issues of the United Nations and of ESCAP, as well as the outcome of her missions to ESCAP members and associate members and to other countries, her attendance at major meetings, cooperative initiatives between member States and the secretariat, and administrative and programme matters concerning ESCAP. The Advisory Committee expressed its continued appreciation for the briefings of the Executive Secretary, noting that it found them useful and informative.

### **III. Conclusion**

8. The members of the Advisory Committee actively contributed to strengthening the Advisory Committee's deliberative and advisory role during the reporting period. The partnership between member States and the secretariat was further reinforced. The Advisory Committee provided advice and guidance on important issues concerning the Commission and the secretariat, including on the implementation of resolutions adopted by the Commission, organization of various intergovernmental meetings and initiatives of the secretariat.

9. The Advisory Committee remained aware of the importance of improved coordination among all relevant stakeholders and progress in carrying out the economic and social agenda of ESCAP – particularly in the light of the 2030 Agenda and the pursuit of regional economic cooperation and integration – in accordance with the development priorities of member States. Continued constructive cooperation and mutual support between the Advisory Committee and the Executive Secretary has helped advance the Commission’s overall goals and objectives, enhanced its international profile and positioned it strategically to support the member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

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