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Programme planning

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 16

Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

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* A/69/50.



Overall orientation

16.1 The mandate of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), which is derived from Economic and Social Council resolutions 37 (IV) and 414 (XIII) by which the Commission was established, is to promote regional cooperation for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. The role of the Commission was subsequently elaborated upon in various resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission itself.

16.2 This strategic framework covers the first biennium of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (as and when approved by the General Assembly). Its strategic direction is derived from internationally agreed development mandates, including the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which emphasized the role of the regional commissions in promoting the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development; General Assembly resolution [67/226](#) on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, which called for the adoption of collaborative approaches to support country-level development initiatives; and Commission resolution [69/1](#) on a conference structure of the Commission for the inclusive and sustainable development of Asia and the Pacific.

16.3 Home to nearly two thirds of the world's population, Asia and the Pacific is also the largest regional economy. Despite the lingering impact of the global financial crisis, Asia stands firm as the centre of the global economic recovery; serves as the hub of international trade, investment and technology transfer; and has succeeded in eliminating half of the world's absolute poverty. Drawing on these foundations, the region stands at the cusp of its next large transformation as it rethinks and reinvests in itself, and rebalances economies towards greater reliance on domestic and regional demand to sustain economic dynamism and close infrastructural and development gaps.

16.4 Despite such progress, most of the world's poor and hungry still reside in the region. Poverty is not only prevalent in the least developed countries, but also in many middle-income countries. As benefits from economic growth continue to be distributed unevenly, increasing inequality between and within countries continues to pose a key challenge. With many workers remaining in vulnerable employment and millions of youths looking for jobs, creation of decent and productive jobs remains a priority. Economic insecurity is heightened by limited social protection coverage within much of the region. Eradication of poverty, balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development and promotion of inclusive economic and social policies to address these challenges will continue to be core priorities for ESCAP.

16.5 Economic growth coupled with changing patterns of production and consumption has increased the exploitation of natural resources and taken a severe toll on the region's natural environment. The need to develop and implement sound green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, including shared solutions across the region to ensure equitable access to sustainable water and energy resources, will continue to be crucial to the Commission's regional cooperation efforts.

16.6 Asia and the Pacific continues to be the region most prone to disasters, including those events impacted by climate change. Increased economic integration has heightened the risk that a natural disaster in one country can have significant repercussions elsewhere. Adaptation to climate change and mitigation of its impacts in the context of inclusive and sustainable development will continue to be a priority, especially in the small island developing States of the Pacific, where the sustainable development of ocean resources provides a crucial basis for livelihoods.

16.7 Despite some progress towards attainment of gender equality in areas such as education, women across the region remain marginalized in public life; are less likely than men to own assets or participate in non-agricultural wage employment; tend to be heavily concentrated in the informal sector; and carry a disproportionate burden of unpaid domestic work. Gender-based violence remains a pervasive threat to the well-being of women and girls everywhere. Effectively addressing the many forms of gender inequality remains an essential component of advancing inclusive development.

16.8 Development efforts have been hampered by the lack of basic statistics about the social, economic and environmental circumstances in which people live. To address this, there is a need for effective, open and accountable institutions supported by administrative systems and processes, such as civil registration. Effective governance and accountability depend on a well-functioning and capable national statistical system that is able to produce and disseminate high quality official statistics. Statistical capacity-building will remain a key priority for the region's cooperation efforts.

16.9 Given these opportunities, as well as persisting and emerging challenges, it is imperative that the region works together effectively to forge a development paradigm that builds on the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals; puts the balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development at the core; leaves no one behind; balances State and market roles to promote jobs and inclusive growth; and builds open and accountable institutions that are responsive to the emerging voices of non-State actors. Critical to this agenda will be the development of new policy frameworks and regional instruments to generate more sustainable economic growth; strengthen regional economic integration; enhance connectivity in areas including infrastructure, information and communications technology, trade and transport; close development and equity gaps; improve governance; strengthen resilience to natural and economic shocks; and build on past achievements by lifting further hundreds of millions of people out of poverty and continuing to help countries with special needs to implement their respective programmes of action.

16.10 ESCAP provides the region's most inclusive intergovernmental platform to facilitate the collective policy leadership and cooperation required to effectively seize these opportunities and address shared challenges. ESCAP will support member States by providing sound evidence-based strategic analysis, policy options and capacity development to implement innovative solutions for development that is inclusive, equitable, sustainable and resilient. In doing so, ESCAP will draw on the comparative advantages of its intergovernmental convening power; its regional norm-setting mandate and role; its multidisciplinary expertise and synergies across all divisions and offices; its role as a regional hub for sharing of development

knowledge and lessons; network of subregional offices; and its ability to link subregions for mutual benefit.

16.11 The present strategic framework comprises eight mutually supportive and interconnected subprogrammes that reflect the priorities of member States. It builds on the achievements of the previous biennium and reflects the vital role of ESCAP in implementing the development pillar of the United Nations, while focusing on enhanced organizational effectiveness and attainment of measurable results.

16.12 During the biennium, efforts will be intensified to mainstream gender equality across all subprogrammes in line with commitments under the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. The rights of persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups will likewise be a key driver across all aspects of programme implementation.

16.13 Effective partnerships, including with subregional organizations, other United Nations agencies, the business sector and civil society, will continue to be strengthened in order to ensure coherent approaches to addressing regional priorities. To this end, ESCAP will reinforce its role as the convener of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism. In concert with the other regional commissions, ESCAP will also continue to promote interregional cooperation for inclusive and sustainable development and ensure that regional perspectives effectively influence global policy processes.

Subprogramme 1

Macroeconomic policy and inclusive development

Objective of the Organization: To enhance regional economic cooperation and foster forward-looking macroeconomic policymaking for inclusive and sustainable development, especially in support of poverty reduction and attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the development agenda beyond 2015 (as and when approved by the General Assembly)

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (a) Enhanced understanding among policymakers and other target groups of policies that promote economic growth, reduce poverty and narrow development gaps in the region | (a) Number of review articles and references to ESCAP publications and other activities by Governments, academia and the media |
| (b) Enhanced regional voice in global development forums and strengthened economic and financial cooperation to foster inclusive, equitable, sustainable and resilient development | (b) Number of outcome documents and resolutions reflecting consensus on regional economic and financial cooperation |
| (c) Improved capacity of member States, particularly countries with special needs, to design and implement development policies for achieving the development agenda beyond 2015 (as and when approved by the General Assembly) and other internationally agreed development goals, including gender equality | (c) Percentage of surveyed participants indicating that they are better able to design and implement development policies, including those that are gender responsive |

(d) Improved capacity of member States to formulate and implement rural development policies and measures that promote sustainable agriculture and food security for the equitable benefit of women and men, girls and boys

(d) Percentage of surveyed participants indicating that they have used knowledge and skills obtained from the work of ESCAP to promote sustainable agriculture and food security for the equitable benefit of women and men, girls and boys

Strategy

16.14 The substantive responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division, with support from the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture. The strategic direction of this subprogramme is provided by the internationally agreed development goals, including those enunciated in (a) the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution [66/288](#), annex; (b) the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals (see General Assembly resolution [65/1](#)); (c) the follow-up to the outcome document of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development (General Assembly resolution [63/303](#), annex); (d) the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development (General Assembly resolution [63/239](#), annex); (e) the programmes of action for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States; and (f) other resolutions contained in the list of legislative mandates. It will be also guided by the post-2015 development agenda (as and when approved by the General Assembly).

16.15 Forward-looking macroeconomic policies are essential both to ensure economic stability and to support inclusive, equitable and sustainable development. With its emphasis on strengthening capacities to formulate and implement these policies for a resilient Asian and Pacific region, the subprogramme will monitor macroeconomic trends and prospects towards reducing poverty and narrowing development gaps; promote capacity development for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda (as and when approved by the General Assembly); assist in the implementation of the programmes of action for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States; promote development in fragile States by strengthening regional support measures; and strengthen regional and South-South cooperation in the form of policy dialogues and advocacy to address medium- to long-term challenges and to close development gaps. Special emphasis will be placed on efforts to strengthen regional economic cooperation and integration and on sharing good experiences and best practices. Due attention will be given to redressing gender inequalities; supporting the efforts of least developed countries to enhance their productive capacities to sustain their growth momentum and close their development gaps by 2020; and fostering a regional coordinated voice on development issues and challenges.

16.16 The Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture will provide a regional platform to promote research and capacity-building on sustainable agriculture and food security across member States. Efforts will be made to strengthen sustainable agriculture and food security in the region in order to reduce poverty in rural communities.

16.17 The subprogramme will be delivered in collaboration with the regional financial institutions, subregional organizations, regional and national centres of excellence, and national fiscal and monetary authorities.

Subprogramme 2

Trade and investment

Objective of the Organization: To support the contribution of trade, investment, enterprise development, innovation and technology transfer to inclusive and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (a) Enhanced knowledge among ESCAP member States of trends, emerging issues and evidence-based policy options in the area of trade and investment and related fields of enterprise development, innovation and technology development and transfer, for inclusive and sustainable development | (a) (i) Number of review articles and references to ESCAP publications, related materials and activities in the area of trade and investment in policy-related literature and key media outlets (ii) Number of downloads of ESCAP publications on trade and investment |
| (b) Strengthened regional cooperation mechanisms in trade, investment, enterprise development, innovation and technology transfer for inclusive and sustainable development | (b) (i) Number of ESCAP member States indicating that they find the regional cooperation mechanisms fostered by ESCAP in trade, investment and enterprise development useful (ii) Number of ESCAP member States indicating that they find useful the regional cooperation mechanisms promoted by the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization to foster innovation and to develop and transfer technology, including in the area of agricultural mechanization (iii) Increased number of products receiving preferences reflecting coverage and depth of commitment under the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement and/or the expansion of membership within the Agreement |
| (c) Increased capacity of ESCAP member States to formulate and implement policies on trade, investment, innovation, enterprise development and technology transfer for inclusive and sustainable development, including those that are gender-responsive | (c) (i) Percentage of surveyed participants in ESCAP initiatives reporting increased capacity to formulate and/or implement policies on trade, investment and enterprise development, including those that are gender-responsive |

(ii) Percentage of surveyed participants in the initiatives of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization reporting increased capacity to formulate and/or implement policies that foster innovation and technology transfer, including in the area of agricultural mechanization

Strategy

16.18 The substantive responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Trade and Investment Division, with support from the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization. The strategic direction of the subprogramme is derived mainly from the internationally agreed development goals, including those enunciated in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development (General Assembly resolution [63/239](#), annex), the Almaty Programme of Action, as well as Commission resolutions [62/6](#) and [68/3](#).

16.19 To meet its objective, the subprogramme will be implemented through a combination of analytical and capacity-building work on trade, investment, enterprise development, sustainable agricultural mechanization, innovation and technology transfer, with a particular view to enhancing the contribution of trade and investment in meeting the development goals envisaged for the period beyond 2015 (as and when approved by the General Assembly). The focus of the analytical work will be to provide inputs for evidence-based policymaking and the sharing of experiences on related policy reforms.

16.20 The following issues will be addressed, with a key focus on inclusive, equitable, sustainable and resilient development and linkages with the post-2015 development agenda (as and when approved by the General Assembly): (a) strengthening the capacity of member States to effectively negotiate, conclude and implement trade and investment agreements at the international and regional levels, including the World Trade Organization Bali package and further agreements on the outstanding issues of the Doha Development Agenda; (b) designing and implementing trade facilitation policies and measures, including paperless trade systems; (c) formulating and implementing effective policy measures to strengthen responsible business practices and the integration of small and medium-sized enterprises, including agro-based enterprises, into regional and global value chains, with attention given to the different needs, challenges and interests of women and men entrepreneurs; (d) promoting foreign direct investment; (e) promoting technological innovation and transfer; and (f) establishing and strengthening common frameworks and mechanisms for regional cooperation in trade, investment, technology transfer and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, including agricultural enterprises.

16.21 With regard to regional cooperation, the subprogramme will continue to support further development of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement. Regional cooperation among research institutions and think tanks will continue to be fostered through the

Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade, which operates as a regional knowledge platform for trade and investment reform. The Asia-Pacific Network for the Testing of Agricultural Machinery will play an important role in promoting and facilitating trade of sustainable and safe agricultural machinery. The Asia-Pacific Business Forum and the ESCAP Business Advisory Council, including its Sustainable Business Network, will engage representatives of the private sector in exploring the establishment of public-private partnerships to pursue inclusive and sustainable development. The United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific will provide the regional community with the knowledge needed to achieve concrete progress in trade facilitation and paperless trade. Mechanisms such as the Renewable Energy Cooperation-Network for the Asia-Pacific and the Regional Network for Strengthening Research and Development Management Capacity in New and Emerging Areas of Technology, will be further developed as important mechanisms for regional cooperation on technology transfer. In recognition of the differential impacts of trade and investment for women and men, gender will be mainstreamed in the work and outputs of the aforementioned entities.

Subprogramme 3 Transport

Objective of the Organization: To enhance regional cooperation and integration in transport for inclusive and sustainable development

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (a) Increased capacity of ESCAP member States to develop and implement transport policies and programmes that support inclusive, equitable and sustainable development and are gender responsive | (a) Increased number of measures by member States to implement policies and programmes on sustainable transport and road safety, including those that are gender-responsive |
| (b) Increased capacity of ESCAP member States to plan, develop and implement international intermodal transport linkages, including the Asian Highway network, the Trans-Asian Railway network, inter-island shipping and dry ports of international importance | (b) (i) Increased number of national projects and programmes to upgrade regional transport infrastructure including the Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway, inter-island shipping and dry ports of international importance (ii) Increased number of ESCAP member signatories and parties to global, regional and subregional agreements |
| (c) Increased capacity of ESCAP member States and the private sector to initiate and implement measures to improve the efficiency of international transport operations and logistics | (c) (i) Increased number of measures to remove bottlenecks and facilitate efficient movements of people and goods and means of transport along transport routes and at border crossings (ii) Increased number of measures taken by countries to improve logistics performance |

Strategy

16.22 The substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Transport Division. The strategic direction of the subprogramme is derived from phase II (2012-2016) of the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, from the relevant resolutions contained in the list of legislative mandates and from the outcome of meetings of ministers of transport convened by ESCAP. It will also be guided by the post-2015 development agenda (as and when approved by the General Assembly). During the biennium, the subprogramme will support member States in working towards the vision of an international, integrated, intermodal transport and logistics system connecting the Asian and Pacific region. It will do this by supporting member States in their efforts to integrate the regional transport networks, including by continuing to act as the secretariat for the intergovernmental agreements governing the Asian Highway network, Trans-Asian Railway network and dry ports. In particular, the subprogramme will support the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in their efforts to develop and upgrade their transport networks, including through public-private partnerships and private-sector involvement in infrastructure projects. In line with the Regional Action Programme, the secretariat will also continue to focus on improving inter-island shipping in archipelagic and island countries. Special consideration will be given to mainstreaming gender considerations into the subprogramme.

16.23 To enhance the operational efficiency of regional transport networks, the subprogramme will assist member States' efforts to identify and implement measures to address non-physical bottlenecks, conduct training to improve the performance of logistics industry and related transport services and promote improved connectivity between subregions. The subprogramme will also assist member States in designing and implementing transport policies that support inclusive, equitable, sustainable and resilient development. These include modal shifts from roads to railways and other more fuel-efficient means; greater use of public transport, particularly in urban areas; improvement of road safety; and policies to improve access to transport for all members of society. Such policies will also be responsive to the different needs and interests of women and men, and strengthen rural transport planning and rural-urban linkages.

16.24 The Transport Division will strengthen cooperation with other international, regional and subregional organizations as well as other regional commissions and transport associations that are active in the development of the region's transport systems.

Subprogramme 4

Environment and development

Objective of the Organization: Improved policies for integrating environment into development, management of energy and water resources and urban development

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (a) Enhanced understanding by local and national government officials and other stakeholders of means of aligning environment and development policymaking and energy security, water resources management and urban development policies, including their gender dimensions, with the development agenda beyond 2015 (as and when approved by the General Assembly) and the sustainable development goals | (a) Number of references to ESCAP publications, policy briefs, projects and related activities in policy documents, declarations and statements showing an increased alignment of environment and development policymaking and energy security, water resources management and urban development policies, including their gender dimensions, with the development agenda beyond 2015 (as and when approved by the General Assembly) and the sustainable development goals |
| (b) Improved capacity of local and national governments and major stakeholders to operationalize environment and development policymaking and energy security, water resources management and urban development policies, including their gender dimensions, in the context of the development agenda beyond 2015 (as and when approved by the General Assembly) and the sustainable development goals | (b) Number of initiatives developed by governments and major stakeholders to operationalize environment and development policymaking and energy security, water resources management and urban development policies, including their gender dimensions |
| (c) Enhanced regional cooperation frameworks and networks of local and national governments and major stakeholders with respect to environment and development policymaking and energy security, water resources management and urban development policies, including their gender dimensions | (c) Number of initiatives for establishing or strengthening regional cooperation frameworks and networks related to environment and development policymaking and energy security, water resources management and urban development policies, including their gender dimensions |

Strategy

16.25 The substantive responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Environment and Development Division. The strategic direction of the subprogramme is mainly derived from the internationally agreed development goals, the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and relevant regional agreements within the context of ESCAP, and will be also guided by the post-2015 development agenda (as and when approved by the General Assembly).

16.26 The subprogramme will build on the previous achievements of the ESCAP secretariat in supporting countries of the region in their efforts to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development. It will facilitate regional cooperation as an

overarching strategy to address rapid urbanization, shortcomings in access to basic services, integrated water resources management and energy security as well as climate change, sustainable management of resources and other environmental pressures and constraints. The subprogramme will focus on supporting a long-term perspective in policymaking to sustain the quantity and improve the quality of growth based on enhanced economic dynamism, social inclusiveness, environmental sustainability and resilience, critical factors for achieving sustainable development.

16.27 The subprogramme's expected accomplishments are complementary in nature and represent different stages in a process of engagement between the ESCAP secretariat and member States and major stakeholders: enhanced understanding leads to improved capacity, which in turn promotes enhanced regional cooperation frameworks and networks.

16.28 The subprogramme will continue to facilitate regional dialogues on sustainable development, which, inter alia, will identify regional priorities and perspectives and review progress in implementation in the region. The subprogramme will promote stakeholder involvement, multidisciplinary dialogue, multisectoral approaches and interministerial coordination through strengthened frameworks for regional and interregional cooperation and networking. It will work to foster policy and other innovation on the basis of sound research and analysis and the dissemination of knowledge, policy options and good practices, taking into account gender-specific considerations and paying specific attention to countries with special needs. The efforts will be further augmented by the provision of capacity-development support to member States.

16.29 To achieve the above, ESCAP will collaborate with other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, including through the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism, intergovernmental organizations, public-private partnerships, community-based organizations, research institutes and other civil society organizations.

Subprogramme 5

Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management

Objective of the Organization: To enhance the contribution of information and communications technology connectivity, space applications and disaster risk reduction strategies and management to the achievement of inclusive, sustainable and resilient development in Asia and the Pacific

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (a) Strengthened regional cooperation in information and communications technology connectivity, space applications and disaster risk reduction and management for inclusive and sustainable development | (a) Increased number of ESCAP member States indicating that they have benefited from ESCAP-promoted regional cooperation mechanisms devoted to information and communications technology connectivity, space applications and disaster risk reduction and management |

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>(b) Improved knowledge and awareness of member States of effective strategies and policies in information and communications technology connectivity, space applications and disaster risk reduction and management, including their gender dimensions, for inclusive, equitable, sustainable and resilient development</p> | <p>(b) (i) Increased percentage of ESCAP member States indicating that they are more aware and knowledgeable of strategies and policies related to information and communications technology, space applications and disaster risk reduction and management, including their gender dimensions</p> <p>(ii) Increased number of downloads of ESCAP publications on information and communications technology, space applications and disaster risk reduction and management</p> |
| <p>(c) Strengthened capacity of member States to apply information and communications technology, space applications and disaster risk reduction strategies and management for inclusive, equitable, sustainable and resilient development</p> | <p>(c) (i) Percentage of participants in activities of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development indicating that they are better able to apply information and communications technology for socioeconomic development</p> <p>(ii) Increased number of initiatives that reflect or incorporate training modules and/or curricula developed by the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development</p> |
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Strategy

16.30 The substantive responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, with support from the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development. The subprogramme deals with pressing contemporary development challenges of building resilience to natural disasters and deepening connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, with the strategic direction provided by the resolutions contained in the list of legislative mandates and the post-2015 development agenda (as and when approved by the General Assembly). The subprogramme will be implemented through a combination of normative, analytical and capacity-building work and will be anchored in regional cooperation mechanisms.

16.31 The subprogramme will continue to promote regional cooperation in information and communications technology connectivity for the creation of an inclusive, knowledge-based society that is resilient to multiple, complex and interrelated threats posed by disasters. In this context, the subprogramme will provide member States with analysis on critical information and communications technology infrastructure, including cross-sectoral synergies for electronic resilience, especially in countries with special needs. The subprogramme will also

provide policy analysis, options and recommendations for promoting innovation, digital inclusion and a seamless regional information space that deepens regional connectivity. These efforts will be further augmented by information and communications technology capacity-building activities conducted by the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development and partners utilizing the Centre's programmes.

16.32 The subprogramme will assist member States in deepening and broadening the applications of space technology and geographical information systems for managing disaster risks and achieving sustainable development, especially in high-risk and low-capacity developing countries. It will continue to provide near real-time satellite data and imagery and other products and services during disasters, pool expertise and resources at the regional and subregional levels, facilitate sharing of good practices and create synergy with other existing regional initiatives. The subprogramme will be delivered through regional cooperation mechanisms, including the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development and the Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning, and through the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and the Geographic Information System for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017.

16.33 The emphasis of the disaster risk reduction and management work will be on enhancing regional knowledge and knowledge-sharing, development of disaster information and strengthening of capacities to manage risks and vulnerabilities in order to reduce socioeconomic impacts of disasters and build resilience. The subprogramme will provide member States with analysis, strategies and evidence-based policy options in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, including climate change adaptation, into long-term development plans and strategies. The efforts will be further augmented by the regional advisory services on disaster risk reduction, the progress towards an integrated regional early warning system provided through the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries, and capacity-building activities delivered through ESCAP-supported regional mechanisms.

16.34 The subprogramme will also seek collaboration with other United Nations entities, United Nations-supported mechanisms such as the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific and relevant regional and subregional organizations to achieve synergy and maximize impact in the region.

Subprogramme 6

Social development

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen regional cooperation in building a socially inclusive society that protects, empowers and ensures equality for all social groups in Asia and the Pacific

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (a) Enhanced knowledge, capacity and regional cooperation to address population and development trends, including their gender dimensions, in Asia and the Pacific | <p>(a) (i) Percentage of respondents indicating that their knowledge has been enhanced through the analytical products of ESCAP on population and development trends and policies, including their gender dimensions</p> <p>(ii) Percentage of participants indicating that their knowledge and skills have been enhanced through ESCAP meetings and workshops on population ageing, migration and development, youth development and other population-related issues, including their gender dimensions</p> <p>(iii) Number of initiatives taken by member States, based on regional frameworks, to promote population and development policies and programmes, including their gender dimensions</p> |
| (b) Enhanced knowledge, capacity and regional cooperation to strengthen social protection systems, including the health and gender dimensions, in Asia and the Pacific | <p>(b) (i) Percentage of respondents indicating that their knowledge has been enhanced through the analytical products of ESCAP on social protection policies and good practices, including the health and gender dimensions</p> <p>(ii) Percentage of participants indicating that their knowledge and skills have been enhanced through ESCAP meetings and workshops on social protection systems and HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services, including their gender dimensions</p> <p>(iii) Number of initiatives by member States and stakeholders, based on regional frameworks, to strengthen social protection systems, including access to health care, and their gender dimensions</p> |

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>(c) Enhanced knowledge, capacity and regional cooperation to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in Asia and the Pacific</p> | <p>(c) (i) Percentage of respondents indicating that their knowledge has been enhanced through the analytical products of ESCAP on gender equality and women's empowerment policies and programmes</p> <p>(ii) Percentage of participants indicating that their knowledge and skills have been enhanced through ESCAP meetings and workshops on gender equality and women's empowerment</p> <p>(iii) Number of initiatives taken by member States, based on regional frameworks, to promote gender equality and women's empowerment</p> |
| <p>(d) Enhanced knowledge, capacity and regional cooperation to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific</p> | <p>(d) (i) Percentage of respondents indicating that their knowledge has been enhanced through the analytical products of ESCAP on disability-related policies and programmes</p> <p>(ii) Percentage of participants indicating that their knowledge and skills have been enhanced through ESCAP meetings and workshops on disability-inclusive development and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</p> <p>(iii) Number of initiatives by member States and stakeholders to promote the regional implementation of the Incheon Strategy to Make the Right Real for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, including goal 6: "Ensure gender equality and women's empowerment"</p> |

Strategy

16.35 The substantive responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Social Development Division. The strategic direction of the subprogramme is derived mainly from the commitments agreed upon through relevant United Nations intergovernmental processes, including: (a) the World Summit for Social Development; (b) the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; (c) the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; (d) the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; (e) the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; (f) the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; (g) the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002; (h) the World Programme of Action on Youth; (i) the United Nations Millennium Declaration (see General Assembly resolution [55/2](#)) and the

commitments adopted by the General Assembly in the outcome document, “Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals” (resolution [65/1](#)); and (j) the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS (General Assembly resolution [65/277](#), annex); it will also be guided by the post-2015 development agenda (as and when approved by the General Assembly). Regional mandates that guide the subprogramme include the Incheon Strategy, the Bangkok Statement on the Asia-Pacific Review of the Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, the Bangkok Declaration on Beijing+15, the outcome document of the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Assessment of Progress against Commitments in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and the Millennium Development Goals and the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference.

16.36 The subprogramme will aim to promote change at the policy and institutional levels. The main target group of the subprogramme will be government officials and institutions, particularly those involved in the formulation, implementation and management of social development policies and programmes. The strategy will focus on the conduct of applied research, analysis and the dissemination of knowledge products on social policy options, strategies and programmes as a basis for evidence-based decision-making by Governments. Good practices on social protection systems, including those that are gender-responsive and address the needs of vulnerable groups in society, will be analysed and documented for the purpose of adaptation and wider replication in the region. The Commission’s convening role, particularly with regard to promoting regional cooperation and consensus building on accelerating the implementation of international commitments on population and development, gender equality and social integration of vulnerable groups, will be emphasized. Technical assistance to developing countries, including those in special situations, will be intensified to build national capacity, including through sharing of policy options, good experiences and good practices in the context of the transfer of knowledge and skills on a range of social development issues and through South-South cooperation. The subprogramme will adopt a multipronged strategy that incorporates cross-cutting issues, including gender responsiveness and a rights-based approach, into policies and programmes. Partnerships will be further strengthened with a range of stakeholders, including civil society organizations and research institutes. The subprogramme will coordinate closely with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other international organizations to achieve synergy and maximize impact in the region.

Subprogramme 7 Statistics

Objective of the Organization: To improve the availability, quality, relevance and use of statistics in support of effective policies for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (a) Enhanced awareness of member States of effective strategy and policy options for inclusive and sustainable development, including gender equality, in Asia and the Pacific, through increased availability of relevant statistical products and services | (a) (i) Percentage of surveyed participants in ESCAP initiatives indicating that ESCAP statistical products and services have increased their awareness of effective strategy and policy options for inclusive and sustainable development, including gender equality, in Asia and the Pacific (ii) Increased number of downloads of online statistical products provided by ESCAP |
| (b) Increased capacity of member States in Asia and the Pacific to produce, disseminate and use statistics in accordance with internationally agreed standards and good practices in support of progress towards inclusive and sustainable development, including gender equality, in Asia and the Pacific | (b) (i) Percentage of participants in relevant ESCAP activities indicating that the knowledge gained improved their ability to produce, disseminate or use statistics in accordance with internationally agreed standards and good practices (ii) Percentage of officials of national statistical systems in Asia and the Pacific trained by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific indicating that they are better able to produce, disseminate or use data and statistics in accordance with internationally agreed standards and good practices |

Strategy

16.37 The substantive responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Statistics Division, with support from the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific. The subprogramme is guided by the Committee on Statistics, the relevant subsidiary body of the Commission that forms the basis for regional consensus-building for action and represents an effective mechanism for contributing to global mandates. The subprogramme derives its mandate from the two overarching strategic goals of the Committee on Statistics, namely, (a) ensuring that all countries in the region by 2020 have the capability to provide an agreed basic range of population, economic, social and environment statistics, and (b) creating a more

adaptive and cost-effective information management environment for national statistical offices through stronger collaboration.

16.38 The subprogramme will aim to improve the availability, quality and use of statistics in support of good governance for equitable, sustainable, inclusive and resilient societies in Asia and the Pacific. The strategy will focus on using core sets of statistics to focus national efforts, coordinate regional cooperation and mobilize support by all relevant development partners for national statistical capacity strengthening. Coordinated regional and in-country training, including the regular programme of training of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, is a main pillar of regional initiatives of statistical capacity strengthening. More broadly, the subprogramme will continue to work closely with the Partners for Statistics Development in Asia-Pacific, a grouping of international, regional and bilateral organizations, to improve the combined impact of capacity-building activities through enhanced coordination, synergy and complementarity among partners.

16.39 Within the overall programme of work, the subprogramme will also link its work closely with that of other subprogrammes to support evidence-based policy analyses and advocacy. Capitalizing on the diversity in the region, the subprogramme will emphasize sharing of knowledge, experiences and solutions in developing and implementing regional initiatives to strengthen national statistical capacity. The subprogramme will make full use of the opportunities arising from the increased capacities of member States as centres of expertise and providers of development assistance, including through South-South cooperation modalities. The subprogramme will make conscious efforts to adapt its approaches to specific country circumstances and needs of member States. For least developed member States with more acute and widespread needs, this often means targeted support.

16.40 The subprogramme will also seek collaboration with subregional institutions for effective implementation of regional initiatives and improved statistical integration.

Subprogramme 8

Subregional activities for development

Component 1

Subregional activities for development in the Pacific

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen regional cooperation and integration in line with the development priorities of the Pacific subregion in order to accelerate progress towards attainment of internationally agreed development goals and to achieve inclusive and sustainable development

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (a) Strengthened capacity of Pacific island countries and territories to plan and implement policies in support of balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, including gender considerations | (a) (i) Number of member States indicating that they found ESCAP activities relevant and useful in support of balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, including gender considerations |

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>(b) Increased effectiveness of Pacific regional arrangements to address the regional and subregional dimensions of sustainable development, including through knowledge sharing and South-South cooperation</p> | <p>(ii) Number of national planning documents in Pacific countries reflecting better integration of the dimensions of sustainable development, particularly gender equality</p> <p>(b) (i) Percentage of national decision makers, disaggregated by gender, indicating that they found ESCAP knowledge-sharing outputs relevant and useful in supporting effective participation in subregional and regional sustainable development forums and processes</p> <p>(ii) Increase in the number of South-South cooperation initiatives in the Pacific facilitated with or through ESCAP</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Component 2

Subregional activities for development in East and North-East Asia

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen regional cooperation and integration in line with the development priorities of the East and North-East Asian subregion in order to accelerate progress towards attainment of internationally agreed development goals and to achieve inclusive and sustainable development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Indicators of achievement

(a) Increased engagement of policymakers of ESCAP member States in East and North-East Asia in regional cooperation as an approach for addressing key development challenges, including those of green economy (in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication), nature and marine conservation, transboundary air pollution, inclusive development through leveraging the skills and knowledge of older persons, women, youth and persons with disabilities, trade and transport facilitation, disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management, addressing the gender dimensions in all areas and for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals

- (a) (i) Percentage of participants indicating improved understanding of regional cooperation as an approach for pursuing the development priorities of the subregion, including addressing their gender dimensions
- (ii) Number of participants engaged in discussion on addressing key development challenges

(b) Strengthened knowledge sharing and partnerships among ESCAP member States, civil society and other relevant development partners in East and North-East Asia to address priority issues with a particular focus on green economy (in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication), nature and marine conservation, transboundary air pollution, inclusive development through leveraging the skills and knowledge of older persons, women, youth and persons with disabilities, trade and transport facilitation, disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management, addressing the gender dimensions in all areas and for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals

(b) (i) Percentage of participants indicating that they found ESCAP activities have increased their access to knowledge and information relevant to addressing priority issues in East and North-East Asia, including their gender dimensions

(ii) Number of partner institutions from East and North-East Asia collaborating in knowledge-sharing and partnership-building activities that are facilitated by ESCAP

Component 3

Subregional activities for development in North and Central Asia

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen regional cooperation and integration in line with the development priorities of the North and Central Asian subregion in order to accelerate progress towards the attainment of internationally agreed development goals and to achieve inclusive and sustainable development

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (a) Enhanced capacity of ESCAP member States in North and Central Asia to formulate and implement inclusive, equitable and sustainable development policies and programmes that address the development priorities of the subregion and are gender-responsive | (a) Increased percentage of surveyed participants from ESCAP member States in North and Central Asia in ESCAP initiatives indicating enhanced capacity to formulate and implement inclusive, equitable and sustainable development policies and programmes that address the development priorities of the subregion and are gender-responsive |
| (b) Strengthened knowledge sharing and partnerships among ESCAP member States in North and Central Asia, regional organizations, civil society and other relevant development partners to address priority issues for inclusive, equitable and sustainable development and achievement of internationally agreed development goals | <p>(b) (i) Percentage of ESCAP member States indicating that collaboration in addressing key priority areas in North and Central Asia to support the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the sustainable development goals, has increased</p> <p>(ii) Increased number of partner institutions from ESCAP member States in North and Central Asia participating in knowledge-sharing activities that are facilitated by ESCAP</p> |

Component 4

Subregional activities for development in South and South-West Asia

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen regional cooperation and integration in line with the development priorities of the South and South-West Asian subregion in order to accelerate progress towards the attainment of internationally agreed development goals and to achieve inclusive and sustainable development

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (a) Enhanced understanding and capacity of policymakers of ESCAP member States in South and South-West Asia to formulate and implement policies to foster regional cooperation to address key development priorities and achieve internationally agreed development goals, including those relating to gender equality and empowerment, and with special reference to countries with special needs | (a) (i) Percentage of participants indicating improved understanding and capacity to pursue regional cooperation as an approach for pursuing the development priorities of the subregion, including addressing their gender dimensions (ii) Number of references to policy measures to foster regional cooperation in policy statements made by member States in South and South-West Asia |
| (b) Strengthened knowledge sharing and partnerships among member States, regional organizations, civil society and other relevant development partners to address key development priorities and close development gaps through regional cooperation in South and South-West Asia in support of the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the gender dimension | (b) (i) Percentage of participants indicating that the events have increased their access to knowledge and information relevant for their engagement in regional cooperation (ii) Number of references and citations in media and downloads of key outputs, proposals and activities throughout the period of the programme |

Component 5

Subregional activities for development in South-East Asia

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen regional cooperation and integration in line with the development priorities of the South-East Asian subregion in order to accelerate progress towards the attainment of internationally agreed development goals and to achieve inclusive and sustainable development

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (a) Enhanced capacity of ESCAP member States in South-East Asia to formulate and implement inclusive, equitable and sustainable development policies and programmes that address their key development challenges, with particular focus on least developed and landlocked developing countries, within the framework of Association of Southeast Asian Nations-United Nations partnership | (a) Percentage of participants indicating enhanced capacity to formulate and implement inclusive, equitable and sustainable development policies and programmes that address their key development challenges, including gender inequality |

(b) Strengthened partnerships and knowledge sharing among member States, regional organizations, civil society and other relevant development partners in South-East Asia in priority areas in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including gender equality

(b) Number of collaborative initiatives involving member States, civil society or other key development partners from South-East Asia facilitated by ESCAP, in support of the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including gender equality

Strategy

16.41 The overall responsibility for coordinating the work of the subprogramme is vested in the Office of the Executive Secretary. The subprogramme will be implemented by the subregional offices in the Pacific, East and North-East Asia, North and Central Asia and South and South-West Asia, and by ESCAP headquarters in the South-East Asian subregion. Internationally agreed development goals, including the post-2015 development agenda (as and when approved by the General Assembly), the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the programmes of action for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States provide the mandates and strategic direction for the subprogramme.

16.42 Given the vast coverage and diversity of the Asian and Pacific region, the subprogramme would strengthen the Commission's presence and strategic position at the subregional level, enabling better targeting and delivery of programmes that address specific key priorities of member States in the five subregions. Priority will be accorded to strengthening sustainable, equitable and inclusive development and supporting the integration of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States for a resilient Asian and Pacific region.

16.43 Each component of the subprogramme reflects the specific needs of the relevant subregion within the context of existing subregional cooperation frameworks and the institutional landscape. The subprogramme leverages the analytical and normative work of the Commission and supports capacity development through technical cooperation, including South-South cooperation among ESCAP member States, and the provision, on request, of advisory services. Emphasis will be placed on knowledge sharing and networking, including the dissemination of good practices for adaptation, experience sharing and replication. The subprogramme will collect data and produce subregional analysis on identified priority areas in order to ensure greater depth and coverage in its analytical work.

16.44 In line with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, cooperation and coordination with the funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations development system will be strengthened at the regional level in order to support country-level development initiatives, at the request of recipient countries, in alignment with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The subregional offices will also work closely with subregional organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders in their respective subregions.

16.45 The subregional office for the Pacific will work closely with the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific, and in particular the Pacific Islands Forum

Secretariat, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme through the Sustainable Development Working Group, to assist member States in the following priority areas:

- (a) National sustainable development planning to address sustainable development in the Pacific;
- (b) Balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;
- (c) Climate change, environmental degradation and management of the ocean;
- (d) Gender inequality.

16.46 The subregional office for East and North-East Asia will work closely with major development partners in the subregion, including the Greater Tumen Initiative, to assist member States in the following priority areas:

- (a) Promoting subregional cooperation on green economy (in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication) and subregional environmental challenges such as nature and marine conservation and transboundary air pollution, including through the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation;
- (b) Facilitating subregional cooperation towards inclusive development while ensuring gender equality, in particular by leveraging the skills and knowledge of older persons, women, youth and persons with disabilities;
- (c) Enhancing transport and trade facilitation to promote economic growth and cooperation in East and North-East Asia;
- (d) Strengthening disaster resiliency in East and North-East Asia through enhanced cooperation on technology and knowledge-sharing.

16.47 The subregional office for North and Central Asia will work closely with the Economic Commission for Europe, as well as the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Eurasian Economic Commission and Eurasian Development Bank, the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to assist member States in the following priority areas:

- (a) Subregional cooperation in transport, water and energy, trade, statistics, knowledge-based development and gender and economy through the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia;
- (b) Transport and trade facilitation through improved transport links, transit transport and trade facilitation measures, and reduction of trade barriers;
- (c) Energy and water resource management, environmental protection, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

16.48 The subregional office for South and South-West Asia will work closely with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, international organizations, government agencies and civil society think tanks, among other stakeholders, to assist member States in the following priority areas:

(a) Accelerating inclusive and sustainable growth, poverty eradication, gender equality and universal access to quality education and health, in line with the development agenda beyond 2015 (as and when approved by the General Assembly);

(b) Subregional connectivity through transport, trade and transport facilitation and infrastructure investment for economic integration;

(c) Attainment of sustainable development goals on energy and food security through subregional cooperation;

(d) Subregional cooperation for increased capacity for disaster risk reduction strategies and policies;

(e) Assisting the least developed and landlocked countries of the subregion in accelerating inclusive development through increased productive capacity and achieving graduation from least developed country status.

16.49 ESCAP will work closely with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to assist the integration of the least developed countries into the South-East Asia subregion.

16.50 ESCAP will build strategic partnerships with other key intergovernmental institutions and development actors in the subregions, and develop and implement programmes in a coherent and coordinated manner, utilizing the United Nations development system at the subregional and national levels to bridge key development gaps.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 55/2 | United Nations Millennium Declaration |
| 57/253 | World Summit on Sustainable Development |
| 57/270 A and B | Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields |
| 60/1 | 2005 World Summit Outcome |
| 61/16 | Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council |
| 63/239 | Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus |
| 64/1 | High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation |
| 64/186 | Building connectivity through the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway (subprogrammes 1, 5, 6 and 8) |

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| 64/193 | Follow-up to and implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the outcome of the 2008 Review Conference (Doha Declaration on Financing for Development) (subprogrammes 1, 2, 4 and 6) |
| 64/222 | Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation |
| 64/289 | System-wide coherence |
| 65/1 | Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals |
| 65/125 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community |
| 65/140 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference |
| 65/146 | Innovative mechanisms of financing for development (subprogrammes 1, 2, 4 and 6) |
| 65/163 | United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) |
| 65/214 | Human rights and extreme poverty |
| 65/280 | Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 |
| 65/309 | Happiness: towards a holistic approach to development |
| 65/311 | Multilingualism |
| 65/316 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum |
| 66/213 | Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries |
| 66/288 | The future we want |
| 67/13 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization |
| 67/14 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization |
| 67/15 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization |
| 67/110 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations |
| 67/202 | Entrepreneurship for development |

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| 67/226 | Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system |
| 68/1 | Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council |
| 68/6 | Outcome document of the special event to follow up on efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals |
| 68/11 | The situation in Afghanistan |
| 68/158 | The right to development |
| 68/209 | Agricultural technology for development |
| 68/219 | Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence |
| 68/224 | Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries |
| 68/225 | Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation |
| 68/229 | Operational activities for development of the United Nations system |
| 68/230 | South-South cooperation |
| 68/233 | Agriculture development, food security and nutrition |
| 68/234 | Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners |

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

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| 37 (IV) | Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East |
| 1895 (LVII) | Change of name of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East |
| 1998/46 | Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields |
| 2005/305 | Promoting coordination and consolidation of the work of the functional commissions |
| 2009/28 | The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration on the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2008 |

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| 2009/30 | A strengthened and more effective intergovernmental inclusive process to carry out the financing for development follow-up (subprogrammes 1, 2, 4 and 6) |
| 2011/7 | Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system |
| 2012/30 | Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16 |
| 2013/3 | A conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for the inclusive and sustainable development of Asia and the Pacific |
| 2013/5 | Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system |
| 2013/16 | Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system |
| 2013/43 | Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations |
| 2013/46 | Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 |

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

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| 61/11 | Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries (subprogrammes 2 and 3) |
| 62/1 | Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region |
| 63/4 | Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region |
| 63/5 | Midterm review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries (subprogrammes 2, 3 and 8) |

- 64/6 Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region
- 66/1 Incheon Declaration
- 66/3 Implementation of the Dhaka Outcome Document on the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries
- 66/9 Full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and its regional and global outcomes in the Asia-Pacific region
- 66/15 Strengthening of the evaluation function of the secretariat of the Commission
- 67/1 Ulaanbaatar Declaration: Outcome of the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and other Development Gaps Faced by the Landlocked Developing Countries (subprogrammes 1, 2 and 3)
- 67/14 Cooperation between the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and other United Nations and regional and subregional organizations serving Asia and the Pacific
- 67/15 Midterm review of the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission
- 68/2 Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 in the Asia-Pacific region
- 68/8 Enhancing coordination within the United Nations system and cooperation with regional organizations for promoting regional development
- 68/9 Terms of reference of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission
- 69/1 A conference structure of the Commission for the inclusive and sustainable development of Asia and the Pacific
- 69/4 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015

Subprogramme 1
Macroeconomic policy and inclusive development

General Assembly resolutions

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| 65/10 | Sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth for poverty eradication and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals |
| 65/313 | Follow-up to the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development |
| 68/18 | Graduation of countries from the least developed country category |
| 68/201 | International financial system and development |
| 68/202 | External debt sustainability and development |
| 68/204 | Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development |
| 68/222 | Development cooperation with middle-income countries |
| 68/226 | Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) |

Economic and Social Council resolutions

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|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2005/39 | Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific |
| 2011/39 | Follow-up to the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development: consideration of the possible establishment of an ad hoc panel of experts |
| 2012/9 | Poverty eradication |
| 2013/20 | Report of the Committee for Development Policy |
| 2013/44 | Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development |

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

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| 64/7 | Financing for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 in the ESCAP region |
| 65/4 | Strengthening of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific |
| 68/10 | Enhancing regional economic integration in Asia and the Pacific |
| 69/2 | Final review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in the Asia-Pacific region |

- [69/3](#) Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: Bangkok Declaration of the Asia-Pacific Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States on the Development Agenda beyond 2015
- [69/4](#) Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015

Subprogramme 2
Trade and investment

General Assembly resolutions

- 68/199 International trade and development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

- 2005/38 Statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
- 2013/4 Statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

- [61/3](#) Statute of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery
- [61/4](#) Statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
- [62/6](#) Managing globalization through strengthened regional cooperation in trade and investment
- [68/3](#) Enabling paperless trade and the cross-border recognition of electronic data and documents for inclusive and sustainable intraregional trade facilitation
- [69/5](#) Statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization

Subprogramme 3
Transport

General Assembly resolutions

- 66/260 Improving global road safety

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

- 60/4 Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network
- [62/4](#) Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network

- 64/5 Establishment of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport
- 66/4 Implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Transport Development in Asia
- 66/5 Implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific
- 66/6 Improving road safety in Asia and the Pacific
- 68/4 Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, including the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016), and the Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport
- 69/6 Implementation of the Tehran Declaration to promote public-private partnerships in infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development
- 69/7 Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports

Subprogramme 4
Environment and development

General Assembly resolutions

- 58/217 International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015
- 59/228 Activities undertaken during the International Year of Freshwater, 2003, preparations for the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources
- 64/198 Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015
- 64/292 The human right to water and sanitation
- 65/151 International Year for Sustainable Energy for All
- 65/154 International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013
- 67/204 Implementation of the International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013
- 67/215 Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy
- 67/290 Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development
- 68/210 Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

68/212 Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

68/239 Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2011/14 Promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific

2013/19 Conclusion of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development

2013/22 Human settlements

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

64/3 Promoting renewables for energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

67/2 Promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific

67/3 Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific

68/11 Connectivity for energy security

69/8 Enhancing knowledge-sharing and cooperation in integrated water resources management in Asia and the Pacific

69/9 Implementation of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme towards voluntary follow-up to the Rio+20 outcome “The future we want”

Subprogramme 5

Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management

General Assembly resolutions

60/252 World Summit on the Information Society

64/294 Strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the wake of devastating floods in Pakistan

68/75 International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

68/103 International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development

68/198 Information and communications technologies for development

68/211 International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

68/220 Science, technology and innovation for development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2005/40 Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development

2012/3 Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

2013/9 Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

2013/10 Science, technology and innovation for development

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

61/6 Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development

64/2 Regional cooperation in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters in Asia and the Pacific

66/8 Review of the proposal for the establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management in the Islamic Republic of Iran

66/14 Continuation of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development

67/4 Establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management

68/5 Asia-Pacific Years of Action for Applications of Space Technology and the Geographic Information System for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017

69/10 Promoting regional information and communications technology connectivity and building knowledge-networked societies in Asia and the Pacific

69/11 Implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017

69/12 Enhancing regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific

Subprogramme 6
Social development*General Assembly resolutions*

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|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 64/131 | Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities |
| 64/133 | Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond |
| 64/134 | Proclamation of 2010 as International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding |
| 64/291 | Follow-up to paragraph 143 on human security of the 2005 World Summit Outcome |
| 64/293 | United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons |
| 65/180 | Organization of the 2011 comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS |
| 65/186 | Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond |
| 65/228 | Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women |
| 65/234 | Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 |
| 65/277 | Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS: Intensifying our Efforts to Eliminate HIV/AIDS |
| 65/312 | Outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding |
| 66/124 | High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities |
| 66/130 | Women and political participation |
| 67/139 | Towards a comprehensive and integral international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons |
| 67/140 | Realizing the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond |
| 67/144 | Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women |

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| 67/145 | Trafficking in women and girls |
| 67/160 | Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto |
| 67/185 | Promoting efforts to eliminate violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families |
| 67/219 | International migration and development |
| 68/3 | Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond |
| 68/4 | Declaration of the High Level-Dialogue on International Migration and Development |
| 68/33 | Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control |
| 68/130 | Policies and programmes involving youth |
| 68/131 | Promoting social integration through social inclusion |
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| 68/134 | Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing |
| 68/135 | Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly |
| 68/136 | Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family |
| 68/137 | Violence against women migrant workers |
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| 68/139 | Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas |
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| 2010/15 | Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women |
| 2010/24 | The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration on the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health adopted at the high-level segment of the 2009 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council |
| 2011/5 | The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women |
| 2011/19 | Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) |
| 2011/21 | Human settlements |
| 2011/27 | Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and mainstreaming disability in the development agenda |
| 2011/28 | Modalities for the second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 |
| 2012/11 | Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda |
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| 2013/18 | Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women |
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| 2013/28 | Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda: towards 2015 and beyond |
| 2013/29 | Second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 |

- 2013/36 Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls
- 2013/243 Report of the Commission for Social Development on its fifty-first session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-second session

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- 66/10 Regional call for action to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in Asia and the Pacific
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- 67/9 Asia-Pacific regional review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS
- 68/6 Asia-Pacific regional preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014
- 68/7 Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022
- 69/13 Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific
- 69/14 Implementation of the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

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