



# General Assembly

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## Proposed programme budget for 2023

### Programme planning

## Proposed programme budget for 2023

### Part V

### Regional cooperation for development

### Section 19

### Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

### Programme 16

### Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

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\* [A/77/50](#).

\*\* In keeping with paragraph 11 of resolution [72/266 A](#), the part consisting of the programme plan and programme performance information is submitted through the Committee for Programme and Coordination for the consideration of the General Assembly.



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\*\*\* In keeping with paragraph 11 of resolution [72/266 A](#), the part consisting of the post and non-post resource requirements is submitted through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the consideration of the General Assembly.

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## Foreword

Given the wide-reaching socioeconomic impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, a broad-based recovery to renew progress and recoup the time lost is now essential for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals by the end of the decade.

With recovery uneven and fraught with uncertainties, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) will take an integrated approach aimed at protecting our planet, ensuring prosperity and leaving no one behind. Such an approach will allow countries to address structural weaknesses, build resilience and ensure sustainability. Multilateralism through consensus-building and regional cooperation will be key to our common agenda to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

Improved knowledge management and use of data will allow for a better understanding of where the region stands, why we are here and what could happen next. They will allow for the development of a wider range of policies, based on evidence, to tackle our daunting challenges and transform the region.

As we promote the sharing of country experiences and best practices, we will continue to accord priority to the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and, within countries, to the people who are most vulnerable.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development rests with each one of us, through our partnerships with the United Nations development system and regional and subregional organizations, as well as with the private sector and civil society.

As ESCAP celebrates its seventy-fifth anniversary and looks forward to the next 25 years, it will remain at the forefront of change in Asia and the Pacific.

*(Signed)* Armida Salsiah **Alisjahbana**  
Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

## A. Proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance in 2021

### Overall orientation

#### Mandates and background

- 19.1 As the regional intergovernmental platform of the United Nations, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) assists its members and associate members in pursuing solutions for sustainable development. The mandate derives from the priorities established in relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, including Council resolution 37 (IV), by which the Commission was established, and Council resolution 1895 (LVII), which amended its mandate to include the social dimension of integrated development.
- 19.2 Through its three core functions, namely, research and analysis, the facilitation of intergovernmental consensus-building and norm-setting, and capacity development, ESCAP supports the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To fulfil these functions, ESCAP is guided by General Assembly resolutions, including Assembly resolution 74/4, in which the Assembly endorsed the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development entitled “Gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development: political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit”. At the regional level, the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific, endorsed by the Commission in its resolution 73/9, serves as the reference framework.
- 19.3 The work of the Commission is also grounded in its resolutions 76/2 and 77/1, by which the Commission reaffirmed the importance of international and regional cooperation to strengthen the resilience of member States to the socioeconomic effects of pandemics, including issues related to health. The congruence of the Commission’s conference structure to its programme priorities further increases the efficiency and effectiveness of its work.

#### Strategy and external factors for 2023

- 19.4 Through the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development, the programme’s strategy for 2023 aims for a recovery from the pandemic that leads to the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In line with the theme of the seventy-eighth session of the Commission, “A common agenda to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific”, the approach delineates the regional cooperation required for its advancement.
- 19.5 The Commission’s overall programme strategy pivots on the integrated approach of its nine subprogrammes, including subregion-specific research, analysis and tools. Through these subprogrammes, ESCAP addresses the needs and requests of its member States, with attention given to those in special situations, namely, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.
- 19.6 In 2023, ESCAP will work to address structural challenges and develop solutions with and for member States to move from short-term mitigation measures to building resilience and sustainability, alleviating poverty and inequality and investing in the welfare of people, especially people in vulnerable situations, including women, youth, older persons, migrants and persons with disabilities. Recognizing the synergies between the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda, ESCAP will continue to facilitate regional policy dialogue to further implement the outcomes of the 25-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action to advance gender equality and women’s economic empowerment. ESCAP will support efforts to embed inclusive and gender- and care-sensitive social protection in national development agendas through the Action Plan to Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Social Protection in Asia

and the Pacific, endorsed by member States at the seventy-seventh session of the Commission. By extension, this will entail facilitating member States' actions towards regional cooperation, including to promote equitable health-care systems.

- 19.7 In accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals to be reviewed at the 2023 high-level political forum, ESCAP will explore opportunities to align the recovery efforts of member State with climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and promote low greenhouse gas emission development strategies to enable countries to achieve their climate commitments under the Paris Agreement. It will also work with its member States to identify pathways by which an orderly energy transition that drives economies towards net zero emissions allows access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and to advance disaster risk management.
- 19.8 To assist member States in implementing decisions adopted at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the third session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, ESCAP will promote the integration of the concept of adaptation into local, national and regional planning and the further raising of mitigation ambitions through nationally determined contributions.
- 19.9 In support of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, ESCAP will analyse macroeconomic policy and financing for development, particularly with a view to broadening member States' fiscal space through the development of integrated national financing frameworks. It plans to facilitate the sharing of best practices and lessons learned on solutions to align government spending with sustainable development and explore innovative, sustainable and digital financing instruments, in addition to encouraging Governments to consider further debt relief measures and accelerate efforts to combat tax evasion through regional and international cooperation.
- 19.10 ESCAP will support the implementation of the new Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026) adopted at the fourth Ministerial Conference on Transport, including by developing capacity-building projects to strengthen regional and interregional transport connectivity, fast-tracking transformative action in transport for the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals and addressing the environmental dimension of international supply chains and the introduction of digital and intelligent transport systems. It will encourage the cooperation of member States and coordinate their efforts to improve transport infrastructure and to remove related constraints to ensure a seamless and sustainable transport system in the Asia-Pacific region.
- 19.11 Another focus for ESCAP in 2023 will be trade facilitation and digitization, supported through, inter alia, the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific. Building on the lesson that digital readiness, universal broadband connectivity and digital capacity have played key roles in monitoring and effectively responding to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, ESCAP will further identify policy options to reduce the digital divide across and within countries, with a focus on countries in special situations as well as on rural communities.
- 19.12 Data and statistics remain key means to facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. ESCAP will therefore deepen its support on Sustainable Development Goal progress assessment at the regional, subregional and national levels. It will also accord priority to providing support to ESCAP members and associate members in the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Building a More Resilient Future with Inclusive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, which highlights the crucial role of civil registration and vital statistics in enabling governments and authorities to prepare for and respond to crises such as the global COVID-19 pandemic, with an emphasis on reaching the most vulnerable. Building on the work of the Statistical Commission, it will also focus on supporting member States in implementing complementary statistics relating to gross domestic product (GDP) that will measure inclusive and sustainable growth and prosperity. In 2023, ESCAP will continue to apply innovative approaches to data analytics and management by integrating the Data Strategy of

the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere, into its research and analysis, intergovernmental norm-setting and capacity development and its business operations to fully unlock the Commission's data and analytics potential in implementing its mandates.

- 19.13 As the principal intergovernmental platform in Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP will continue to promote the generation of innovative policies for integrated, inclusive and sustainable development and to build consensus on norms and agreements to address shared challenges. ESCAP will also foster regional dialogue and cooperation, with an emphasis on transboundary issues, through the third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum and the seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference, among others.
- 19.14 Together with a broad range of partners, including member States, United Nations development system entities, other international and regional organizations, the private sector and civil society, ESCAP will convene the tenth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in 2023. The Forum will enable multi-stakeholder engagement for the regional follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Planned activities include an annual report highlighting progress towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, together with policy recommendations to accelerate achievement, in addition to building capacities to conduct voluntary national reviews through, inter alia, better use of data and statistics as well as stakeholder engagement.
- 19.15 As more than half its member States belong to the group of countries in special situations, ESCAP is mainstreaming the implementation of the various programmes of action for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States into all of its subprogrammes to support those countries in implementing relevant goals and targets. ESCAP also supports, as a member of the inter-agency task force on least developed country graduation, those member States that are on the cusp of graduating from the category of least developed country, with 5 of the 11 least developed countries in the region due to graduate by 2026.
- 19.16 Reflecting the importance of continuous improvement and responding to the needs of member States, ESCAP has mainstreamed lessons learned and best practices related to the adjustments to and adaptation of its programme resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes its hybrid mode of programme delivery, which has proven to be a valuable tool under prevailing circumstances and has facilitated broader participation from the Commission's membership and produced planned results. While ESCAP has incorporated pandemic-related impacts into all its intergovernmental, analytical and technical cooperation activities, it plans to focus its efforts on developing resilient solutions in support of sustainable development for the region.
- 19.17 With regard to cooperation with other entities at the global, regional, national and local levels, ESCAP will collaborate with regional and subregional organizations, as well as development partners, to strategically implement its programme, including through South-South cooperation, triangular cooperation, regional partnerships and proactive engagement with other organizations and entities as appropriate. Each component under subprogramme 8 aims at strengthening cooperation, in particular with subregional organizations on transboundary issues. In 2023, ESCAP will also expand its collaboration with regional development banks and the private sector.
- 19.18 With regard to inter-agency coordination and liaison, ESCAP works with an array of United Nations development system entities at the global, regional and national levels in support of the Secretary-General's development reform. Its multisectoral expertise contributes to global products, as well as to common country assessments and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, and its subregional offices serve as the main point of contact for resident coordinator offices and United Nations country teams. Jointly with the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Development Coordination Office regional office for Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP provides secretariat support to the fully established regional collaborative platform, and its substantive divisions collaborate in supporting issue-based coalitions. ESCAP is co-leading the issue-based coalition on climate change mitigation and air pollution with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), where its expertise, geared to

support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 7 and 13 and the implementation of the Paris Agreement, is of specific relevance. Furthermore, the “Asia-Pacific knowledge management hub”, co-led by ESCAP and the Development Coordination Office, is the main platform for sharing policy expertise, showcasing analytical work and providing rapid response to the needs of countries and United Nations country teams relating to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

- 19.19 With regard to the external factors, the overall plan for 2023 is based on the following planning assumptions:
- (a) National Governments maintain and strengthen their commitment to the Commission as the principal intergovernmental platform in the region for leveraging regional cooperation to meet transboundary and common challenges, such as recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic;
  - (b) Governments and other stakeholders continue to collaborate with the Commission in undertaking the proposed programme activities with the necessary capacity and resources;
  - (c) Extrabudgetary funding for technical cooperation continues to be available.
- 19.20 Where feasible, the programme plan for 2023 continues to incorporate novel approaches to implement mandates that were put in place in response to the changed operational conditions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, the programme plan for 2023 assumes that those operational conditions have improved and will allow for mandate implementation through formerly established approaches. Any modifications to planned deliverables would be in pursuance of the objectives, strategies and mandates and would be reported as part of the programme performance information.
- 19.21 ESCAP integrates a gender perspective in its operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate. For example, gender equality is a thematic area for subprogrammes 6 and 7. In the 2023 programme plan, subprogrammes 2 and 6, and component 5 of subprogramme 8, specifically contribute results to gender equality and women’s economic empowerment, while subprogrammes 4 and 9, and components 1 to 4 of subprogramme 8, address gender equality in their strategies. The delivery of results on gender-related Sustainable Development Goals and the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into the programme will be guided by the Commission’s gender equality policy and implementation plan (2019–2023).
- 19.22 In line with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy and the Commission’s disability inclusion policy, subprogramme 6 incorporates disability-specific interventions to protect and empower persons with disabilities and, ultimately, to build disability-inclusive societies. ESCAP will also provide support to member States to charter a course of disability-inclusive development building, based on the outcome of the 2022 high-level intergovernmental meeting on the final review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

## Programme performance in 2021

### Impact of the pandemic

- 19.23 The continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic into 2021 had an impact on the implementation of mandates, in spite of ESCAP adopting new work methods early in the pandemic to continue delivering knowledge products and services to and providing platforms for exchanges and consensus-building for its member States. The pandemic situation had an impact on achieving the planned targets for result 2 of subprogramme 5, and led to delays in the timely implementation of planned activities for result 1 of subprogramme 8, component 3, as well as result 1 of subprogramme 9. At the same time, the shift to virtual modes mitigated the impact of the pandemic on the implementation of mandates and offered additional opportunities for more frequent interactions with stakeholders, albeit in shortened formats, and led to an increase in capacity-building activities offered online. In addition, ESCAP supported member States on issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic, within the overall scope of the objectives

and in the context of its framework, to support the socioeconomic response to COVID-19, as described in the result narratives of subprogrammes 1 and 5 to 7.

## Legislative mandates

19.24 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the programme.

### *General Assembly resolutions*

61/16	Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council	74/3	Political declaration of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway
66/288	The future we want		
67/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community		
69/15	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway	74/4	Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly
69/137	Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024	74/15	Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024
69/142	Realizing the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond		
69/277	Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations	74/216	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
69/283	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030		
69/288	Comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States	74/228	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)	74/235	Women in development
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	74/238	Operational activities for development of the United Nations system
70/170	Towards the full realization of an inclusive and accessible United Nations for persons with disabilities	74/253	Enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities to conferences and meetings of the United Nations system
70/192	Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development	74/270	Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)
71/312	Our ocean, our future: call for action	74/297	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
71/321	Enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them	74/306	Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic
72/279	Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system	74/307	United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19
73/133	Graduation of countries from the least developed country category	75/15	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations
73/254	Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners	75/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation
		75/90	The situation in Afghanistan



## Section 19 Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

75/154	Inclusive development for and with persons with disabilities	76/154	Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: participation
75/175	Human rights and extreme poverty		
75/233	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system	76/163	The right to development
		76/200	Agricultural technology for sustainable development
75/268	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization	76/202	Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Agenda 21
75/269	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	76/203	Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
75/288	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum		
75/290 A	Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council	76/211	Combating sand and dust storms
	Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level	76/213	Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development
	Economic and Social Council	76/216	Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
		76/217	Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
75/290 B	High-level political forum on sustainable development	76/218	Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)
75/324	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization	76/219	Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
76/72	Oceans and the law of the sea		
76/136	Promoting social integration through social inclusion	76/221	South-South Cooperation
		76/222	Agriculture development, food security and nutrition
76/148	Rights of indigenous peoples		

### *Economic and Social Council resolutions*

37 (IV)	Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East	2018/5	Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all
1895 (LVII)	Change of name of the “Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East” to “Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific”	2019/6	Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies
		2019/27	Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations
1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields	2020/5	Strengthening coordination of the statistical programmes in the United Nations system
2013/19	Conclusion of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development	2020/23	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
2014/11	Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development		
2015/30	Restructuring the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda	2021/7	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
2016/11	Committing to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific	2021/11	Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-third session

*Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions*

66/1	Incheon Declaration	73/1	A conference structure of the Commission aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
66/9	Full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and its regional and global outcomes in the Asia-Pacific region	73/2	Strengthening the regional mechanism for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024
66/15	Strengthening of the evaluation function of the secretariat of the Commission		
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	73/3	Advancing integrated and seamless connectivity for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific
68/8	Enhancing coordination within the United Nations system and cooperation with regional organizations for promoting regional development	73/5	Strengthening Asia-Pacific's support for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14
68/9	Terms of reference of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	73/9	Regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific
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	74/1	Supporting the smooth transition of the least developed countries in Asia and the Pacific towards a sustainable graduation
		74/6	Advancing disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific
		74/10	Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Enhancing Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration to Support the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific
70/1	Implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific	75/1	Implementation of the outcome of the Euro-Asian Regional Midterm Review of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024
70/10	Implementation of the Bangkok Declaration of the Asia-Pacific region on the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015		
71/2	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 in Asia and the Pacific	75/2	Committing to strengthening the links between national, regional and global follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific
71/3	Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024	75/3	Advancing partnerships within and across regions for the sustainable development of Asia and the Pacific
71/4	Implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway	75/4	Strengthening regional cooperation to tackle air pollution challenges in Asia and the Pacific
72/6	Committing to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific	76/1	Strengthening cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific
72/8	Fostering regional cooperation and partnerships to respond to the climate change challenge in the Asia-Pacific region		
72/9	Regional cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific	76/2	Regional cooperation to address the socioeconomic effects of pandemics and crises in Asia and the Pacific
		77/1	Building back better from crises through regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific

**Subprogramme 1**  
**Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development**

*General Assembly resolutions*

76/192	International financial system and development	76/195	Financial inclusion for sustainable development
76/193	External debt sustainability and development		

*Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions*

E/CN.11/63	Statistical and economic documentation work	71/5	Implementing the outcome of the Asia-Pacific High-level Consultation on Financing for Development
68/10	Enhancing regional economic integration in Asia and the Pacific		

**Subprogramme 2**  
**Trade, investment and innovation**

*General Assembly resolutions*

75/211	Entrepreneurship for sustainable development	76/190	International trade and development
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*Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions*

70/5	Strengthening regional cooperation and capacity for enhanced trade and investment in support of sustainable development	72/4	Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific
70/6	Implementation of the decision of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on a Regional Arrangement for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade	72/12	Harnessing science, technology and innovation for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific
72/3	Statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	75/8	Advancing science, technology and innovation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

**Subprogramme 3**  
**Transport**

*General Assembly resolutions*

69/213	Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development	72/212	Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals
70/197	Towards comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multimodal transit corridors	74/299 75/308	Improving global road safety Scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting on improving global road safety

*Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions*

70/7	Implementation of the Suva Declaration on Improving Maritime Transport and Related Services in the Pacific	71/8	Strengthening intraregional and interregional connectivity in Asia and the Pacific
71/6	Maritime transport connectivity for sustainable development	72/5	Strengthening regional cooperation on transport connectivity for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific
71/7	Adoption of the Regional Cooperation Framework for the Facilitation of International Railway Transport	73/4	Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific

74/2 Promotion of the regional framework for the planning, design, development and operation of dry ports of international importance

74/3 Improving road safety in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable transport systems

**Subprogramme 4  
Environment and development**

*General Assembly resolutions*

71/222 International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028

71/256 New Urban Agenda

74/212 International Day of Clean Air for blue skies

75/212 United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028

75/220 Harmony with Nature

76/207 Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

2017/24 Human settlements

*Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions*

70/11 Implementing the outcome of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

72/2 Statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization

70/12 Strengthening efforts on human settlements and sustainable urban development for the Asia-Pacific region

74/4 Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development for Asia and the Pacific, 2017

71/9 Strengthening cooperation on sustainable management of water resources in Asia and the Pacific

**Subprogramme 5  
Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management**

*General Assembly resolutions*

70/125 Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

76/128 International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development

74/82 International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

76/189 Information and communications technologies for sustainable development

76/204 Disaster risk reduction

75/124 International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

2015/14 Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

2018/14 Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters

2015/31 Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management

2021/28 Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

2016/27 Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management

*Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions*

71/12	Strengthening regional mechanisms for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in Asia and the Pacific	73/7	Enhancing regional cooperation for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in Asia and the Pacific
72/7	Regional cooperation to combat sand and dust storms in Asia and the Pacific	75/5	Implementation of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration of the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
72/10	Regional review of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society action lines	75/6	Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030)
72/11	Advancing disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific for implementation of internationally agreed development goals	75/7	Advancing the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative through regional cooperation

**Subprogramme 6**  
**Social development**

*General Assembly resolutions*

49/128	Report of the International Conference on Population and Development	75/157	Women and girls and the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
65/234	Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014	75/161	Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls
65/312	Outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding	75/226	International migration and development
68/4	Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development	76/134	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
69/147	Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls	76/135	Cooperatives in social development
73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	76/138	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
73/326	Format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums	76/139	Preparations for and observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family
74/121	Policies and programmes involving youth	76/142	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
74/126; 76/140	Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas		
75/131	United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030)		
75/156	Strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on women and girls	76/146	The girl child
		76/168	Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

2016/25	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development	2018/6	Third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002
2017/12	Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	2018/8	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women
		2020/8	Modalities for the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002
		2021/8	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development

*Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions and decisions*

66/12	Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference	Decision 70/22	Report of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference
67/5	Full and effective implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Asia-Pacific region	71/13	Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
67/6	Enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities at ESCAP	74/7	Towards disability-inclusive sustainable development: implementation of the Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy
67/8	Strengthening social protection systems in Asia and the Pacific		
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	74/11	Strengthening regional cooperation to tackle inequality in all its forms in Asia and the Pacific
68/6	Asia-Pacific regional preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014	Decision 74/26	Report of the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
68/7	Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022	Decision 75/7	Report of the Midterm Review of the Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development including the Chair's summary
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	Decision 76/8	Asia-Pacific indicator framework for monitoring progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and of the commitments contained in the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development
69/14	Implementation of the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing		
70/14	Enhancing participation of youth in sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific	Decision 77/6	Report of the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

**Subprogramme 7**  
**Statistics**

*General Assembly resolutions*

68/261	Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	71/313	Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
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*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

2006/6	Strengthening statistical capacity	2013/21	Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
2011/15	Revision of the statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	2017/7	Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

*Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions*

246 (XLII)	Statistical services in Asia and the Pacific	67/10	A core set of economic statistics to guide the improvement of basic economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific
65/2	Regional technical cooperation and capacity-building in statistics development in Asia and the Pacific	67/11	Strengthening statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific

**Section 19      Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific**

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67/12	Improvement of civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific	71/14	Asian and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade, 2015–2024
69/15	Implementing the outcome of the High-level Meeting on the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	74/8	Accelerating the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific
69/16	A core set of population and social statistics to guide national capacity development in Asia and the Pacific	75/9	Implementation of the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind

**Subprogramme 8  
Subregional activities for development***General Assembly resolutions*

63/260	Development-related activities	72/283	Strengthening regional and international cooperation to ensure peace, stability and sustainable development in the Central Asian region
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*Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions*

244 (XLI)	The Commission's Activities in the Pacific
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**Subprogramme 9  
Energy***General Assembly resolutions*

65/151	International Year of Sustainable Energy for All	76/210	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
67/215	Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy		

*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
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*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	68/11 70/9; 74/9	Connectivity for energy security Implementation of the outcomes of the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum
67/2	Promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific	73/8	Strengthening regional cooperation for sustainable energy development in Asia and the Pacific

**Deliverables**

19.25    Table 19.1 lists all cross-cutting deliverables of the programme.

Table 19.1  
Cross-cutting deliverables for the period 2021–2023, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
1. Reports for the Commission	1	5	5	5
2. Reports for the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development	1	6	6	6
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>34</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>
Meetings of:				
3. The Commission	10	7	10	10
4. The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development	6	8	6	8
5. The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	6	6	6	6
6. The expert groups on least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	9	4	3	3
7. The Committee for Programme and Coordination	1	1	1	1
8. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	1	2	2	2
9. The Fifth Committee	1	2	2	2
10. The regional collaborative platform	–	6	6	4
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
11. On selected issues pertinent to the sustainable development of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	1	3	1	2
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	<b>7</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>
12. Subregional workshops on priorities of the programmes of action for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	4	–	3	3
13. Policy dialogues based on the <i>Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report</i>	3	–	3	2
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
14. ESCAP theme study	1	1	1	1
15. <i>Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report</i>	1	1	1	1
16. On the implementation of the 2030 Agenda	1	1	1	1
17. <i>Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Journal</i>	–	–	2	2
<b>Technical materials</b> (number of materials)	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
18. On issues relevant to Asia-Pacific least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	4	6	4	4
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>				
<b>Databases and substantive digital materials:</b> Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Goal partnership data portal; Sustainable Development Goal help desk for government officials and technical experts; knowledge platform to support least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in Asia and the Pacific in implementing their relevant programmes of action.				
<b>D. Communication deliverables</b>				
<b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> observance of United Nations international days, including United Nations Day; outreach programmes upon demand for the general public, including for academic organizations, for approximately 300 participants.				
<b>External and media relations:</b> press releases and op-ed articles on the work and activities of ESCAP; press conferences/press briefings and press interviews for major publications and events.				
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> multimedia promotional content, including videos and educational materials for major publications and events; blog posts for the ESCAP website and content for ESCAP social media accounts.				



## Evaluation activities

- 19.26 The evaluation of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2017–2021) has guided the proposed programme plan for 2023.
- 19.27 The results and lessons of the evaluation included recommended areas for improvement and priority activities, taking into consideration the needs of member States in line with the 2030 Agenda and in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The results were also used to formulate the scope and delivery modalities of the new Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026), which was adopted at the fourth session of the Ministerial Conference on Transport held in December 2021 and has been reflected in the strategy and deliverables of subprogramme 3.
- 19.28 The following evaluations are planned for 2023:
- (a) Office of Internal Oversight Services report on the macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development subprogramme;
  - (b) Evaluation of the energy subprogramme;
  - (c) Evaluation of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology.

## Programme of work

### Subprogramme 1

#### Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development

#### Objective

- 19.29 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen the capacity of member States to achieve stable, inclusive and sustainable economic development in Asia and the Pacific.

#### Strategy

- 19.30 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will promote a more balanced and multidimensional development approach, beyond the primary focus on economic growth, and support member States in transforming their economies in a manner that is consistent with the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda, contributing in particular to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 8 to 10, 12 and 17. Specifically the subprogramme will:
- (a) Support member States in exploring, adopting and mainstreaming economic development strategies and policies and financing strategies through direct technical advisory and capacity-building efforts and the facilitation of knowledge exchange and consensus-building among member States;
  - (b) Facilitate policy discussions, exchanges of ideas and experiences, and consensus-building among member States on economic policies and financing issues through the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development of the Commission, including the Consultative Group on Financing Strategies for the Sustainable Development Goals;
  - (c) Strengthen the outreach of the subprogramme's research and knowledge products, including the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific*, the *Financing for Development in Asia and the Pacific* series and policy papers, through policy dialogues and closer cooperation with government bodies, policy think tanks and United Nations country teams to further integrate the subprogramme's research and capacity-building work;

- (d) Provide substantive inputs to global and United Nations system-wide processes, task teams and publications coordinated by the Department for Economic and Social Affairs, and to United Nations system-wide initiatives, in particular on financing for development issues and, as needed, the development of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.

19.31 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

- (a) Evidence-based development strategies and economic policies for strengthened economic resilience, inclusive development and environmental sustainability;
- (b) The strengthened ability of member States, in particular of the least developed countries, to mobilize and allocate financial resources for sustainable development by mainstreaming financing aspects into sustainable development efforts;
- (c) The improved ability of member States to employ economic and financial levers to promote the transformation of their economies towards resilient, inclusive and sustainable development pathways.

## Programme performance in 2021

### Leveraging capital markets and bond issuance for financing sustainable development

- 19.32 A well-functioning, deep and liquid capital and bond market is essential for broadening the fiscal space for and supporting investments in sustainable development. Although this option is used by developed countries and several developing countries, most least developed countries in Asia and the Pacific have rarely, if ever, leveraged this financing option.
- 19.33 The subprogramme has been supporting the development of domestic capital markets and the use of bond issuance to finance sustainable development through its research publications and capacity-building efforts. In particular, it provided extensive assistance to Bhutan in exploring options for better leveraging bond issuance, including by supporting the Government of Bhutan in the establishment of a cross-departmental task force to oversee the process, providing advice on the legal framework to guide sovereign bond issuance and providing capacity-building for officials and policymakers in Bhutan, including study tours to other member States to learn from their experiences through the South-South exchange.
- 19.34 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.2).

Table 19.2  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)
—	Bhutan successfully completed its first-ever issuance of sovereign bonds to support the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic	Bhutan successfully completed another issuance of sovereign bonds with a longer 10-year maturity and established the institutions and capacity for future sovereign bond issuances

## Planned results for 2023

### Result 1: Asia-Pacific countries take action to transform their economies for sustainable development

#### Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 19.35 The subprogramme's work contributed to five member States (Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan and Samoa) taking policy actions, informed by knowledge products prepared under the subprogramme, intended to transform their economies by making them more resilient, inclusive and sustainable, which met the planned target.
- 19.36 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.3).

Table 19.3  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
Enhanced understanding of financing needs and strategies by member States, as demonstrated by 94 per cent of participants expressing their ability to design and implement policies concerning the 2030 Agenda and financing for development	Five member States commenced the design of economic policies and the implementation of financing strategies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, informed by knowledge products prepared under the subprogramme	Five member States (Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Samoa) took policy actions on transforming towards resilient, inclusive and sustainable economies	Three policy actions by member States aimed at transforming their economies according to the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda and informed by knowledge products prepared by the subprogramme	Three policy actions by member States aimed at transforming their economies according to the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda

### Result 2: enhanced capacity of member States in designing policies and strategies for resilient economies

#### Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 19.37 The subprogramme's work contributed to member States deciding to establish the Consultative Group on Financing Strategies for the Sustainable Development Goals and requesting further support in areas such as pandemic economic recovery, poverty alleviation and the transformation towards resilient, inclusive and sustainable economies at the third session of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development. This met the planned target of member States building consensus on strategies and policies towards more resilient economies.
- 19.38 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.4).

Table 19.4  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
—	—	Member States decided to establish the Consultative Group on Financing Strategies for the Sustainable Development Goals and requested further support in areas such as pandemic economic recovery, poverty alleviation and the transformation towards resilient, inclusive and sustainable economies	Three member States implement national strategies and policy initiatives towards more resilient economies, including but not limited to fiscal and financial measures	Three member States take policy actions to implement national strategies and policy initiatives to increase the resilience of their economies

**Result 3: strengthening financing for sustainable development, with a focus on innovative and emerging financing options in the Asia-Pacific region**

**Proposed programme plan for 2023**

- 19.39 Financing for sustainable development has been mainstreamed as one primary focus of the subprogramme since 2017. The subprogramme's work has covered a series of sub-issues, including public finance and resource mobilization; financial market development and digital financing; financial inclusion and financing for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises; climate finance and innovative financing options for sustainable development; and infrastructure financing, as well as regional and global cooperation on multilateral policy issues such as tax cooperation and debt relief.

*Lessons learned and planned change*

- 19.40 The lesson for the subprogramme was that the approach of providing close support to the Government of Bhutan in sovereign bond issuance, including through technical advice on legislation and guidance on policy design and implementation, could be leveraged in other contexts. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will focus on fostering and maintaining close and direct working relationships with government departments, on innovative options for financing sustainable development, such as thematic bonds and debt for climate swaps instruments, as well as on new business models and modalities of financial services in the age of digitization. The subprogramme will also leverage its engagement in global financing for development processes, in collaboration with several United Nations entities, in particular resident coordinator offices and United Nations country teams, UNDP and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and in partnership with groups such as the Partnership for Action on Green Economy and the Green Fiscal Policy Network, to strengthen the synergy of its work with United Nations-wide initiatives and amplify the outreach of its policy work and knowledge products.
- 19.41 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.5).

Table 19.5  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
Enhanced understanding of financing needs and strategies among policymakers in member States to effectively pursue the Sustainable Development Goals	New initiatives by seven member States (Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, China, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Samoa and Sri Lanka) to design and implement financing strategies to bridge financing gaps for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda	New policy initiatives or reforms by three member States (Bangladesh, Cambodia and Vanuatu) to strengthen financing and resource mobilization and allocation for sustainable development	New policy initiatives or reforms by three member States to strengthen financing and resource mobilization and allocation for sustainable development	New policy initiatives or reforms by three member States to strengthen financing and resource mobilization and allocation for sustainable development

## Deliverables

19.42 Table 19.6 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 19.6  
Subprogramme 1: deliverables for the period 2021–2023, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
1. Reports for the Commission	1	1	1	1
2. Reports for the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development	3	5	–	3
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>
3. Meetings of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development	6	6	–	6
4. Regional and national dialogues on issues related to financing for development	4	4	–	1
5. Expert group meetings on financing for development	–	2	4	–
6. Expert group meetings on the <i>Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific</i> publication	4	6	4	4
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
7. On selected economic policy and financing for development issues	1	2	1	1
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>
8. Policy-focused discussions based on research outlined in the <i>Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific</i> and the <i>Financing for Development in Asia and the Pacific</i> publications	6	6	6	4
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
9. <i>Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific</i>	1	1	1	1

Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
10. <i>Financing for Development Series</i>	1	1	–	1
11. <i>Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Journal</i>	2	2	–	–
<b>Technical materials</b> (number of materials)	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
12. Knowledge products on economic issues and policies tailored to countries' specific circumstances	8	8	4	4
13. Working paper series on macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development	2	7	2	2
14. Policy briefs on macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development	4	5	4	4
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>				
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> side event on financing for development at the Economic and Social Council; technical advice to all member States on financing for development and macroeconomic policy; technical advisory notes and presentation materials on macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development.				
<b>D. Communication deliverables</b>				
<b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> information materials on the <i>Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific</i> .				
<b>External and media relations:</b> press interviews for major publications and events; press releases and op-ed articles on macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development.				
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> web pages on economic assessment and sustainable development, and on financing for development.				

## Subprogramme 2 Trade, investment and innovation

### Objective

- 19.43 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen the capacity of member States to implement policies and programmes that more effectively harness the potential of trade, investment, innovation, technology and enterprise development for sustainable development and regional integration in Asia and the Pacific.

### Strategy

- 19.44 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Support member States in formulating and implementing policies and measures to facilitate trade, investment and innovation and to reduce unnecessary barriers in these areas in support of sustainable development, with a specific focus on the needs of least developed and landlocked countries;
  - (b) Build the capacity of member States, in cooperation with global and regional partners such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organization, to negotiate and implement trade and investment agreements and to design and implement trade and investment facilitation policies and measures, including through the adoption of paperless trade systems;
  - (c) Provide capacity-building in close cooperation with the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, including workshops, training activities and policy advice; develop knowledge products on sustainable foreign direct investment (FDI), innovation, technology cooperation and transfer, emerging and frontier technologies, responsible and inclusive business, social

enterprise, impact investment and innovative finance for women's entrepreneurship; and support member States in making progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 3, 5 to 9, 13 and 17;

- (d) Support member States and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in the areas of trade facilitation and support and trade digitization, such as paperless and contactless trade, to maintain trade flows, in particular with regard to critical goods linked to COVID-19-related trade vulnerabilities;
- (e) Support member States in formulating policies for sustainable FDI, infrastructure financing and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, with a key focus on private sector engagement through the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network and on developing innovative financial and digital tools to support women entrepreneurs with regard to reducing vulnerabilities in times of crisis;
- (f) Support regional cooperation platforms and expand expert networks in the areas of trade, investment, technology and innovation and sustainable business, including through public-private partnerships, for effective knowledge dissemination and peer learning.

19.45 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

- (a) Reduced trade costs and increased participation and competitiveness of companies, especially micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, in international trade;
- (b) The adoption of more effective rules and procedures governing trade, leading to more efficient trade outcomes aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (c) The adoption of policies and programmes aimed at achieving more inclusive and sustainable outcomes of business and investment activities, including sustainable infrastructure financing and public-private partnerships;
- (d) The integration of inclusivity and sustainability dimensions into technology and innovation policies in the region;
- (e) The increased resilience of supply chains by enabling continued trade activities and using technology and innovation to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and future pandemics, as well as other disasters.

## Programme performance in 2021

### Increased sustainable and inclusive trade facilitation measures

19.46 Trade facilitation aims at reducing the red tape and unnecessary barriers associated with engaging in international trade and making it easier for all stakeholders to engage and benefit from trade. To make trade more sustainable and inclusive, trade facilitation measures can be targeted at groups and sectors with special needs, such as micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, women traders and the agricultural sector. The environmental impact of trade facilitation also needs to be considered. The subprogramme has actively promoted sustainable and inclusive trade facilitation through research and capacity-building activities since 2017. In 2021, the subprogramme rolled out an e-learning course on enhancing the effectiveness of trade information portals and organized its third regional online course on trade facilitation and sustainable development, in cooperation with the International Institute for Trade and Development in Thailand, UNCTAD and the International Trade Centre. It also issued a primer on quantifying the environmental benefits of trade facilitation, as part of the *Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2021* on accelerating climate-smart trade and investment, a report produced in partnership with UNCTAD and UNEP. The subprogramme also led the 2021 United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, in collaboration with other United Nations regional commissions, and delivered regional and subregional reports in collaboration with ADB, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

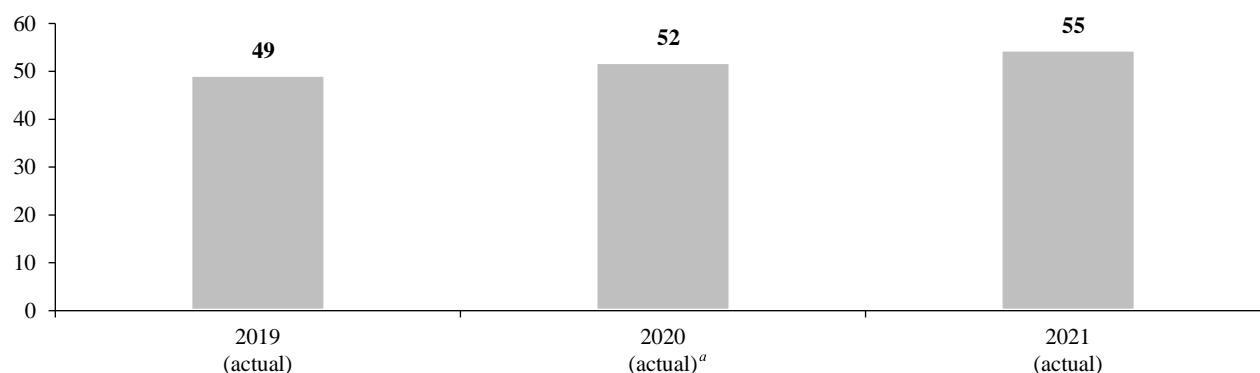
(ASEAN) and other subregional organizations to support countries in understanding the remaining gaps in implementing sustainable trade facilitation measures.

19.47 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.I).

Figure 19.I

**Performance measure: implementation rate of sustainable trade facilitation measures in Asia and the Pacific (annual)**

(Percentage)



<sup>a</sup> As data from the United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation is available on a biennial basis, data for 2020 is estimated as the average of the data for 2019 and 2021.

**Planned results for 2023**

**Result 1: harnessing innovative technologies to enhance women's access to financial services**

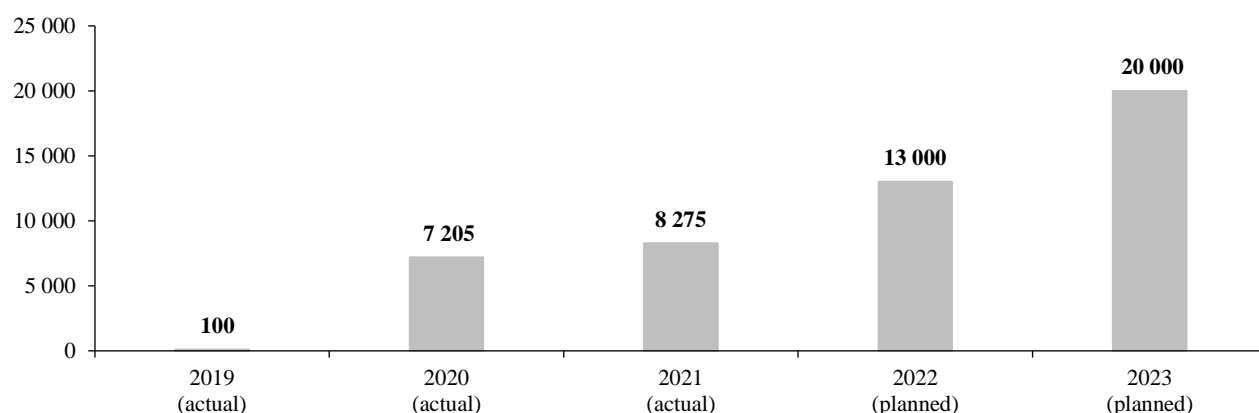
**Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023**

19.48 The subprogramme's work contributed to 8,275 women entrepreneurs accessing financial services with support from ESCAP, which exceeded the planned target of 5,940.

19.49 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.II).

Figure 19.II

**Performance measure: number of women entrepreneurs accessing financial services with support from the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (cumulative)**





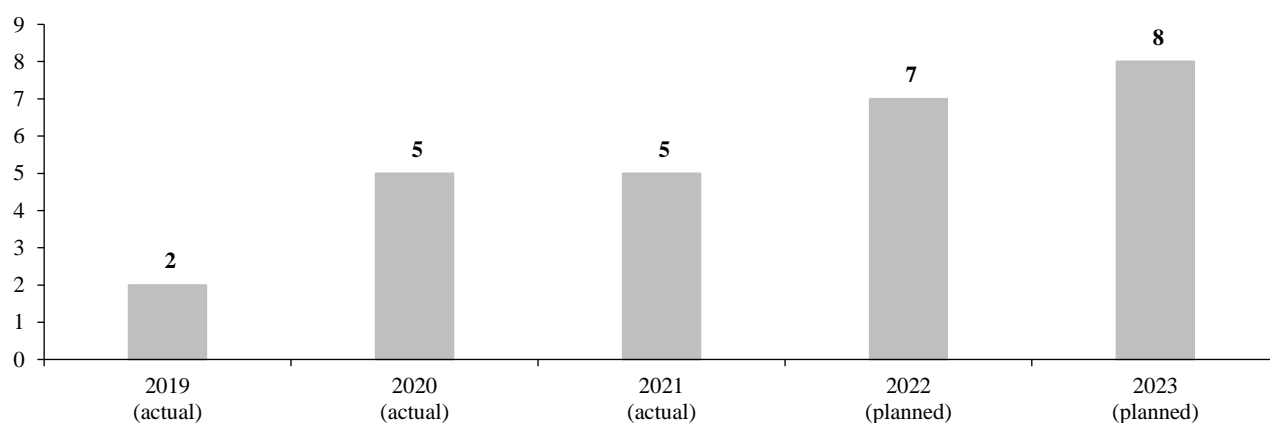
## Result 2: making trade processes more efficient, transparent and safer through paperless and contactless trade

### Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 19.50 The subprogramme's work contributed to five countries (Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Philippines) ratifying the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, which did not meet the planned target of six countries, as several countries experienced delays in completing the domestic procedures required for accession to the treaty.
- 19.51 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.III).

Figure 19.III

**Performance measure: number of countries having acceded to or ratified the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (cumulative)**



## Result 3: strengthened commitment of the private sector in support of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific

### Proposed programme plan for 2023

- 19.52 The active engagement and participation of the private sector is essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Private sector engagement is needed to mobilize financing for delivering the 2030 Agenda, to scale up investment and to drive innovation and technology. To this end, the subprogramme has been working with the private sector through the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network, which consists of representatives from businesses across a range of industries from the region. The Network actively promotes inclusive, resilient and sustainable development through its task forces, and works towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The ESCAP Sustainable Business Network is also the co-organizer of the Asia-Pacific Business Forum, a regional dialogue and networking event that engages businesses committed to sustainable development across Asia and the Pacific. To drive investment towards projects aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Network has also helped to leverage private sector finance for resilient and sustainable infrastructure development through the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnership Network of Asia and the Pacific.

### *Lessons learned and planned change*

- 19.53 The lesson for the subprogramme was that it needed to better engage the private sector in sustainable development and climate action and enhance the capacities and knowledge of businesses in these areas, especially micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and businesses led by women.

Furthermore, there was an opportunity to rally businesses in support of the goal of net zero emissions. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will collaborate with the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network in developing an Asia-Pacific “Green Deal” for businesses and facilitate the adoption of the declaration by the members of the Network at the Asia-Pacific Business Forum in 2022. Consultations on implementing the Green Deal will be undertaken at the meetings of the Network planned for the second and fourth quarters of 2023.

- 19.54 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.7).

Table 19.7  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
–	The private sector supported the idea for an Asia-Pacific Green Deal for businesses in the Asia-Pacific region	The private sector developed a draft of an Asia-Pacific Green Deal for businesses and gave its full support thereto	A number of private sector organizations adopt an Asia-Pacific Green Deal for businesses	An increased number of private sector organizations pledge their support to an Asia-Pacific Green Deal for businesses and sign a declaration to that effect

## Deliverables

- 19.55 Table 19.8 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 19.8  
Subprogramme 2: deliverables for the period 2021–2023, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>
1. Reports for the Commission	1	–	2	1
2. Reports for the Committee on Trade and Investment	6	3	–	6
3. Reports for the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation	–	–	3	–
4. Reports for the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	3	3	3	3
5. Documents for the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement Standing Committee	4	–	4	4
6. Documents for the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation, the Paperless Trade Council and the Standing Committee	4	6	4	4
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>30</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>
Meetings of:				
7. The Committee on Trade and Investment	6	3	–	6
8. The Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation	–	–	3	–
9. The Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	4	3	4	4

**Section 19 Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific**

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2021 actual</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>
10. The Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement Standing Committee	8	–	8	8
11. The Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation, the Paperless Trade Council, and the Standing Committee	4	2	6	4
12. The expert group on trade, investment and innovation	4	3	8	8
13. The ESCAP Sustainable Business Network	2	2	2	2
14. The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Working Group on Trade	2	2	2	2
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
15. On women's entrepreneurship: innovative finance component	1	1	1	1
16. On trade policy and facilitation	1	3	1	1
17. On investment, enterprise and innovation	1	2	1	1
18. On new and emerging technologies	1	4	1	3
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
19. <i>Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report</i>	1	1	–	1
20. <i>Studies in Trade, Investment and Innovation</i>	2	2	1	2
21. <i>Science, Technology and Innovation in Asia and the Pacific</i>	–	–	1	–
<b>Technical materials</b> (number of materials)	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>
22. Trade, Investment and Innovation Working Paper Series	2	2	2	2
23. Policy briefs on trade, investment and innovation	4	4	3	4
24. Reports on trade facilitation and paperless trade implementation	1	1	–	1
25. <i>Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor</i>	4	4	4	4
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>				
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> advisory services on trade, investment and innovation, technology cooperation and transfer, and emerging and frontier technologies; regional knowledge networks linking researchers, policymakers and practitioners in trade, investment and innovation, including the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade and the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific; advisory support for the task forces of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network and for the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development.				
<b>Databases and substantive digital materials:</b> online courses and databases on trade, investment and innovation for regional and global access; the comprehensive trade cost database; the Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Agreements Database; trade performance indicators on non-tariff measures; the online Trade Intelligence and Negotiation Adviser.				
<b>D. Communication deliverables</b>				
<b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> outreach programmes, country fact sheets, multimedia materials and briefings on trade, investment and innovation.				
<b>External and media relations:</b> press releases and op-ed articles on trade, investment and innovation; press interviews for major publications and events.				
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> website of the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade and web pages on technology and innovation, business and investment, trade facilitation and digital trade, trade policy and integration, infrastructure financing and public-private partnerships.				

### Subprogramme 3 Transport

#### Objective

- 19.56 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to achieve sustainable transport connectivity, logistics and mobility in the Asia-Pacific region.

#### Strategy

- 19.57 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Serve as the secretariat for the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network and the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports, and provide technical expertise to the intergovernmental deliberations of the relevant working groups, including on connectivity issues of particular relevance to landlocked developing countries;
  - (b) Provide technical assistance and conduct related research and analysis on land and maritime transport, with due consideration for the specific needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, focusing on harmonized operational transport standards, regulations and practices, including efficient operational arrangements and harmonized legal frameworks for multimodal transport, and facilitate systematic regional and, as appropriate, interregional dialogue to foster regional and interregional connectivity;
  - (c) Facilitate the exchange of good practices on the utilization of new and emerging technologies, and support the wider deployment of smart transport systems through the development of a regional road map, by raising awareness developing capacity-building activities and knowledge products;
  - (d) Undertake policy advocacy and capacity-building in the areas of sustainable urban transport and low greenhouse gas emissions and logistics, including by promoting and facilitating an accelerated transition to electric mobility, clean and energy-efficient transport and environmentally friendly supply chains and applying the sustainable urban transport index developed by ESCAP;
  - (e) Provide technical assistance in the areas of road safety and inclusive transport and mobility, including through a regional plan of action for road safety and regional guidelines addressing accessibility, to support reductions in poverty and inequality and promote inclusive transport for those in vulnerable situations, including women, older persons and persons with disabilities;
  - (f) Collaborate on all of the above with relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, including the International Maritime Organization, other United Nations regional commissions and agencies and regional development banks, including the Islamic Development Bank; international, regional and subregional organizations, including the Economic Cooperation Organization, the International Transport Workers' Federation, the Organization for Cooperation between Railways, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Eurasian Economic Union; and research institutes, associations and other civil society organizations. These work streams will support member States in making progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 3, 7, 9, 11 to 13 and 17.
- 19.58 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) Increased measures and initiatives to develop a more sustainable and resilient transport infrastructure along the regional transport networks (Asian highways, trans-Asian railways and dry ports) and maritime ports to support freight and passenger operations that are affordable, safe, accessible and environmentally friendly;

- (b) Increased measures and initiatives to enhance regional land, maritime and interregional transport connectivity to preserve regional transport linkages and foster regional cooperation to support interregional and intraregional trade and people connectivity, further supporting the realization of the 2030 Agenda;
- (c) The formulation and implementation of sustainable transport and mobility policy initiatives in member countries, including the planning and development of urban public transport systems, measures to promote the use of low-greenhouse-gas-emission transport and smart mobility approaches, and measures to improve transport safety and promote inclusive transport in the region.

## Programme performance in 2021

### Strengthened science-policy interface in the transport sector

19.59 The Asia-Pacific region is lagging in its progress towards achieving the transport-related Sustainable Development Goals. One of the constraints is the lack of a mechanism that supports evidence-based policy development in the transport sector, particularly with regard to comprehensive and integrated approaches towards the achievement of Goals 3, 7, 9 and 11 to 13. The subprogramme facilitated the establishment of a mechanism that allows for collaborative development and the exchange of knowledge products and innovative practices and facilitates the dissemination of information and data in the transport sector. The subprogramme analysed approximately 100 transport research institutions across the region, which were then classified according to the research and expertise they cover and the types of training (e.g. academic, professional, vocational) they offer. Based on this information, a draft recommendation was prepared on ways to set up, launch and operate the research network mechanism, which included references to examples and good practices. In addition, a comprehensive study on a sustainable transport development training programme for transport professionals was prepared. In September 2021, transport officials from 25 ESCAP member countries, in close consultation with transport research institutions across the region, discussed these findings at a regional conference organized by ESCAP. The officials confirmed the need for a transport research and education network, agreed on the proposed network design and further recognized that the recommended training programme would contribute to bridging the regional knowledge gap on sustainable transport.

19.60 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.9).

Table 19.9  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)
Member States, through the evaluation of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, reflected on the past and identified the need to forge effective partnerships with various sectors, including academic institutions, in implementing the Regional Action Programme to achieve transport-related Sustainable Development Goals	Member States and transport research institutions engaged in developing a proposal to close the science-policy gap in the transport sector	Transport ministers of the Asia-Pacific region endorsed the creation of the Transport Research and Education Network in the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the fourth Ministerial Conference on Transport

## Planned results for 2023

### Result 1: realigning the region's priorities towards sustainable transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific

#### Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 19.61 The subprogramme's work contributed to the adoption of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026) by ESCAP member States at the fourth Ministerial Conference on Transport, which met the planned target.
- 19.62 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.10).

Table 19.10

#### Performance measure

<i>2019 (actual)</i>	<i>2020 (actual)</i>	<i>2021 (actual)</i>	<i>2022 (planned)</i>	<i>2023 (planned)</i>
Countries further identified key activities to accelerate the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific	Countries participated in the evaluation of the implementation of the first phase of the Regional Action Programme and initiated discussions on areas to be added or strengthened in the second phase	ESCAP member States adopted the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026) at the fourth session of the Ministerial Conference on Transport	Countries initiate the implementation of the second phase of the Regional Action Programme and other policy frameworks and tools adopted at the fourth session of the Ministerial Conference on Transport	In line with the “Digitalization of transport” theme of the Regional Action Programme, countries reach consensus on the regional road map for smart transport systems in the Asia-Pacific region

### Result 2: accelerating transformative action in transport for the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals

#### Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 19.63 The subprogramme's work contributed to the adoption of seven regional transport priority areas, including three new priority areas, that accelerate impactful change towards sustainability while recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, which met the planned target.
- 19.64 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.11).

Table 19.11  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
ESCAP member States continued to formulate and implement transport policies and measures in priority areas, as indicated in the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2017–2021)	ESCAP member States advanced discussions on priority areas that would balance economic, social and environmental dimensions of transport and support the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030	ESCAP member States adopted seven regional transport priority areas, including three new priority areas, that accelerate impactful change towards sustainability while recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic	Eight new policies and measures by member States that intensify support for the efficiency and resilience of supply chains, the environmental dimensions of transport systems and improvements in transport safety to accelerate the progress towards achieving transport-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals	Eight new policies and measures by member States that intensify support for the efficiency and resilience of supply chains, the environmental dimensions of transport systems and improvements in transport safety to accelerate the progress towards achieving transport-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals

**Result 3: leveraged regional transport network to address the environmental dimension of transport development and international supply chains**

**Proposed programme plan for 2023**

- 19.65 Transport emits approximately 23 per cent of the energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> that feeds global warming. Transport emissions have grown faster than those of any other sector over the past 50 years, and demand for transport will continue to grow in the coming decades. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from transport activity could increase by 60 per cent by 2050.
- 19.66 The subprogramme has been supporting the development of the regional land transport network of Asia and the Pacific through dedicated intergovernmental agreements and the three Working Groups on the Asian Highway, on the Trans-Asian Railway Network and on Dry Ports. It has introduced and facilitated the expansion of the discussion to include operational aspects of international transport. At its sixth session, the Committee on Transport recommended a more holistic approach to strengthen the environmental and social dimensions of transport development and operations.

*Lessons learned and planned change*

- 19.67 The lesson for the subprogramme was that the existing intergovernmental platforms, originally designed to discuss infrastructure connectivity, could also be used as the means to expand regional cooperation on connectivity to support national, subregional and regional initiatives that address the environmental dimension of transport development and operations. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will use the regular meetings of the three Working Groups to advance the measures enhancing the environmental sustainability of freight transport. By promoting exchanges on relevant subregional initiatives and targeted capacity-building, the subprogramme intends to facilitate regional activities that address the environmental dimension of transport development and operations.
- 19.68 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.12).

Table 19.12  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
Countries utilized the Working Groups on the Asian Highway, on the Trans-Asian Railway Network and on Dry Ports to discuss regional transport connectivity issues	ESCAP member States encouraged a holistic approach to strengthen the environmental and social dimensions of transport development and operations	Countries utilized the Working Groups to discuss a regional approach towards enhancing the sustainability of freight transport, listing the environmental dimension of transport development among its priorities	Countries have enhanced knowledge and capacity to carry out activities addressing the environmental dimension of transport development and operations along the regional land transport network and supply chains	Countries institutionalize an agenda to address the environmental dimension of transport development and operations, and implement projects and policy actions along the regional land transport network and supply chains

## Deliverables

19.69 Table 19.13 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 19.13  
Subprogramme 3: deliverables for the period 2021–2023, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
Reports for:				
1. The Commission	–	–	1	1
2. The Committee on Transport	–	–	3	–
3. The Ministerial Conference on Transport	5	5	–	–
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>30</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>28</b>
4. Meetings of the Committee on Transport	–	–	6	–
5. Meetings of the Ministerial Conference on Transport	10	8	–	–
6. Meetings on the Asian Highway Network	4	4	–	4
7. Meetings on the Trans-Asian Railway Network	4	4	–	4
8. Meetings on dry ports	4	4	–	4
9. Meetings of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity	4	2	4	4
10. Expert group meetings on transport connectivity and logistics	4	14	8	8
11. Expert group meetings on mobility	–	–	4	4
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	<b>8</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>
12. On transport connectivity and logistics	4	9	4	3
13. On mobility	4	12	4	7



Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	–	–	–	<b>1</b>
14. On transport connectivity and logistics	–	–	–	1
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
15. On transport developments in Asia and the Pacific	1	1	–	1
16. On transport connectivity, logistics and mobility	1	1	2	1
<b>Technical materials</b> (number of materials)	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
17. On transport connectivity and logistics	2	2	2	2
18. On mobility	1	1	1	1
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>				
<b>Databases and substantive digital materials:</b> Asian Highway database, the Trans-Asian Railway Network and the network of dry ports.				
<b>D. Communication deliverables</b>				
<b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> materials on road safety for regional and global access.				
<b>External and media relations:</b> press releases, blogs and op-ed articles on the Asian Highway Network, environmentally sustainable transport, the Trans-Asian Railway Network, dry ports and intermodal transport, connecting to global supply chains, urban transport, and safe and inclusive transport; press interviews for major publications and events.				
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> web pages on the Asian Highway Network, environmentally sustainable transport, the Trans-Asian Railway Network, dry ports and intermodal transport, connecting to global supply chains and safe and inclusive transport.				

## Subprogramme 4 Environment and development

### Objective

- 19.70 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to reduce the negative impacts of growth on the natural environment and to improve human well-being in urban and rural environments through building the capacity of member States to strengthen climate action and sustainable resource use, realize sustainable urban development and eliminate pollution and waste.

### Strategy

- 19.71 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Support member States in the development of ambitious climate action policies and plans aligned with the Paris Agreement and the decisions adopted at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the third session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, as well as other topical decisions of such sessions, and in the implementation of these policies and plans at the regional, national, subnational and local levels;
  - (b) Generate evidence on status and trends related to the common environment in Asia and the Pacific, including from an urban perspective, and provide technical support for integrated policies to protect the common environment, eliminate pollution and strengthen natural resource management, including through multi-stakeholder engagement and partnerships, while taking into account the participation of women in decision-making processes and the health impacts of environmental issues, with a focus on countries in special situations;

- (c) Build the capacity of city officials to strengthen urban planning processes, provide technical and policy support to facilitate the adoption of urban resilience strategies, the application of appropriate smart technologies and the financing of urban infrastructure, and increase awareness of sustainable urban solutions, including issues related to environmental protection, resource consumption, infrastructure needs, air pollution, climate change and disaster risk reduction;
- (d) Strengthen regional cooperation to eliminate pollution and waste, including by coordinating the regional implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, by, inter alia, providing a participatory, multi-stakeholder dialogue platform for the Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean, and by promoting the implementation of international conventions and region-wide initiatives, as appropriate.

19.72 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

- (a) Enhanced action to address climate change and accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement in Asia-Pacific countries;
- (b) More sustainable and resilient communities and reduced negative impacts of urbanization;
- (c) Scenarios, policies and plans to address the risk of air pollution in the region;
- (d) Enhanced action to protect the environment and strengthen conservation and the sustainable management of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, including oceans;
- (e) The inclusion of environmental action as a core element of development policies by member States that lead to more sustainable and more resilient economies.

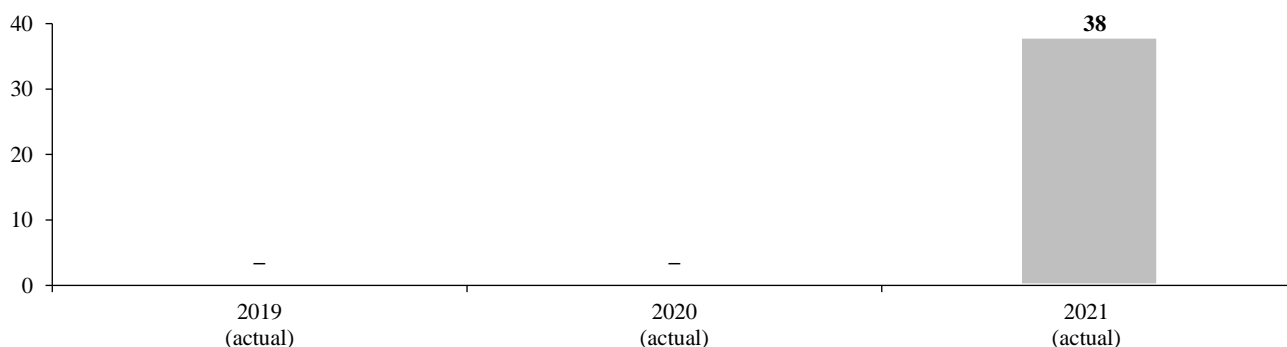
## Programme performance in 2021

### **Strengthened sustainability of food systems through linking poverty reduction, agricultural development and climate-smart mechanization solutions**

- 19.73 The food system is a major driver of environmental degradation. Food production generates vast quantities of greenhouse gases that warm the planet and is responsible for 37 per cent of emissions. The threat of climate change, biodiversity loss, water crises and natural disasters increases the vulnerability of rural communities and livelihoods and in turn increases food insecurity. The subprogramme, through the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, supported actions for the transformation of food systems, including by linking Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2 to reduce poverty through sustainable agricultural development, climate-smart mechanization solutions, the reduction of food loss and waste and the strengthening of food systems amid the response to COVID-19.
- 19.74 In September 2021, the Secretary-General convened the first United Nations Food Systems Summit as a participatory platform to launch new actions to deliver progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. During the consultative process leading to the Summit, the subprogramme convened a regional consultation to facilitate the discussion of stakeholders' perspectives from Asia and the Pacific and, together with the other regional commissions, produced a joint policy brief and video. It also coordinated the involvement of member States, United Nations entities, the scientific community and other stakeholders, and convened a regional-level dialogue to identify priority actions for food systems transformation in Asia and the Pacific. The subprogramme also co-convened four "independent dialogues": two at the national level; one at the subregional level for Central Asia; and one at the regional level as a side event of the seventy-seventh session of the Commission.
- 19.75 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.IV).

Figure 19.IV

**Performance measure: number of commitments of Asia-Pacific countries on the sustainability of food systems at the United Nations Food Systems Summit**



### Planned results for 2023

**Result 1: more ambitious nationally determined contributions to meet commitments to the Paris Agreement**

#### Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 19.76 The subprogramme's work contributed to 40 Asia-Pacific countries updating their nationally determined contributions. Six countries demonstrated greater ambitions, which exceeded the planned target of at least two countries making their contributions more ambitious with the Commission's support.
- 19.77 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.14).

Table 19.14

#### Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
A set of pathways charted as the outcome of Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2019 and as a contribution to the 2019 Climate Action Summit, including energy transition; industry transition; resilience and adaptation; nature-based solutions; transport; infrastructure, cities and local action; enhancing ambition; low carbon and climate resilient development; and access to finance	Mongolia and Myanmar conducted an effective review of their nationally determined contributions processes and Mongolia updated its contribution	40 Asia-Pacific countries updated their nationally determined contributions, 6 of which demonstrated greater ambitions	Plans updated and revised by two additional countries to make their nationally determined contributions more ambitious	Five additional member countries accelerate their climate action activities, through the revision and implementation of nationally determined contributions

**Result 2: member States strengthen regional cooperation on natural resource management, adopt sustainable urban development pathways and develop climate and air pollution mitigation actions**

**Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023**

- 19.78 The subprogramme's work contributed to member States deliberating the terms of reference for a technical expert group on environment and development, which did not meet the planned target of an operational technical expert group on environment and development. The target was not met, as the work modalities, including full membership and the workplan, were still being negotiated. They will be presented to the seventh session of the Committee on Environment and Development for approval in 2022.
- 19.79 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.15).

Table 19.15

**Performance measure**

<i>2019 (actual)</i>	<i>2020 (actual)</i>	<i>2021 (actual)</i>	<i>2022 (planned)</i>	<i>2023 (planned)</i>
Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2019 identified pathways for climate action in the region, and its outcome contributed to the 2019 Climate Action Summit	The Committee on Environment and Development decided to establish the technical expert group on environment and development to enhance regional exchange and to mobilize technical expertise to accelerate environmental and sustainable development action	Member States deliberated the terms of reference for a technical expert group on environment and development	Member States have enhanced access to technical expertise and capacity-building activities under the substantive coordination of the technical expert group on environment and development to accelerate environmental and sustainable development action	Member States make voluntary commitments and adopt national and/or local policies to address air pollution

**Result 3: accelerated implementation of climate action**

**Proposed programme plan for 2023**

- 19.80 The subprogramme has worked with member States to revise their nationally determined contributions to increase the levels of ambition aligned with the Paris Agreement and to incorporate a gender perspective into policies, strategies and frameworks at the national and local levels, in both urban and rural areas.

*Lessons learned and planned change*

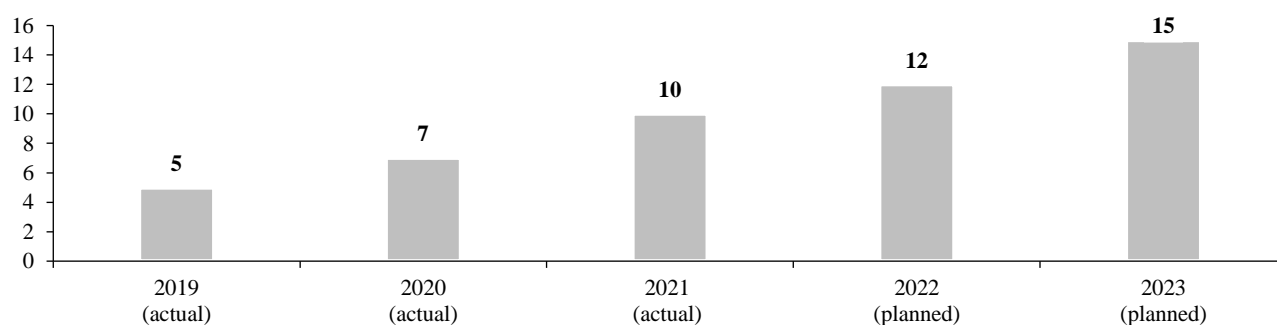
- 19.81 The lesson for the subprogramme was that it needed to change the modalities of support to member States from providing analysis and knowledge products that enhance the understanding of policymakers to delivering technical support aimed at strengthening the implementation of the climate goals set forth. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will build the capacity of policymakers to accelerate climate and pollution action by providing access to tools and methodologies that support the means of implementation (e.g. instruments for the reduction and control of greenhouse gases, policy and institutional coherence, partnerships). In addition, it will provide a regular regional update on nationally determined contributions and ensure that they are operationalized through concrete actions in critical sectors of urban development, waste

management, oceans and agriculture. The subprogramme will strengthen regional collaboration on the common environment, including through regional coordination on actions to address air pollution. It plans to further expand and strengthen its partnership base to include relevant institutions, including the German Agency for International Cooperation and United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific to enhance its local reach. Complementing these efforts, the subprogramme will provide accessible knowledge and capacity-building products to aid in the development of strategies that use low greenhouse gas emissions and sustainable growth solutions.

19.82 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.V).

Figure 19.V

**Performance measure: number of Asia-Pacific countries that develop local climate and/or air pollution action plans and long-term, low-carbon and low-emissions development and recovery strategies (cumulative)**



## Deliverables

19.83 Table 19.16 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 19.16

**Subprogramme 4: deliverables for the period 2021–2023, by category and subcategory**

Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
1. Report for the Commission	1	1	1	1
2. Report for the Committee on Environment and Development	–	–	1	–
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
3. Meetings of the Committee on Environment and Development	–	–	5	–
4. Meetings of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization	2	2	2	2
5. Meetings of the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery	5	5	5	5
6. Expert group meetings for the implementation of internationally agreed agendas related to the environment and development	2	1	2	2
7. Expert group meetings on sustainable and resilient cities in the Asia-Pacific region	8	4	8	8
8. Meetings of the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth	4	1	2	2
9. Meetings of the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum	–	–	–	6
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
10. On the sustainable management of natural resources	1	5	1	1
11. On sustainable urban development	3	3	1	1

Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
12. On sustainable agricultural mechanization	1	2	1	2
13. On sustainable economic growth	1	2	1	1
14. To support countries in Asia-Pacific to meet commitments to the Paris Agreement	3	3	1	1
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>
15. On the integrated management of straw residue	1	1	1	1
16. On strengthening human resources for sustainable agricultural mechanization	2	1	1	1
17. Regional forum on sustainable agricultural mechanization in Asia and the Pacific	–	–	1	1
18. On promoting sustainable agricultural mechanization through South-South cooperation	2	1	1	1
19. Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean	1	1	1	1
20. Asia-Pacific Climate Week	5	1	5	5
21. International Day of Clean Air for blue skies	–	–	1	1
22. Executive training for high-level policy and decision-makers on environment and development	–	–	2	–
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
23. On environment and development	1	1	1	1
24. On progress towards sustainable urbanization in Asia-Pacific	1	1	–	1
<b>Technical materials</b> (number of materials)	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
25. On the environment and development	3	6	1	1
26. On agricultural machinery	2	2	3	3

#### C. Substantive deliverables

**Consultation, advice and advocacy:** advisory services for working groups on environment and development, including the Issue-based Coalition on Climate Change Mitigation; for task forces and regional initiatives on UN-Water and sustainable urban development; for the task forces of ESCAP Sustainable Business Network; and for the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment.

**Databases and substantive digital materials:** e-learning courses on environment and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for regional and global access.

#### D. Communication deliverables

**Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:** information material on agricultural mechanization; United Nations international days such as the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies, World Cities Day, World Environment Day and World Habitat Day, including special events on sustainable urban development and environment and development.

**External and media relations:** press releases and op-ed articles on reducing the negative impacts of growth on the natural environment and improving human well-being in urban and rural environments; press interviews for major publications and events.

**Digital platforms and multimedia content:** web pages of the subprogramme on safeguarding natural resources, sustainable agricultural mechanization, cities for a sustainable future and sustainable growth.

## Subprogramme 5 Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management

### Objective

- 19.84 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen information and communications technology (ICT), space technology applications and disaster risk reduction and management for resilient and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific through regional cooperation and the sharing of best practices.

## Strategy

- 19.85 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will support member States in making progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 4, 5, 9–11, 13–15 and 17 by developing norms for inclusive digital connectivity, geospatial data-sharing and disaster resilience-building, supported by policy analysis and evidence-based research. Specifically, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Build capacity, especially of countries with special needs, in the above-mentioned areas, anchored in regional cooperation mechanisms that promote technical cooperation through the South-South and North-South modalities and are augmented by the programmes of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development and the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management;
  - (b) Promote regional policy dialogue and cooperation through expert group meetings on transboundary challenges related to connectivity and disaster risks, including those related to major environmental challenges such as climate change;
  - (c) Promote building back better<sup>1</sup> with resilience, through the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative. In this context, the subprogramme will carry out diagnostic studies on the digital divide, assess policy and regulatory frameworks and provide gap analysis and policy recommendations, supplemented by advocacy, networking and partnerships in support of the regionally agreed framework;
  - (d) Guided by the Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030), assist member States in harnessing the most recent advances in space technology applications and geospatial data, facilitate timely and expanded access to space-derived geospatial data, pool expertise and resources at the regional and subregional levels, promote the sharing of knowledge and good practices and create synergies with other existing regional initiatives;
  - (e) Augment and leverage regional cooperation through the implementation of the activities of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network and the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries, complemented by improved disaster information management through the services delivered by the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management;
  - (f) Strengthen the resilience of human and institutional capacity, in particular by providing assistance in the advancement of digital transformations, the use of innovative geospatial data applications and the provision of targeted solutions for the special needs of countries that face a high disaster risk.
- 19.86 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) Improved cross-border broadband Internet and infrastructure connectivity;
  - (b) Strengthened Internet traffic management in the most disconnected countries of the region;
  - (c) The improved e-resilience and the cross-border interoperability of ICT networks that support disaster risk reduction;
  - (d) More reliable, resilient and affordable broadband for all;
  - (e) The anticipation of disaster risks and the elaboration of disaster risk preparedness solutions benefiting all levels of society, through improved intercountry sharing and interoperability of geospatial data, and early warning systems, especially for slow-onset disasters in high-risk and low-capacity developing countries;

<sup>1</sup> In support of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, priority 4: enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “build back better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

- (f) Enhanced applications of geospatial information to accelerate Sustainable Development Goal monitoring and implementation by leveraging digital innovations.

## Programme performance in 2021

### Enhanced awareness of policy coherence to manage the cascading risks associated with natural and biological hazards

- 19.87 Millions of people around the Asia-Pacific region are exposed to a higher frequency and intensity of natural hazards, from locust swarms and earthquakes to cyclones. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated how, in an increasingly globalized world, such hazards threaten to create a systemic global collapse, creating risks that often interconnect, with one triggering another in a cascade of devastating events. The pressure of climate change, coupled with the pandemic-induced socioeconomic crisis, has further transformed the “riskscape”, from the steppes of Central Asia to the small island developing States of the Pacific. Through a series of thematic sessions organized during the third ESCAP Disaster Resilience Week, which showcased various ways to build systemic resilience to address multi-hazard risks, the subprogramme invited a wide array of stakeholders to discuss the cascading risks associated with natural and biological hazards. It issued various working papers addressing the overlap of the COVID-19 pandemic with extreme climate events. The findings from these papers were highlighted in the *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2021*, which emphasized the importance of a systemic approach to disaster risk reduction and presented policy options for addressing these cascading risks. To discuss these multiple challenges, the subprogramme also organized a series of virtual meetings, including a special high-level event on disaster and climate resilience in South Asia at the fourth South Asia Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals.
- 19.88 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.17).

Table 19.17

#### Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)
—	Members and associate members gained knowledge of the linkages between natural and biological hazards, and requested that ESCAP develop regional cooperation on cascading hazards that included both natural and biological hazards	Members and associate members agreed at the seventh session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction to address cascading hazard risks through the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

## Planned results for 2023

### Result 1: accelerating regional policy coordination for risk-informed and climate-resilient development

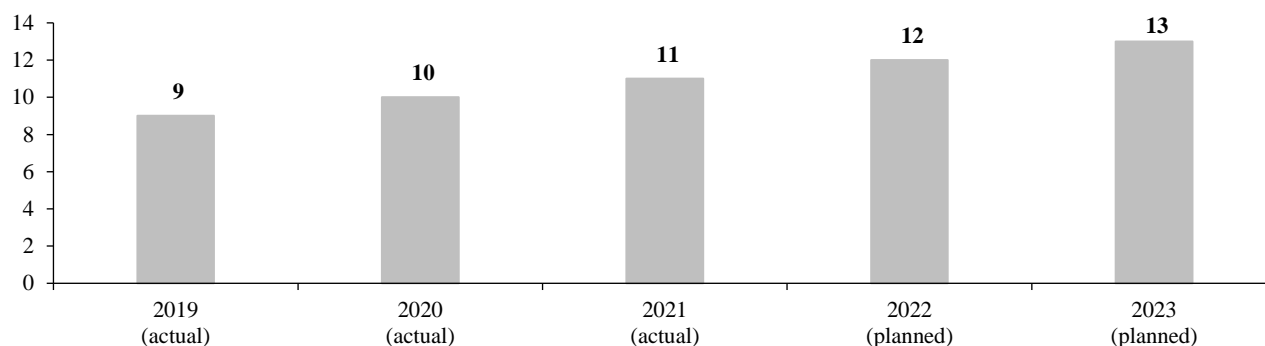
#### Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 19.89 The subprogramme’s work contributed to one additional regional cooperation initiative for risk-informed and climate-resilience through the development and launch of the risk and resilience portal (<https://rrp.unescap.org/>) under the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network, which met the planned target of 11 initiatives for improving disaster resilience.
- 19.90 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.VI).



Figure 19.VI

**Performance measure: number of initiatives for improving disaster resilience (cumulative)**



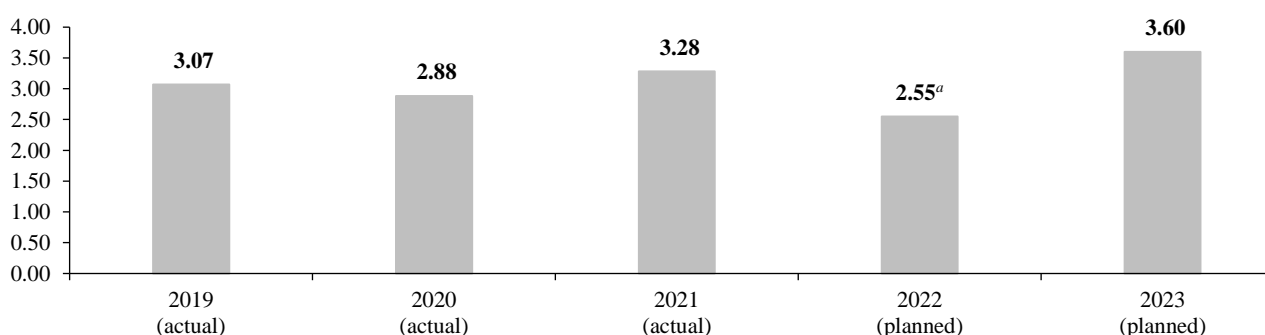
## Result 2: bridging development divides through accelerated access to affordable and resilient digital connectivity

### Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 19.91 The subprogramme's work contributed to monthly expenditure in the Asia-Pacific region on fixed and mobile broadband subscriptions as a percentage of gross national income per capita in the amount of 3.28 per cent, which did not meet the planned target of 2.55 per cent. Owing to the prolonged pandemic and the exceptionally high use of the Internet, this trend is likely to continue in 2022 and 2023.
- 19.92 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.VII).

Figure 19.VII

**Performance measure: monthly expenditure in the Asia-Pacific region on fixed and mobile broadband subscriptions as a percentage of gross national income per capita**



<sup>a</sup> The latest statistics issued by the International Telecommunication Union in its ICT Price Basket 2021 revised the projections for monthly expenditures on fixed and broadband subscriptions for the year 2022 from 2.55 per cent to 3.60 per cent of gross national income per capita (see [www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Dashboards/Pages/IPB.aspx](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Dashboards/Pages/IPB.aspx)).

## Result 3: augmented use of geospatial data for accelerating Sustainable Development Goal monitoring and implementation

### Proposed programme plan for 2023

- 19.93 Space-derived data and information plays a key role in evidence-based decision-making for the efficient management of the environment, assets and communities. Some 40 per cent of the Sustainable Development Goal targets rely on the use of geolocation and Earth observations. Geospatial information can aid global stewardship, enabling faster and more accurate and

trustworthy support to inform decisions, monitor progress and assess the impact of interventions. The subprogramme has facilitated the exchange of regional expertise, knowledge, tools and space-derived data to support member States in monitoring the Goal targets.

*Lessons learned and planned change*

- 19.94 The lesson for the subprogramme was the need to effectively integrate the subprogramme's data assets, including sectoral and geospatial data, to improve the utility of geospatial information for decision-making. In the absence of related policies and interoperable systems, many countries continue to lack the infrastructure and trusted data to make evidence-based decisions. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme plans to support members and associate members of ESCAP, in collaboration with the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research Operational Satellite Applications Programme, to develop an integrated geospatial data guideline that can convert geo-referenced big data about the Earth into Sustainable Development Goal-related information to support decision-making at the local and national levels. It will also provide technical support to beneficiaries by constructing a tailored geospatial information integration system for selected Goal indicators, according to their needs, and build the capacity of policymakers to effectively use integrated geospatial information.
- 19.95 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.18).

Table 19.18  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
—	Members and associate members requested support to enhance their capacity to produce a common data format and methodologies	Members and associate members gained access to training and tools to enhance the use of geospatial data	At least two countries initiate policy action(s) or project(s) on integrating geospatial and sectoral data for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring and implementation	Two additional countries initiate policy action(s) or project(s) on integrating geospatial and sectoral data for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring and implementation

**Deliverables**

- 19.96 Table 19.19 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 19.19  
Subprogramme 5: deliverables for the period 2021–2023, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>
Reports for:				
1. The Commission	3	3	1	2
2. The Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction	2	3	—	2

**Section 19 Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific**

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2021 actual</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>
3. The Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation	–	–	4	–
4. The fourth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific	–	–	2	–
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>34</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>28</b>
Meetings of:				
5. The Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation	–	–	3	–
6. The Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction	6	6	–	6
7. The fourth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific	–	–	2	–
8. The Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development	4	1	2	1
9. The Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management	4	2	1	1
10. The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development	4	4	4	4
11. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO)/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones	4	3	4	4
12. The Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development	4	4	4	4
13. The ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee	4	3	4	4
14. Expert groups on space applications	–	–	4	–
15. Expert groups on the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway	–	–	4	–
16. Expert groups on disaster risk reduction	4	3	–	4
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>
17. On disaster information management	1	1	1	1
18. On disaster risk reduction	2	2	2	1
19. On promoting ICT connectivity	2	3	2	2
20. On space technology applications	1	7	1	4
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	<b>14</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>
21. On ICT	14	22	10	14
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
22. On disaster risk management	1	1	2	1
23. On geospatial practices for sustainable development in South-East Asia	–	–	1	1
24. On digital transformation for sustainable development	–	–	1	1
<b>Technical materials</b> (number of materials)	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>
25. On disaster information management	–	–	2	2
26. On disaster risk reduction	–	–	1	–
27. On ICT	6	6	2	2
28. On infrastructure resilience	1	1	–	–
29. On geospatial information applications	1	1	1	1

**C. Substantive deliverables**

**Consultation, advice and advocacy:** advisory services for working groups on disaster risk reduction and resilience, including the Issue-Based Coalition on Building Resilience; for the task forces of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network; for committees and organizations on issues related to disaster risk reduction, space applications and ICT.

Category and subcategory	2021	2021	2022	2023
	planned	actual	planned	planned
<p><b>Databases and substantive digital materials:</b> a regional disaster information portal; guidelines on space technology applications for regional and global access; guidelines for the development and management of disaster information databases and spatial data infrastructure.</p> <p><b>D. Communication deliverables</b></p> <p><b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> briefing notes on digital development for senior government officials from ICT-related ministries and agencies; brochures on disaster information management.</p> <p><b>External and media relations:</b> press releases and op-ed articles on ICT, space technology applications and disaster risk reduction and management for resilient and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific; press interviews for major publications and events.</p> <p><b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> content for the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development Virtual Academy and the online presence of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management; web pages on the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway, building resilience to disasters, e-resilience, regional cooperation in disaster risk reduction, monitoring drought from space, the integration of geospatial information for resilience-building, and space and geospatial information systems for disaster management; website of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management.</p>				

## Subprogramme 6 Social development

### Objective

- 19.97 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to realize inclusive and equitable societies that protect, empower and leave no one behind in Asia and the Pacific, with a focus on population and development, social protection, disability, and gender equality and the empowerment of women.

### Strategy

- 19.98 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will bring together Governments on critical issues related to social development in the region, and inform these intergovernmental processes through analysis and by drawing upon the complementary strengths of ESCAP through its regional convening power and the capacity of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to support national implementation to advance the Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Support Governments in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration by strengthening the evidence base with regard to population and development issues, with a focus on ageing, migration and population dynamics, poverty reduction and leaving no one behind;
  - (b) Facilitate the monitoring of the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development through the framework that was endorsed at the sixth session of the Committee on Social Development;
  - (c) Provide support to member States in identifying the population groups that are at the highest risk of being left behind through its Leave No One Behind methodology, analytical reports and capacity-building;
  - (d) In line with the Action Plan to Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific, consolidate national progress and experiences related to extending social protection coverage in periodic progress reports; develop a regional platform for member States to share good practices; and provide new and innovative analytical tools and products and capacity development tools and training sessions to Governments, helping member States make progress towards the achievement of Goals 1, 3, 5, 8, 10 and 17;

- (e) Conduct research and analysis and provide capacity-building support to member States on building disability-inclusive societies, guided by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, and support other subprogrammes in mainstreaming disability inclusion. This work will help member States make progress towards the achievement of Goals 1, 4, 8, 10, 11 and 17;
- (f) Continue to follow up on the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific regional 25-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action by supporting Governments in accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;
- (g) Provide technical assistance in developing policies in the context of economic empowerment and entrepreneurship for women and support other subprogrammes in mainstreaming a gender perspective;
- (h) Provide knowledge products, seminars and technical advice related to bridging gaps in the legal framework for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and designing strategies and policy provisions specific to women-led enterprises to help them recover from the shocks induced by COVID-19. All above-mentioned work areas will be undertaken in close collaboration with relevant partners, including the United Nations Population Fund, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

19.99 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

- (a) The development of regional frameworks for social development;
- (b) The development of responsive policies and programmes in the domain of population dynamics and social development;
- (c) Enhanced skills and knowledge to enable countries to design and implement inclusive social protection policies;
- (d) Support for national policies and strategies to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment, including responsive business development and investment policies and programmes;
- (e) Improved national policies and programmes in support of disability-inclusive development;
- (f) The design and implementation by member States of COVID-19 recovery strategies that are inclusive of those who are most vulnerable.

## Programme performance in 2021

### Strengthened policy frameworks for addressing unpaid care and promoting the economic empowerment of women in the Asia-Pacific region

- 19.100 The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the risks and vulnerabilities for women and girls across the region and reversed many of the hard-won gains of the past decades. Responding to the global care crisis that emerged as one of the key challenges hindering women’s empowerment, the subprogramme examined the socioeconomic, political, legislative and institutional conditions in each member country of ASEAN to highlight examples of promising policy measures undertaken as emergency measures to address women’s unpaid care and domestic work. In collaboration with the ASEAN Committee on Women, the subprogramme developed key recommendations to address the current deficit of gender- and care-sensitive policies and launched the corresponding report at the fourth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women. The subprogramme also provided further technical assistance to Cambodia and the Philippines in developing national action plans to reduce the unpaid care burden for women.
- 19.101 The subprogramme, through its initiative entitled “Catalyzing Women’s Entrepreneurship”, collaborated with agencies working with micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and women’s machineries to design and implement targeted interventions for women entrepreneurs and to tackle challenges in the context of the pandemic. In collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Investment in Viet Nam, the subprogramme assessed the impacts of micro-, small and medium-sized

enterprise laws and decrees on women's entrepreneurship and established one-stop online portals to address gender equality gaps in accessing information and services. The subprogramme, in collaboration with component 5 of subprogramme 8, also strengthened its partnership with the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to develop a comprehensive toolkit to guide ASEAN member States on policy support for such enterprises led by women.

19.102 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.20).

**Table 19.20**  
**Performance measure**

<i>2019 (actual)</i>	<i>2020 (actual)</i>	<i>2021 (actual)</i>
—	No comprehensive regional framework to address unpaid care work; ad hoc measures taken by member States to address unpaid care work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASEAN adopted the ASEAN Comprehensive Framework on Care Economy</li> <li>• Two member States (Cambodia and the Philippines) have started working on national action plans to implement the Framework</li> <li>• Viet Nam revised its laws and decrees on micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, which strengthened women's entrepreneurship</li> </ul>

### **Planned results for 2023**

#### **Result 1: developing and implementing a modality for strengthening regional cooperation on social protection in Asia and the Pacific**

##### **Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023**

- 19.103 The subprogramme's work contributed to one member State (Mongolia) undertaking a national review of its social protection schemes, using the ESCAP modelling tool, which met the planned target.
- 19.104 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.21).

**Table 19.21**  
**Performance measure**

<i>2019 (actual)</i>	<i>2020 (actual)</i>	<i>2021 (actual)</i>	<i>2022 (planned)</i>	<i>2023 (planned)</i>
19 Asia-Pacific countries officially nominate representatives to a group of experts to develop a draft regional modality on social protection	The Action Plan to Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific was adopted by Asia-Pacific countries at the sixth session of the Committee on Social Development	One member State (Mongolia) undertakes a national review of its social protection schemes using the ESCAP modelling tool	Through a regional platform, member States participate in peer learning and sharing of good practices to strengthen regional cooperation on social protection	Five ESCAP member States, including one country in special need, report their progress in implementing the Action Plan to Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific

## Result 2: advancing data and guidance for evidence-based policy related to population ageing, in line with the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

### Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 19.105 The subprogramme's work contributed to five ESCAP member States in special situations (Bhutan, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives and Mongolia) conducting national reviews on the availability of data and the implementation of policies through bottom-up approaches and interministerial meetings in preparation for the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the context of the 2030 Agenda, which met the planned target.
- 19.106 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the programme measure below (see table 19.22).

Table 19.22  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
ESCAP member States identify priority areas for country-specific policies on population ageing, with a focus on data and identifying good practices for population policies	ESCAP member States support the mapping of policies on population ageing and the collection of data to monitor population ageing	Five ESCAP member States in special situations (Bhutan, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives and Mongolia) conduct national reviews on data and policies through bottom-up approaches and interministerial meetings to prepare for the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the context of the 2030 Agenda	ESCAP member States endorse recommendations for action at the regional and national levels, in accordance with the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the 2030 Agenda, to address the economic and social impacts of population ageing, especially on older women	Three additional ESCAP member States address population ageing and other population and development concerns in policy frameworks and action plans

## Result 3: strengthened national policies and programmes to promote the rights of, and advance the empowerment of, persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities

### Proposed programme plan for 2023

- 19.107 The Asia-Pacific region is home to an estimated 690 million persons with disabilities, who face numerous barriers to their full participation in society. To provide timely support to ESCAP member States in protecting and empowering persons with disabilities during COVID-19, the subprogramme developed policy guidance on formulating disability-inclusive responses to the pandemic. In 2021, the subprogramme further built the capacities of Asia-Pacific countries and organizations of persons with disabilities with regard to using accessibility audits and digital technology, developing disability-inclusive public procurement and employment strategies, and improving disability assessments to strengthen social protections for persons with disabilities.

### Lessons learned and planned change

- 19.108 The lesson for the subprogramme was that persons with disabilities experienced increased levels of exclusion, discrimination and inequalities in the context of COVID-19, as evidenced by the research

and analysis conducted by the subprogramme. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will strengthen the focus of its technical assistance to member States on the implementation of disability-inclusive programmes that reflect the various needs of persons with diverse disabilities, including in the areas of employment and ICT accessibility, while also addressing the particular needs of women with disabilities. The subprogramme will conduct a regional survey in 2022 to review the implementation of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real”. The findings will contribute to identifying further steps to empower persons with disabilities in the region.

19.109 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.23).

Table 19.23  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
ESCAP member States identify new priority areas for supporting and empowering persons with disabilities	Three ESCAP member States (China, India and the Lao People's Democratic Republic) developed and implemented evidence-informed socially inclusive policies to ensure that no one was left behind, in particular in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic	Two ESCAP member States developed and implemented evidence-informed inclusive policies to support persons with disabilities	Three ESCAP member States adopt and implement policies and programmes to empower persons with disabilities	Three additional ESCAP member States adopt and implement policies and programmes to empower persons with disabilities

## Deliverables

19.110 Table 19.24 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 19.24  
Subprogramme 6: deliverables for the period 2021–2023, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>
Reports for:				
1. The Commission	3	2	1	1
2. The Committee on Social Development	–	–	2	–
3. The Asia-Pacific regional review of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	–	2	–	–
4. The fourth regional review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing	–	–	2	–
5. The final review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022	–	–	2	–
6. The Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference	–	–	–	3
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>20</b>
7. Meetings of the Committee on Social Development	–	–	6	–



Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
8. Asia-Pacific regional review of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular migration	–	5	–	–
9. Fourth regional review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing	–	–	6	–
10. Final review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022	–	–	6	–
11. Meetings of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022	4	3	–	–
12. Meetings of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Thematic Working Group on Gender and Sustainable Development Goals	2	1	2	2
13. Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference	–	–	–	6
14. Expert group meetings on disability inclusion	4	4	4	4
15. Expert group meetings on social policies	4	3	4	4
16. Expert group meetings on population	4	4	4	4
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
17. On gender equality	4	3	1	1
18. On population and development	1	3	1	1
19. On disability inclusion	3	5	3	3
20. On inequality	1	1	1	1
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	<b>–</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
21. On gender equality, disability inclusion, population and inequality	–	1	–	–
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
22. On disability inclusion	1	1	1	1
23. <i>Social Outlook for Asia and the Pacific</i>	–	–	1	–
24. On population and development	–	–	1	1
<b>Technical materials</b> (number of materials)	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
25. On gender equality	1	1	1	1
26. On disability inclusion	1	1	1	1
27. On population	2	2	2	2
28. On inequality	2	2	2	2
29. Datasheets on population	1	1	1	1
30. On social development	4	4	4	4
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>				
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> advisory services for working groups on issues related to social development, including the Issue-Based Coalition on Inclusion and Empowerment; and for the task forces of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network.				
<b>Databases and substantive digital materials:</b> online databases and resource facilities on social development for regional and global access.				
<b>D. Communication deliverables</b>				
<b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> United Nations international days, including special events on gender equality, population and disability inclusion.				
<b>External and media relations:</b> press releases and op-ed articles on population and development, social protection, disability, and gender equality and the empowerment of women; press interviews and media outreach for major publications and special events.				
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> web pages on ageing societies, disability-inclusive development, gender equality and women's empowerment, inequality and leaving no one behind, international migration, population and development, social inclusion, social protection and youth empowerment.				

## Subprogramme 7

### Statistics

#### Objective

- 19.111 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to improve the availability, accessibility and use of quality data and official statistics in support of sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

#### Strategy

- 19.112 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Provide technical assistance, training and capacity-building support to strengthen national statistical capacities to produce, disseminate and communicate statistical products and services, including gender-sensitive and sex-disaggregated data and statistics, with an emphasis on those countries further left behind, such as the least developed countries and small island developing States. This support will focus on modernizing national statistical systems and empowering national statistical offices in the region to benefit from the data sources generated by the various components of national data ecosystems, including administrative data and big data produced and owned by other governmental agencies and the private sector. The work will be conducted jointly by the ESCAP Statistics Division and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;
  - (b) Provide statistical products and services, such as the *Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report* and the Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Goals Gateway, that make regional data and official statistics accessible in order to assess progress in the Asia-Pacific region towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;
  - (c) Develop and support the production of knowledge products in the form of research papers, working papers, statistics briefs and blogs to raise awareness of and share knowledge and experience relating to official statistics;
  - (d) Promote cooperation and facilitate consensus-building among member States, regional entities and other partners working in data and statistics through regional and country-specific initiatives. This includes, among other things, advancing the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind, in cooperation with member States and development partners, which will constitute the foundation for enhanced statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific;
  - (e) Expand its work to transform national statistical systems so that they are resilient to future shocks similar to the COVID-19 pandemic, including through virtual platforms, which provide technical assistance, training and capacity-building support and promote cooperation and consensus-building.
- 19.113 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) The improved availability, accessibility and use of quality data and official statistics in support of sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific;
  - (b) The improved capacity of national statistical systems to review progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

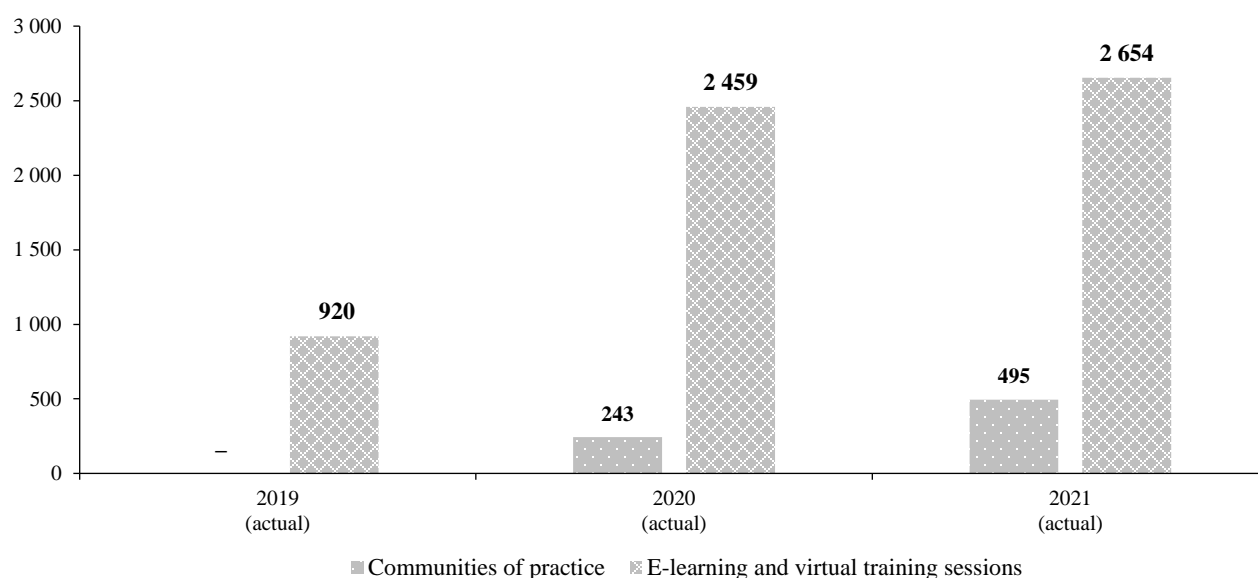
## Programme performance in 2021

### Increased use of the latest knowledge and experience on official statistics by national statistical systems in order to operate effectively in a pandemic environment

- 19.114 As the COVID-19 pandemic limited face-to-face events on one hand and increased demand for timely, quality and disaggregated data and official statistics on the other, the subprogramme further developed its virtual platforms to improve access by the Asia-Pacific official statistics community to knowledge and experience. These platforms included the Asia-Pacific Stats Café event series, communities of practice and e-learning courses. The development and use of such platforms not only enabled continued training and exchanges of knowledge and experience despite the COVID-19 restrictions, but also reached a far broader audience.
- 19.115 The Stats Café series was launched in 2020 to provide a forum for discussing the urgent needs of national statistical systems arising from the unprecedented situation of the COVID-19 pandemic. The series has since evolved to cover other topics of interest to official statisticians, with 24 sessions organized in 2021. Moreover, the subprogramme began holding “Data Integration Communities of Practice” in 2020 to serve as a space for both virtual collaboration and the sharing of knowledge and experience. With encouragement from the Committee on Statistics, the subprogramme expanded the use of such communities to other areas of interest, including disaster-related statistics, environmental statistics and economic statistics, in 2021. Furthermore, while the subprogramme had previously started e-learning courses, the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated those efforts, resulting in a steep increase in the number of e-learning courses offered, from 4 in 2019 to 14 in 2020 and 31 in 2021.
- 19.116 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.VIII).

Figure 19.VIII

**Performance measure: number of users accessing virtual platforms (annual)**



## Planned results for 2023

### Result 1: Asia-Pacific countries take steps to transform their statistical systems: the case of Bhutan

#### Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 19.117 The subprogramme's work contributed to further implementation by Bhutan of the national commitments contained in the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind through the development of the country's first vital statistics report and the Bhutan Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, which met the planned target.
- 19.118 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.25).

Table 19.25  
Performance measure

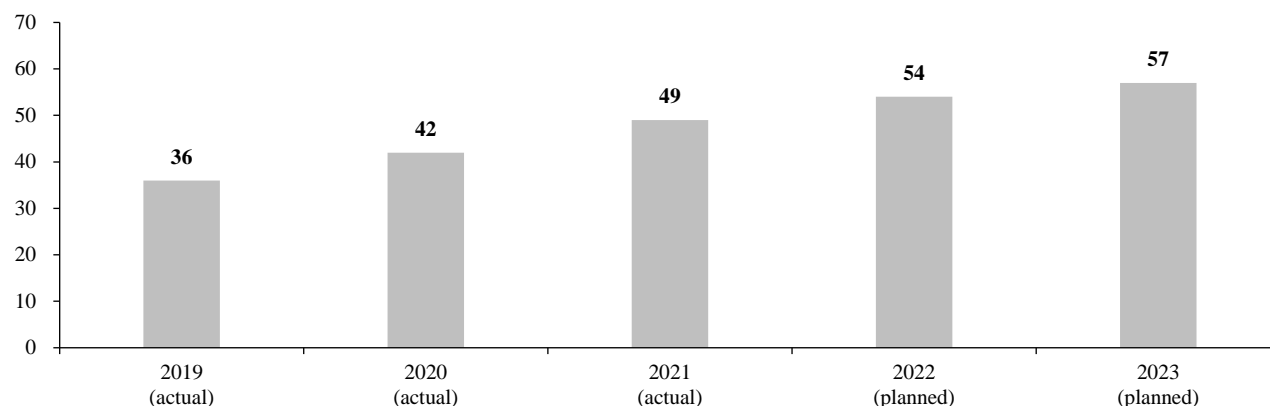
2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
The Government endorses the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind at the seventy-fifth session of ESCAP	Seven countries, including Bhutan, demonstrated strengthened statistical systems indicating progress on the implementation of the commitments contained in the Declaration prepared for the seventh session of the Committee on Statistics	Further implementation by Bhutan of the national commitments contained in the Declaration through the country's first vital statistics report and the Bhutan Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities	The Committee on Statistics considers the baseline report on the status of the commitments contained in the Declaration and recommends priority actions for transforming national statistical systems	Increase in the regional average of the data infrastructure pillar for Asia-Pacific (World Bank Statistical Performance Indicators)

### Result 2: Asia-Pacific national statistical systems are better equipped to review progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

#### Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 19.119 The subprogramme's work contributed to 49 per cent of Sustainable Development Goal indicators having sufficient data for the Asia-Pacific region, which exceeded the planned target of 48 per cent of Goal indicators.
- 19.120 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.IX).

Figure 19.IX  
**Performance measure: Sustainable Development Goal indicators having sufficient data for the Asia-Pacific region**  
 (Percentage)



**Result 3: enhanced capacity of Asia-Pacific national statistical systems to measure development progress beyond economic growth**

**Proposed programme plan for 2023**

- 19.121 The implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the need to improve responsiveness to the COVID-19 pandemic require a vast range of timely, quality data and statistics to plan for, monitor and analyse the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. The subprogramme has supported national statistical systems in the region to measure development progress beyond economic growth indicators such as GDP. This included providing technical assistance as well as advancing normative work on environmental-economic accounts, ecosystem accounts, ocean accounts, national accounts and disaster- and climate change-related statistics.

*Lessons learned and planned change*

- 19.122 The lesson for the subprogramme was that the growing demand for environmental, disaster and climate change statistics requires the subprogramme to stay abreast of related developments across national statistical systems in the Asia-Pacific region, and globally, to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience among practitioners in the region and to inform the development of normative frameworks, tools and manuals at the global level. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will further support countries in developing statistics that measure growth beyond economic growth, identify data gaps and expand the use of virtual modalities when providing capacity-building and technical assistance to the national statistical systems in the region in relevant areas, which include but are not limited to environmental-economic accounting. ESCAP will further extend its support to national statistical systems for ocean accounting and the ongoing revision of the System of National Accounts.
- 19.123 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.26).

Table 19.26  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
10 countries demonstrated enhanced capacity of national statistical systems to measure development progress beyond GDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Committee on Statistics noted with appreciation the increased efforts to compile environmental accounts in the region</li> <li>Eight countries demonstrated enhanced capacity of national statistical systems to measure development progress beyond GDP</li> </ul>	13 countries demonstrated enhanced capacity of national statistical systems to measure development progress beyond GDP	An increased number of national statistical systems have enhanced capacities to measure development progress beyond GDP	An increased number of national statistical systems have enhanced capacities to measure development progress beyond GDP

## Deliverables

19.124 Table 19.27 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 19.27  
Subprogramme 7: deliverables for the period 2021–2023, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Reports for:				
1. The Commission	1	1	1	1
2. The Committee on Statistics	–	–	1	–
3. The Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	–	1	–	–
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>15</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>23</b>
Meetings of:				
4. The Committee on Statistics	–	–	6	–
5. The Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	3	2	3	3
6. Expert groups on the use of non-traditional and complementary data sources in official statistics	6	4	6	6
7. The Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	6	2	6	6
8. Expert groups on strengthening national statistical systems for enhanced quality and trust in official statistics	–	–	6	–
9. The Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	–	11	6	6

Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
10. The Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	–	8	–	–
11. The Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics	–	2	–	2
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
12. On statistics	5	7	5	4
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	<b>–</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>
13. Seminars on statistics	–	9	13	13
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
14. <i>Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report</i>	1	1	1	1
<b>Technical materials</b> (number of materials)	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
15. On a variety of official statistics topics	2	5	2	2
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>				
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> advisory support for subregional networks on official social, economic and environmental statistics.				
<b>Databases and substantive digital materials:</b> ESCAP statistical database accessible at the regional and global levels; database on statistical training materials and resources.				
<b>D. Communication deliverables</b>				
<b>External and media relations:</b> press releases and op-ed articles on improving the availability, accessibility and use of quality data and official statistics in support of sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific; press interviews for major publications and events.				
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> multimedia promotional content and web pages on investment and user engagement, skills development, quality assurance and trust in statistics, statistical business process modernization and integrated statistics and analysis.				

## Subprogramme 8 Subregional activities for development

### Component 1 Subregional activities for development in the Pacific

#### Objective

- 19.125 The objective, to which component 1 of the subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of the Pacific, which include building resilience to climate change, sustainable ocean management and reducing inequalities.

#### Strategy

- 19.126 To contribute to the objective, the component will:
- (a) Facilitate subregional dialogues among member States on policy challenges to climate-related resilience-building, in cooperation with subprogrammes 4 and 6, other United Nations entities, civil society and subregional organizations such as the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Pacific Community;

- (b) Provide subregional and in-country capacity development support in the area of ocean accounts using the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and data standards under the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership, in cooperation with subprogramme 7;
- (c) Provide technical assistance to member States and create knowledge-exchange opportunities between member States and civil society to develop nationally appropriate indicator frameworks and promote women's economic empowerment, social protection and disability policies, in cooperation with subprogramme 6;
- (d) Provide technical assistance with regard to addressing the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and devising appropriate recovery responses through national frameworks for Sustainable Development Goal financing and regional cooperation on transboundary issues, in line with the outcomes of relevant assessments;
- (e) Organize annual meetings and facilitate dialogues on sustainable development, including a subregional forum on sustainable development, among government officials, civil society, experts and other stakeholders, and on the sharing of information on subregional implementation efforts;
- (f) Strengthen coordination with and collaboration among subregional intergovernmental organizations and member States for an effective representation of subregional perspectives at regional and global consultations, and provide implementation support for the Commission's subprogrammes relating to the subregion's priorities;
- (g) Be guided by the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries and the Pacific Road Map for Sustainable Development to strengthen partnerships and serve as the focal point for the Commission's engagement with the resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams, including through substantive assistance in preparing common country assessments and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, in particular with regard to the transboundary dimensions of sustainable development, and assist country-level programming by providing subregional perspectives and access to regional networks and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation.

19.127 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

- (a) More effective subregional responses with regard to people-centred climate change resilience;
- (b) Improved data availability for evidence-based policymaking on ocean management;
- (c) Strengthened capacity to monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda while ensuring that no one is left behind and that development activities reduce inequalities and reach the people in vulnerable situations;
- (d) The strengthened capacity of member States to recover from the pandemic through national frameworks for social protection and sustainable development financing;
- (e) Stronger regional cooperation to address transboundary issues.

## **Programme performance in 2021**

### **Strengthened capacity of Pacific small island developing States to prepare for and conduct voluntary national reviews**

- 19.128 Voluntary national reviews are intended to review progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and identify gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Pacific member States face capacity constraints in undertaking the extensive work required for such reviews, and the related follow-up actions. Supported by the United Nations Development Account, the component facilitated experience-sharing among the member States in the subregion at the annual Pacific Forums on Sustainable Development, highlighting key challenges



and learning from countries that had submitted their voluntary national reviews to the high-level political forum on sustainable development in prior years. Since 2019, the component has also provided technical support in the form of workshops to those member States preparing for and conducting their voluntary national reviews, with a special emphasis on the areas of integrated planning and monitoring, including the development of indicators, as well as on follow-up actions and strengthening multi-stakeholder engagement. By 2022, all the Pacific island member States will have completed a voluntary national review at least once.

19.129 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.28).

Table 19.28  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)
Two Pacific island states (Nauru and Tonga) conducted voluntary national reviews, which included ways to address integrated planning and monitoring with the engagement of stakeholders, and submitted them to the high-level political forum on sustainable development	Three Pacific island states (the Federated States of Micronesia, Solomon Islands and Samoa) conducted voluntary national reviews, which included ways to address integrated planning and monitoring with the engagement of stakeholders, and submitted them to the high-level political forum on sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Marshall Islands conducted a voluntary national review, which included ways to address integrated planning and monitoring with the engagement of stakeholders, and submitted it to the high-level political forum on sustainable development</li> <li>• Tuvalu undertook preparatory work and national consultations to complete and submit a voluntary national review in 2022</li> </ul>

## Planned results for 2023

### Result 1: Pacific small island developing States advance cooperation for climate change-related displacement and migration

#### Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 19.130 The component's work contributed to the establishment of a joint working group on climate change-related migration, displacement and relocation by nine member States, chaired by the Governments of Fiji and Tuvalu; and the development and approval of the joint working group's terms of reference and its workplan to guide the compilation of a draft regional framework. This met the planned target of the Governments of Pacific island countries advancing cooperation on climate change-related migration, displacement and planned relocation and agreeing on guiding principles for national legal and policy responses.
- 19.131 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.29).

Table 19.29  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
In the Boe Declaration Action Plan, climate security and human security <sup>a</sup> are identified as priorities for Pacific island countries	Member States developed options for establishing a regional process and a framework on climate change-related migration, displacement and planned relocation that protects the rights and builds the resilience of Pacific peoples	Nine member States established a joint working group on climate change-related migration, displacement and relocation, chaired by the Governments of Fiji and Tuvalu, and approved its terms of reference and a workplan to guide the preparation of a draft regional framework for consideration	Governments of Pacific island countries endorse and implement a framework on climate change-related migration, displacement and planned relocation that protects the rights and builds the resilience of Pacific peoples	Governments of Pacific island countries review regional progress and seek improvements in the implementation of a framework on climate change-related migration, displacement and planned relocation that protects the rights and builds the resilience of Pacific peoples

<sup>a</sup> The concept of “human security” is defined in accordance with General Assembly resolution [66/290](#).

## Result 2: Pacific small island developing States strengthen their capacity for socioeconomic recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic

### Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 19.132 The component’s work contributed to two member States (Samoa and the Cook Islands) developing social protection measures to address socioeconomic challenges in the context of COVID-19 recovery, which met the planned target.
- 19.133 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.30).

Table 19.30  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
—	Pacific member States strengthen their commitment to expanding and strengthening social protection systems	Two member States (Samoa and the Cook Islands) developed social protection measures to address socioeconomic challenges in the context of COVID-19 recovery	New or improved national policies and frameworks for social protection and sustainable development financing by three member States	Implementation of the new and improved national policies, strategies, planning systems and frameworks by three member States

### Result 3: Pacific small island developing States strengthen regional cooperation in addressing transboundary issues and building resilience

#### Proposed programme plan for 2023

- 19.134 Pacific island countries are highly vulnerable to climate and disaster risks, while the scale and geographic dispersion of their economies and the limited capacities within the countries constrain their ability to address these vulnerabilities. Member States recognized, through ESCAP resolutions, the growing need to enhance partnerships and collaboration at the regional and subregional levels in order to advance priorities towards building resilience in Pacific small island developing States. As COVID-19 has further highlighted the significance of adaptation to protect the planet and safeguard the livelihoods of people, the component's regional cooperation work programme in areas such as climate-smart trade and sustainable energy transition has been aligned with the processes of the Pacific Islands Forum and the Pacific Community as well as with several country-specific initiatives.

#### *Lessons learned and planned change*

- 19.135 The lesson for the component was that it needed to increase its focus on adaptation to match the growing attention on the socioeconomic impacts of climate change and COVID-19, as evidenced by recent assistance requests from member States and new partnership arrangements with relevant intergovernmental organizations. In applying the lesson, the component, in conjunction with its regional and subregional development partners, will support member States in strengthening subregional connectivity while addressing the interlinked risks of health, environment and disaster. The component plans to further enhance collaboration with regional and subregional organizations and, where applicable, with other United Nations agencies and programmes. Through focused research and analysis, multi-country activities, advisory services, regional workshops and dialogue, in cooperation with subprogrammes 1–3, 5 and 9, the component plans to intensify its support to build resilience and address vulnerabilities in transboundary areas such as climate-smart trade, sustainable energy transition, innovative finance and digital cooperation.
- 19.136 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.31).

Table 19.31

#### Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
–	–	Pacific island countries considered the development of a regional strategy to address the regional priorities on climate- and disaster-related resilience and reduce vulnerabilities	At least one country formulates a national strategy to address climate- and disaster-related resilience and reduce vulnerabilities, which aligns with regional priorities	One additional country formulates a national strategy to address climate- and disaster-related resilience and reduce vulnerabilities, which aligns with regional priorities

#### Deliverables

- 19.137 Table 19.32 lists all deliverables of the component.

Table 19.32

**Component 1: deliverables for the period 2021–2023, by category and subcategory**

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2021 actual</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
1. Report for the Commission	1	1	1	1
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>
2. Expert group meetings on policy and programme options to address emerging sustainable development issues in the Pacific	–	–	4	4
3. Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development	4	4	4	4
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
4. On institutional programmatic priorities of ESCAP in the Pacific	1	2	–	1
5. On economic and social development	1	2	3	1
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>2</b>
6. On sustainable development and building resilience in the Pacific	–	–	–	2
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>–</b>
7. On sustainable development in the Pacific	1	1	1	–
<b>Technical materials</b> (number of materials)	<b>–</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>1</b>
8. On regional cooperation and sustainable development in the Pacific	–	2	–	1
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>				
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> expert advice to member States of the subregion on national planning and policy coherence, social inclusion and equality, building resilience to climate change, sustainable ocean management and reducing inequalities.				
<b>D. Communication deliverables</b>				
<b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> newsletter with updates related to the Sustainable Development Goals in the Pacific.				
<b>External and media relations:</b> press releases and op-ed articles on national planning and policy coherence, social inclusion and equality, building resilience to climate change, sustainable ocean management and reducing inequalities.				
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> web pages on national planning and policy coherence, social inclusion and equality, climate action and resources management, and reducing inequalities, and on the final review of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda.				

## Component 2

### Subregional activities for development in East and North-East Asia

#### Objective

- 19.138 The objective, to which component 2 of the subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of East and North-East Asia, which includes sustainable connectivity, environmental sustainability and innovation for inclusive and resilient societies.

## Strategy

19.139 To contribute to the objective, the component will:

- (a) Facilitate multisectoral dialogues among member States on trade, transport, energy and ICT connectivity through regional and subregional platforms, including the North-East Asia Regional Power Interconnection and Cooperation Forum;
- (b) Support the implementation of a road map for sustainable power connectivity to increase the utilization of renewable sources of energy in North-East Asia, in cooperation with subprogramme 9;
- (c) Promote knowledge-sharing by subregional platforms, such as the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation and the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership, on emerging technologies and their deployment in priority areas such as the transport, industry and residential sectors, in cooperation with subprogramme 4;
- (d) Develop knowledge products and foster peer-to-peer exchanges on inclusive science, technology and innovation policies and programmes with a focus on ageing societies, disaster resilience and gender equality in the technology industry;
- (e) Support and promote intergovernmental processes for sustainable connectivity, environmental sustainability and innovation in support of sustainable economic recovery from the pandemic and inclusive and resilient societies in East and North-East Asia;
- (f) Identify and promote innovative approaches to facilitate cross-border connectivity, including contactless cross-border trade and transport solutions, to minimize COVID-19 transmission risks and increase operational efficiency;
- (g) Build the capacity of member States on the above-mentioned focus areas to identify subregional challenges and opportunities and apply best practices, contributing mainly to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 3, 5, 7, 9–11, 13–15 and 17;
- (h) Organize annual meetings and facilitate dialogues on sustainable development, including a subregional forum on sustainable development, among government officials, civil society, experts and other stakeholders, and on the sharing of information on subregional implementation efforts;
- (i) Strengthen coordination with and collaboration among subregional intergovernmental organizations and member States for an effective representation of subregional perspectives at regional and global consultations, and provide implementation support for the Commission's subprogrammes relating to the subregion's priorities;
- (j) Serve as the focal point for the Commission's engagement with the resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams, including through substantive assistance with regard to preparing common country assessments and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, in particular with regard to the transboundary dimensions of sustainable development, and assist country-level programming by providing subregional perspectives and access to regional networks and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation.

19.140 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

- (a) Policy coherence and the integration of connectivity initiatives among member States, for example, with regard to trade and transport facilitation;
- (b) Coordinated actions among stakeholders and Governments to counter common environmental challenges, including air pollution, and promote low greenhouse gas emissions during development;

- (c) Enhanced knowledge-sharing on and the use of science, technology and innovation in building inclusive and resilient societies in the subregion;
- (d) More effective formulation and implementation of policies and strategies consistent with the 2030 Agenda, including through the North-East Asia Multi-stakeholder Forums on the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (e) The application of innovative solutions by member States to build resilience to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and similar threats;
- (f) The addressing of development challenges in the subregion using a collaborative approach among Governments, the United Nations, subregional organizations and other international organizations, civil society, the private sector and international financial institutions.

## Programme performance in 2021

### Enhanced knowledge-sharing and peer learning for climate action at the city level

- 19.141 Cities account for 70 per cent of the global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from energy use and thus play a defining role in global efforts to combat climate change. While national Governments have been gradually scaling up the level of commitments and policies through nationally determined contributions and low-carbon and low-emissions development strategies, many cities in North-East Asia have initiated policies and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Peer learning from successful experiences can serve as a driving force to further promote more ambitious climate actions at the city level.
- 19.142 The component promoted knowledge-sharing and peer learning among member States through the North-East Asia Low Carbon City Platform under the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation. Since the platform's launch in 2014, the component has held expert meetings and consultation workshops in which governments, cities and stakeholders showcased good practice initiatives and exchanged views on advancement towards reducing urban greenhouse gas emissions. The component also produced a comparative study reviewing government policies and gained the support of member States to expand the platform to additional cities that could benefit from peer-exchange and capacity-building initiatives. At the request of member States, the component further organized training sessions and knowledge-sharing workshops on the use of science, technology and innovation to develop city action plans to lower greenhouse gas emissions, and launched the International Forum on Low Carbon Cities in 2021. The Forum brought together local governments, international organizations, regional city networks, experts and other stakeholders, including from academia and research institutions, to create synergies among the different initiatives that have emerged in the subregion for pursuing lower emissions objectives.
- 19.143 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.33).

Table 19.33  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)
Member States exchanged knowledge on initiatives and developments on low greenhouse gas emissions in cities through the North-East Asia Low Carbon City Platform	Member States reinforced support on knowledge- and experience-sharing on low greenhouse gas emissions through the inclusion of cities from other member States in the Platform	Member States further enhanced peer learning through knowledge-sharing workshops and during the first International Forum on Low Carbon Cities

## Planned results for 2023

### Result 1: strengthened coordination between trade and transport facilitation in East and North-East Asia

#### Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 19.144 The component's work contributed to the agreement by the member countries of the Greater Tumen Initiative to implement a regular annual survey to evaluate behind-the-border and cross-border impacts of trade and transport policies and develop a database-supported information sharing system, which did not meet the planned target of member States implementing initiatives reflecting policy coordination on trade and transport facilitation. The COVID-19 pandemic delayed the approval of the survey, which will now be conducted in 2022.
- 19.145 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.34).

Table 19.34

#### Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
Member States strengthen awareness about the importance of an integrated approach to trade and transport facilitation initiatives, as evidenced by the discussion among Greater Tumen Initiative member countries on trade-transport facilitation linkages at the ESCAP-Greater Tumen Initiative International Seminar on Trade Facilitation	Member States strengthened their capacity in facilitating coordination between the trade and transport sectors	Agreement by Greater Tumen Initiative member countries to implement a regular annual survey to evaluate behind-the-border and cross-border impacts of trade and transport policies and develop a database-supported information-sharing system	Member States review and share with other Asia-Pacific subregions good practices from initiatives implemented to promote policy coordination between trade and transport facilitation	Member States increase their joint activities to operationalize trade and transport facilitation policy coordination along transport corridors in the subregion

### Result 2: improved subregional power grid connectivity in East and North-East Asia

#### Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 19.146 The component's work contributed to strengthened awareness and understanding of the technical and regulatory requirements for power interconnections using renewable sources of energy through two workshops on sustainable power connectivity development in North-East Asia. This did not meet the planned target of member States enhancing their capacity with regard to technical requirements, such as interconnector development to promote the use of renewable sources of energy, as evidenced by a survey. The target was not met owing to inadvertent delays that entailed the rescheduling of planned technical capacity-building activities on interconnector development to early 2022.
- 19.147 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.35).

Table 19.35  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
Consultations among member States continued on promoting regional electricity trade and investment in cross-border electricity interconnections in North-East Asia	Member States strengthened their awareness and understanding of potential strategies for improving connectivity	Member States strengthened their awareness and understanding of the technical and regulatory requirements for power interconnections using renewable sources of energy	Member States support the implementation of a North-East Asia road map on power system connectivity at a high-level subregional forum	One of six member States begins implementing the North-East Asia road map on power system connectivity

### Result 3: enhanced multilateral and multi-stakeholder cooperation for climate action in East and North-East Asia

#### Proposed programme plan for 2023

- 19.148 Member States in East and North-East Asia jointly account for more than a third of global greenhouse gas emissions. The component has been working to mobilize subregional cooperation on climate action, including by providing support to cities that are part of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation to lower greenhouse gas emissions and increase power grid connectivity.

#### *Lessons learned and planned change*

- 19.149 While most of the major emitting countries aim at achieving greenhouse gas neutrality by mid-century, the lesson for the component was that moving towards lower greenhouse gas emissions could benefit from subregional multilateral and multi-stakeholder cooperation. In applying the lesson, the component will take a more integrated approach to supporting the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation in achieving the objectives of its strategic plan. Building on the outcomes of the first International Forum on Low Carbon Cities held in 2021, the component will create a platform for sharing national policy practices for net zero emission pathways. The component plans to further organize policy dialogues with governments and stakeholders, conduct joint studies and provide capacity-building in key sectors of climate action, including by supporting relevant objectives and activities of the strategic plan of the Subregional Programme.
- 19.150 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.36).



Table 19.36  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
Member States linked the work of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation on land degradation with climate change	Member States adopted the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation Strategic Plan 2021–2025 for subregional collaboration containing five priority areas: air pollution; biodiversity and nature conservation; marine protected areas; low carbon cities; and desertification and land degradation	The first International Forum on Low Carbon Cities convened governments, international organizations, regional city networks, academia and research institutions to advance multi-stakeholder cooperation on climate action	Member States and other stakeholders collectively engage in subregional cooperation on climate action	Mid-term evaluation of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation Strategic Plan 2021–2025 demonstrates an increase in subregional collaboration on climate action

## Deliverables

19.151 Table 19.37 lists all deliverables of the component.

Table 19.37  
Component 2: deliverables for the period 2021–2023, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	1	1	1	1
1. Report for the Commission	1	1	1	1
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	11	6	11	9
2. Expert group meetings on policy and programme options to address emerging economic and social development issues in East and North-East Asia	4	4	4	2
3. Senior Officials Meetings of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation	3	–	3	3
4. North-East Asian Multi-stakeholder Forum on Sustainable Development Goals	4	2	4	4
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	2	7	4	4
5. On institutional programmatic priorities of ESCAP in East and North-East Asia	1	6	3	3
6. North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation	1	1	1	1

Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	–	1	–	2
7. On transport and energy connectivity	–	1	–	1
8. On science, technology and innovation for low-carbon and low-emissions and resilient cities and on North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation-related events	–	–	–	1
<b>Technical materials</b> (number of materials)	–	2	–	2
9. On technology and social issues	–	2	–	2
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>				
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> expert advice to member States of the subregion on sustainable connectivity, environmental sustainability and innovation for inclusive and resilient societies.				
<b>D. Communication deliverables</b>				
<b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> thematic policy briefs, newsletters, infographics and side activities on major events on sustainable connectivity, environmental sustainability and innovation for inclusive and resilient societies.				
<b>External and media relations:</b> press releases and op-ed articles on sustainable connectivity, environmental sustainability and innovation for inclusive and resilient societies; press interviews for major publications and events.				
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> web page of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation; web page of the Asia Carbon Footprint Network; web pages on environmental sustainability, strengthening intraregional connectivity and innovation for resilient and inclusive societies.				

### Component 3 Subregional activities for development in North and Central Asia

#### Objective

- 19.152 The objective, to which component 3 of the subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of North and Central Asia, including sustainable connectivity, economic transformation, and social inclusion and resilience, and through follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

#### Strategy

- 19.153 To contribute to the objective, the component will:
- (a) Provide secretariat support to and coordinate the seven thematic working groups of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia to ensure that priorities emanating from the Governing Council and the Economic Forum of the Special Programme regarding trade facilitation, innovation and technology, transport, energy and digital connectivity, innovative financing and investment tools and environmental sustainability are incorporated into their workplans, and that discussions held in the working groups contribute to the deliberations of the Governing Council and the Economic Forum;
  - (b) Conduct analytical studies and propose policy recommendations to promote a holistic approach to economic transformation in line with the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and the road map for its accelerated implementation, supporting member States in making progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 8;
  - (c) Mainstream social and environmental dimensions into the Sustainable Development Goals acceleration framework for North and Central Asia, including on climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, and provide policy advice and technical assistance to address gender

equality and women's economic empowerment, helping member States make progress towards achieving Goals 5, 10 and 13;

- (d) Organize annual meetings and facilitate dialogues on sustainable development, including a subregional forum on sustainable development, among government officials, civil society, experts and other stakeholders, and on the exchange of information on subregional implementation efforts. This work will help member States review progress towards achieving the Goals, in particular Goal 17;
- (e) Support voluntary national review processes at the request of member States, and strengthen human and institutional capacity for a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, in line with the 2030 Agenda;
- (f) Strengthen coordination with and collaboration among subregional organizations and member States for an effective representation of subregional perspectives at regional and global consultations, and provide implementation support for the Commission's subprogrammes relating to the subregion's priorities;
- (g) Serve as the focal point for the Commission's engagement with the resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams, in line with the management and accountability framework, and ensure that subregional priorities, including those emanating from the Economic Forum and the Governing Council of the Special Programme, are reflected in their strategic documents.

19.154 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

- (a) Enhanced application by member States of, evidence-based solutions for, and strengthened subregional cooperation on, programmes to improve trade and transport facilitation as well as energy and ICT connectivity;
- (b) The adoption of policy options for economic transformation in the subregion;
- (c) Improved knowledge-sharing and cooperation among member States in the preparation of their voluntary national reviews;
- (d) Increased digital connectivity and digital transformation in the subregion as a driver to achieve the 2030 Agenda;
- (e) The addressing of development challenges in the subregion using a collaborative approach among Governments, the United Nations, subregional organizations and other international organizations, civil society, the private sector and international financial institutions.

## **Programme performance in 2021**

### **Increased ownership and initiatives by United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia participating countries for subregional economic cooperation and integration**

19.155 The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, supported jointly by ESCAP and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), is a platform that brings participating countries together for regional cooperation in areas that include transport, trade, water management, energy, environmental protection, innovation and technology, gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goals. The component has been supporting the Special Programme since its inception, providing secretariat services and organizing its annual Economic Forums and sessions of the Governing Council jointly with ECE.

19.156 Special Programme countries have experienced the effects of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic on key aspects of economic development and cooperation, with negative consequences for sustainable development. Pandemic-related restrictions and border closures caused serious disruptions to supply chains and citizen mobility, while increasing costs and inequalities.

- 19.157 The 2021 Economic Forum and the sixteenth session of the Governing Council of the Special Programme reaffirmed the need to strengthen regional cooperation on climate change mitigation and the rational use of water and energy resources, align the rapid development of trade, transport and connectivity and promote the wider role of innovation to build a sustainable, circular and inclusive economy after the pandemic.
- 19.158 The Governing Council adopted the Tashkent Statement and agreed, among other things, to establish a secretariat for the Special Programme, create a new working group on investments and financial technical cooperation and considered a proposal to create a digital solutions centre in Kazakhstan to further advance subregional collaboration.
- 19.159 Progress towards the achievement of the objective is demonstrated by the performance measures below (see table 19.38).

**Table 19.38**  
**Performance measure**

<i>2019 (actual)</i>	<i>2020 (actual)</i>	<i>2021 (actual)</i>
—	Member States discussed a draft concept note for the establishment and modalities of a secretariat for the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia under the auspices of the Special Programme's participating countries	Member States decided to establish an expert group to draft the terms of reference and modalities of a secretariat for Special Programme under the auspices of the Special Programme's participating countries

### **Planned results for 2023**

#### **Result 1: accelerate action and generate solutions to address gaps in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in North and Central Asia**

##### **Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023**

- 19.160 The component's work contributed to member States in the subregion agreeing on a set of key drivers to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at the 2021 Economic Forum of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, which met the planned target.
- 19.161 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.39).

Table 19.39  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
Strengthened regional cooperation and knowledge-sharing to follow up on and review progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, for example through the twinning programme	References to a more integrated approach to economic transformation are made in national strategic documents of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan	Member States in the subregion agreed on a set of key drivers to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at the 2021 Economic Forum of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia	Two member States develop policies or measures towards a more integrated approach to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals	Policymakers from two member States have enhanced skills to use ESCAP tools and knowledge for integrated Sustainable Development Goal implementation

**Result 2: strengthened sustainable subregional connectivity****Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023**

- 19.162 The component's work contributed to two member States initiating measures to enhance subregional connectivity. Kazakhstan proposed the establishment of a digital solutions centre in Central Asia in Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan requested cooperation with ESCAP to establish a regional centre for the development of transport and communication interconnection.
- 19.163 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.40).

Table 19.40  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
—	—	Two member States (Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan) initiated measures to enhance subregional connectivity	Two policies or measures that promote digital technologies to enhance the sustainability of connectivity are implemented	Policymakers from two member States enhance their skills and knowledge to advance digital technologies to advance the sustainability of connectivity

**Result 3: enhanced subregional cooperation on the use of new technologies for improving railway operational performance****Proposed programme plan for 2023**

- 19.164 Rail transport is widely used to transport freight in North and Central Asia. The efficiency of cross-border railway freight traffic is dependent upon seamless customs clearance and documentation-related formalities. ESCAP has played a historical role in advancing regional cooperation in building

connectivity in the Asia-Pacific region and has built expertise to advise member States on intra- and interregional connectivity. As mandated by its resolution 71/8, ESCAP has been providing support for the harmonization of laws, regulations, standards and documents relating to connectivity.

*Lessons learned and planned change*

- 19.165 The lesson for the component was that it needed to keep pace with rapidly evolving information and communications technologies and their potential to facilitate railway transport in order to continue supporting border agencies in the advancement of policy development. In applying the lesson, the component will identify the most critical actors in the subregion that can contribute to and assist in the development of a subregional inventory of policies geared towards the use of new technologies and digital transformation. In support of subprogramme 3, the component will facilitate the organization of expert group meetings that aim at identifying human and institutional capacity gaps to inform the design of a tailored capacity-building programme. It will further provide a liaison function between subprogramme 3 and the resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, as well as with the regional organizations working on transport issues, and coordinate with all actors to identify synergies for strengthening regional cooperation on connectivity.
- 19.166 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.41).

Table 19.41  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
–	Border crossings were facilitated by paper-based documentation and customs clearance software with low interoperability	Available data on border crossings indicated 39 per cent of transit time in trans-Eurasian transportation was related to customs clearance and documentation formalities	Increased awareness of policymakers on new technologies to increase the efficiency of rail transport	Policymakers adopt policy recommendations on strengthening regional cooperation

**Deliverables**

- 19.167 Table 19.42 lists all deliverables of the component.

Table 19.42  
Component 3: deliverables for the period 2021–2023, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
1. Report for the Commission	1	1	1	1
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>
2. Meetings of the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia	1	2	1	1

Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
3. Meetings of the Economic Forum of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia	3	4	3	3
4. Expert group meetings on policy and programme options to address emerging economic and social development issues in North and Central Asia	4	4	4	4
5. Subregional forum on the Sustainable Development Goals in North and Central Asia	4	6	4	4
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	—	—	1	1
6. On regional cooperation and integration for the landlocked and transit developing countries	—	—	1	1
<b>Technical materials</b> (number of materials)	1	1	1	1
7. On regional cooperation and integration for the landlocked and transit developing countries	1	1	1	1
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>				
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> advocacy with member States of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on regional and subregional priority issues; side events for member States and regional organizations at the annual sessions of the Commission.				
<b>D. Communication deliverables</b>				
<b>External and media relations:</b> press releases and op-ed articles on sustainable connectivity, economic transformation, social inclusion and resilience, and follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda; press interviews for major publications and events.				
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> web pages on sustainable connectivity, economic transformation, social inclusion and resilience, the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia and the review of the 2030 Agenda.				

## Component 4

### Subregional activities for development in South and South-West Asia

#### Objective

- 19.168 The objective, to which component 4 of the subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of South and South-West Asia, including sustainable connectivity, women's economic empowerment and the sustainable graduation of the least developed countries.

#### Strategy

- 19.169 To contribute to the objective, the component will:
- Prepare analytical papers with a focus on sustainable transport, energy connectivity and trade and investment facilitation and provide capacity-building support to advance transboundary connectivity among the countries in the subregion, including the landlocked developing countries, in alignment with the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and the road map for its accelerated implementation, and support graduating least developed countries with regard to the facilitation of trade and investment to prepare them for post-graduation challenges;
  - Provide access to information and digital tools for women entrepreneurs through a dedicated portal and advanced training on e-commerce, including by delivering demand-driven assistance;
  - Provide tailored capacity-building for member States and other stakeholders to ensure that challenges, such as the negative socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and disruptions to market access, can be met in a coherent manner;

- (d) Deliver demand-driven assistance to member States, including by strengthening the analytical capacity of their think tanks to conduct integrated analyses of the Sustainable Development Goals through evidence-based policy analysis;
- (e) Convene subregional consultations on the Goals, including through the South Asia Network on the Sustainable Development Goals, to facilitate the sharing of good practices and bring out subregional perspectives that contribute to the relevant ESCAP knowledge products and forums, such as the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and the high-level political forum on sustainable development;
- (f) Provide analytical support, policy advice and technical assistance to member States on priorities identified during the South Asia Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals, including sustainable global, regional and subregional supply chains, the creation of business opportunities for women, and disaster risk reduction, including those induced by climate change. The component's work will help member States make progress towards achieving Goals 1, 5, 7–10, 12, 13 and 17;
- (g) Strengthen coordination with and collaboration among subregional intergovernmental organizations and member States for an effective representation of subregional perspectives at regional and global consultations, and provide implementation support for the Commission's subprogrammes relating to the subregion's priorities;
- (h) Serve as the focal point for the Commission's engagement with the resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams, including through substantive assistance in preparing common country assessments and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, in particular with regard to the transboundary dimensions of sustainable development, and assist country-level programming by providing subregional perspectives, access to regional networks and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation.

19.170 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

- (a) Accelerated progress by the least developed countries in South and South-West Asia towards the transition to sustainable graduation;
- (b) The expansion of business opportunities for women entrepreneurs in South and South-West Asia and their participation in local, regional and global value chains;
- (c) Enhanced connectivity in the subregion, especially for landlocked developing countries and with the contiguous subregions of South-East Asia and North and Central Asia;
- (d) The strengthened capacity of member States on disaster risk reduction, including those induced by climate change;
- (e) Increased capacity by member States, especially least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19;
- (f) The addressing of development challenges in the subregion using a collaborative approach among Governments, the United Nations, subregional organizations and other international organizations, civil society, the private sector and international financial institutions.

## Programme performance in 2021

### Advanced cooperation among South Asian countries on sustainable development

19.171 Subregional cooperation is essential for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in South Asia. The component established a network of think tanks called the South Asia Network on the Sustainable Development Goals in 2020 and launched a web portal for the Network to facilitate the sharing of good practices and distil evidence-based research findings and recommendations towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. In 2021, the Network organized dialogues to facilitate the dissemination and cross-fertilization of knowledge on accelerating progress towards the

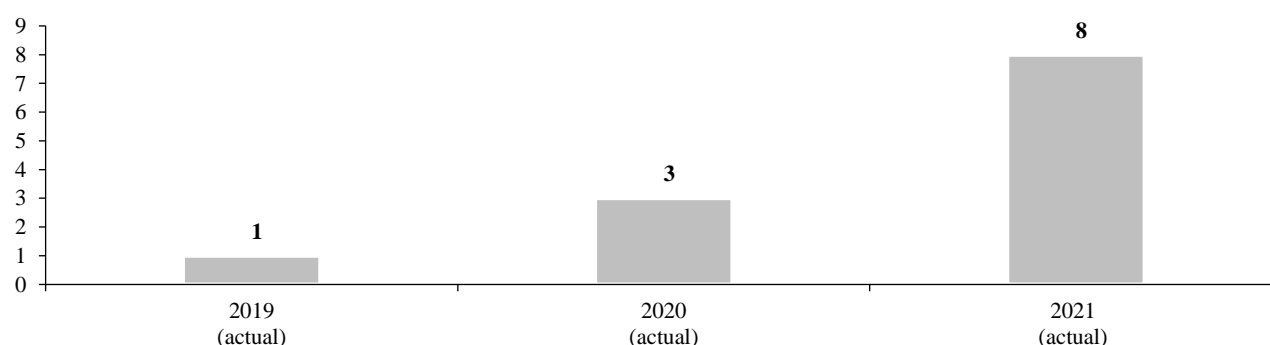


achievement of the Goals. During these dialogues, ESCAP and Network members also identified priorities for future subregional collaboration, including the further development of the web portal as a repository of good practices to enable knowledge-sharing among member States of South Asia. Suggestions were also made on disseminating these practices through regular newsletters and conducting collaborative research at the subregional level to address common issues and deliberate joint policy solutions. In response, ESCAP launched the first call for joint research between ESCAP and Network members on the COVID-19 response and the 2030 Agenda, namely, a review of national stimulus packages in the aftermath of COVID-19.

19.172 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.X).

Figure 19.X

**Performance measure: number of think tanks that are members of the South Asia Network on the Sustainable Development Goals (cumulative)**



## Planned results for 2023

**Result 1: least developed countries in South Asia are well equipped to mitigate graduation challenges**

**Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023**

19.173 The component's work contributed to Bangladesh meeting the criteria for graduation in the 2021 triennial review and, together with Bhutan and Nepal, being equipped to mitigate the challenges for smooth and sustainable graduation, which met the planned target.

19.174 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.43).

Table 19.43

**Performance measure**

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal have access to capacity-building to identify the key challenges that they will face in the aftermath of their graduation	Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal received tailored technical assistance and policy advice from ESCAP	Bangladesh met the criteria for graduation in the 2021 triennial review and, together with Bhutan and Nepal, is equipped to mitigate the challenges for smooth and sustainable graduation	The graduating least developed countries incorporate the impact of, and their response to, the COVID-19 pandemic into their smooth transition strategies	Bhutan successfully plans for its final graduation in 2023

**Result 2: think tanks in South Asian least developed countries improve their capacity for evidence-based policy analysis to support policymaking to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals**

- 19.175 The component's work contributed to the advanced use of analytical tools in research and analysis by the Biruni Institute in Afghanistan to take stock of the country's progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, which did not meet the planned target of think tanks in Afghanistan and Bhutan advancing their use of analytical tools in research and analysis to accelerate the achievement of the Goals. The target was not met, as the Bhutan think tank is still in the establishment phase.
- 19.176 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.44).

Table 19.44  
**Performance measure**

<i>2019 (actual)</i>	<i>2020 (actual)</i>	<i>2021 (actual)</i>	<i>2022 (planned)</i>	<i>2023 (planned)</i>
Assistance to Afghanistan and Bhutan in developing analytical capacity launched following the request made by their Governments	Engagement of emerging think tanks in Afghanistan and Bhutan with established counterparts in other South Asian countries in addressing the policy challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic to accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals	The Biruni Institute in Afghanistan advanced the use of analytical tools in research and analysis to gauge progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals	The think tanks in Afghanistan and Bhutan provide input to, and hold informed debates on, strategies for accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and building back better, and contribute to forums and debates of subregional think tanks	The think tank in Bhutan provides policy inputs in developing strategies for its achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

**Result 3: increased integration of disaster risk-related analysis in national and local planning in countries of South and South-West Asia**

**Proposed programme plan for 2023**

- 19.177 Of the five ESCAP subregions, South and South-West Asia is the most affected by disasters. From 2011 to 2020, the subregion accounted for 44 per cent of all fatalities, and almost 50 per cent of the total population of the subregion was affected by natural disasters in Asia and the Pacific. The component has been working in collaboration with subprogramme 5 on disaster risk reduction and management for resilient and sustainable development in South and South-West Asia. Two publications were issued, and capacity-building programmes were organized in the subregion to address the challenges of disaster risk reduction.

*Lessons learned and planned change*

- 19.178 The lesson for the component was that it needed to strengthen the institutional capacities of national and local governments in conducting disaster risk-related analyses. In applying the lesson, the component will partner with UNDP, the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia and national disaster mitigation authorities to develop planning tools, techniques

and guidelines for customized climate and weather risk reduction services. The component will develop customized tools and techniques, adapted to the subregional context, for land-use planning, natural resource mapping and land and marine spatial planning. This will be coupled with capacity development support to policymakers to facilitate the application of these products.

- 19.179 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.45).

Table 19.45  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
–	–	Evidence-based approaches to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation are not yet institutionalized and operationalized in a practical manner	One pilot country in South Asia benefits from the customization of planning tools, techniques and guidelines to facilitate disaster risk-related analyses for national and local planning purposes	Policymakers from two countries in South Asia use customized planning tools, techniques and guidelines to facilitate the undertaking of disaster risk-related analyses for national and local planning purposes

## Deliverables

- 19.180 Table 19.46 lists all deliverables of the component.

Table 19.46  
Component 4: deliverables for the period 2021–2023, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	1	1	1	1
1. Report for the Commission	1	1	1	1
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	6	6	6	6
2. Expert group meetings on policy and programme options to address emerging sustainable development issues in South and South-West Asia	2	2	2	2
3. South Asia Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals	4	4	4	4
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	1	2	1	2
4. On institutional programmatic priorities of ESCAP in South and South-West Asia	1	2	1	2
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	–	3	–	2
5. Virtual training on thematic areas related to sustainable development	–	3	–	2
<b>Technical materials</b> (number of materials)	4	4	5	5
6. Development paper series on economic and social development	4	4	5	5

Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>				
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> expert advice to member States of the subregion in implementing the 2030 Agenda and promoting regional economic cooperation and integration.				
<b>D. Communication deliverables</b>				
<b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> sessions at the South Asia Economic Summit; the sustainable development conference organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan; other subregional events; a newsletter with updates related to the Sustainable Development Goals in South Asia.				
<b>External and media relations:</b> press releases and op-ed articles on sustainable connectivity, women's economic empowerment and the sustainable graduation of the least developed countries; press interviews for major publications and events.				
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> web portal of the South Asia Network on the Sustainable Development Goals; web pages on regional cooperation for accelerating progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and building back better, sustainable connectivity, women's economic empowerment and the sustainable graduation of the least developed countries.				

## Component 5 Subregional activities for development in South-East Asia

### Objective

- 19.181 The objective, to which component 5 of the subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of South-East Asia, including sustainable connectivity, inclusive and equitable societies, the efficient management of natural resources and resilient development.

### Strategy

- 19.182 To contribute to the objective, the component will support member States in their progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 3, 5, 9, 10, 13 and 17. Specifically, it will:
- (a) Coordinate high-level dialogues and working meetings to support the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations (2021–2025), as well as the complementarities road map for the period 2020–2025;
  - (b) Enhance effective coordination among the various agencies and sectoral bodies with a focus on sustainable connectivity, inclusive and equitable societies, the efficient management of natural resources and resilient development, while ensuring synergy in the implementation of the processes;
  - (c) Deliver knowledge products, in collaboration with the relevant subprogrammes, on regional and subregional perspectives on global issues to member States in South-East Asia;
  - (d) Strengthen cooperation with ASEAN through increased engagement with the ASEAN secretariat and relevant sectoral bodies and committees, as appropriate, and on initiatives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and subregional goals;
  - (e) Coordinate joint substantive initiatives and dialogues between ESCAP and ASEAN in the areas of inclusive business, freight transport connectivity, digital connectivity, social protection and women's economic empowerment;
  - (f) Contribute to the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework to ensure that recovery efforts are in line with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals;

- (g) Strengthen coordination with and collaboration among subregional intergovernmental organizations and member States for an effective representation of subregional perspectives at regional and global consultations, and provide implementation support for the Commission's subprogrammes relating to the subregion's priorities;
  - (h) Serve as the focal point for the Commission's engagement with the resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams, including through substantive assistance in preparing common country assessments and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, in particular with regard to the transboundary dimensions of sustainable development, and assist country-level programming by providing subregional perspectives and access to regional networks and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation.
- 19.183 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) Enhanced innovation, infrastructure and competitiveness in the ICT sectors of member States to support an economic and social transition towards a truly digital subregion;
  - (b) Fairer and more equitable access to social protection, especially for those most vulnerable, such as women, older persons and persons with disabilities, and strengthened disability statistics, ageing and disability policies and social protection costing;
  - (c) The increased sustainable use and management of water and marine resources, the increased monitoring and prevention of land degradation and the increased monitoring of fine particulate matter in air pollution (PM2.5 and PM10) and air quality management;
  - (d) The improved coordination and coherence of technical assistance provided under the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework in the subregion;
  - (e) The addressing of development challenges in the subregion using a collaborative approach among Governments, the United Nations, subregional organizations and other international organizations, civil society, the private sector and international financial institutions.

## Programme performance in 2021

### Association of Southeast Asian Nations committed to enhancing disaster resilience in the region

- 19.184 The ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response is a legally binding regional agreement to address issues arising from the risk and impact of natural disasters in the ASEAN region and to guide regional cooperation in the field of disaster management and response. Its work programme is aligned with global agreements, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 19.185 To support the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement work programme, the component contributed to the development of the fourth iteration of the ASEAN-United Nations Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management, which is a key deliverable of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations (2021–2025). The component coordinated the activities and collection of information related to this topic. Activities such as preparatory workshops were held with the ASEAN secretariat and United Nations entities and focused on strengthening the alignment between the Joint Strategic Plan of Action and the ASEAN Agreement work programme for 2021–2025, reviewing the strategic approach and activities planned under the five priority programmes and discussing the preparation of a monitoring framework for the Joint Strategic Plan of Action.
- 19.186 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.47).

Table 19.47  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)
–	Adoption of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations (2021–2025)	Member countries endorsed the ASEAN-United Nations Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management for 2021–2025

### Planned results for 2023

#### Result 1: strengthened cooperation and relations between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

##### Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 19.187 The component's work contributed to the implementation of two new ASEAN-United Nations initiatives in the areas of investment facilitation and sustainable FDI indicators, which exceeded the planned target of implementing the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations (2021–2025) with an increased number of joint ASEAN-United Nations initiatives.
- 19.188 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.48).

Table 19.48  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noting of the complementarities road map 2020–2025 by ASEAN leaders</li> <li>• Formulation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations (2021–2025) begins in line with the road map</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the road map, including the establishment of the ASEAN Resources Panel</li> <li>• Enhanced cooperation between ASEAN and other subregions, e.g. ASEAN event at the regional South-South cooperation meeting</li> <li>• Noting of the Plan of Action</li> </ul>	Two new ASEAN-United Nations initiatives implemented in the areas of investment facilitation and sustainable FDI indicators	Implementation of the Plan of Action with one additional joint ASEAN-United Nations initiative	Two ASEAN member States develop capacity-building activities for sustainable FDI indicators

### Result 2: empowering women entrepreneurs in the subregion to overcome the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

- 19.189 The component's work contributed to the establishment by two member States (Cambodia and Viet Nam) of institutional mechanisms for collaboration across ministries and sectors to increase access to financing and business support services for women entrepreneurs, which exceeded the planned target of member States having increased access to tools such as guidelines for addressing the needs of women entrepreneurs in policies on micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in the subregion.
- 19.190 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.49).

Table 19.49  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
–	Member States expressed interest in initiatives to address barriers faced by women entrepreneurs	Two member States (Cambodia and Viet Nam) established institutional mechanisms for collaboration across ministries and sectors to increase access to financing and business support services for women entrepreneurs	Two member States from the subregion implement projects with a focus on enhancing the financial access and inclusion of women entrepreneurs	Two additional member States from the subregion implement projects with a focus on enhancing the financial access and inclusion of women entrepreneurs

### Result 3: increased use of innovative financing policies and instruments to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

#### Proposed programme plan for 2023

- 19.191 The 2030 Agenda includes the need to address barriers that divert finance from sustainable development and to align policies and financial systems to leverage opportunities to increase investments in the Sustainable Development Goals. Securing adequate resources for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda remains a significant challenge for many countries in South-East Asia. The component has supported subregional dialogues to explore how countries in the region can take advantage of innovative financing policies and instruments to advance progress towards the Goals.

#### Lessons learned and planned change

- 19.192 The lesson for the component was that it needed to facilitate transparent information-sharing between the public and private sectors and ensure the active involvement of think tanks in the discussions to strengthen the social and environmental considerations of innovative financing tools. In addition, those exchanges would benefit from gaining an understanding of the perspectives and knowledge of other Asian subregions. In applying the lesson, the component will offer additional opportunities for peer-to-peer learning with the aim of identifying regulatory barriers and offering practical advice on innovative financing policies and instruments. Working with the resident coordinator offices, the component will also broaden the range of stakeholders in these exchanges

to include, for example, line agencies, and facilitate continuous information-sharing among all stakeholders to reconcile competing perspectives and improve national policy implementation. Coupled with capacity-building, the component will support member States in more effectively using sustainable financing instruments.

19.193 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.50).

Table 19.50  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
–	Member States expressed interest in discussing sustainable bonds in the ASEAN region and with other subregions	Member States agreed to further study the use of sustainable and Sustainable Development Goal-linked bonds as an instrument to address post-COVID-19 financing needs and achieve the 2030 Agenda	Member States co-organize subregional dialogues on the policy implications of issuing sustainable bonds	Member States implement initiatives that facilitate innovative financing mechanisms

## Deliverables

19.194 Table 19.51 lists all deliverables of the component.

Table 19.51  
Component 5: deliverables for the period 2021–2023, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
1. Report for the Commission	1	1	1	1
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>
2. Expert group meetings on policy and programme options to address emerging sustainable development issues in South-East Asia	4	1	–	2
3. South-East Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals	4	5	4	4
4. Meetings with ASEAN for sustainable development in South-East Asia	–	1	3	3
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	<b>1</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
5. On institutional programmatic priorities of ESCAP in South-East Asia	1	–	1	1



Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	–	2	1	2
6. On the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations (2021–2025)	–	2	1	1
7. On the implementation of sustainable FDI indicators	–	–	–	1
<b>Technical materials</b> (number of materials)	1	1	1	1
8. On the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations (2021–2025)	1	1	1	1
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>				
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> consultations and advisory support to the subregional member States on sustainable connectivity, inclusive and equitable societies, the efficient management of natural resources and resilient development; advocacy with member States on the subregional findings of the Commission's publications.				
<b>D. Communication deliverables</b>				
<b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> subregional launch of ESCAP publications.				
<b>External and media relations:</b> press releases and op-ed articles on sustainable connectivity, inclusive and equitable societies, the efficient management of natural resources and resilient development; press interviews for major publications and events.				
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> web pages on climate action, environment, social development, and trade and financial integration.				

## Subprogramme 9 Energy

### Objective

- 19.195 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Asia and the Pacific by enhancing member States' capacity for energy access, renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy connectivity.

### Strategy

- 19.196 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will help to enhance the evidence base for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7 and Goals with interlinkages to it and their follow-up, and to review and support member States' efforts to progress towards Goal 7 and the emissions reduction goals under the Paris Agreement. Specifically, the subprogramme will:
- Improve the national expert Sustainable Development Goal tool for energy planning, an integrated modelling tool designed to assist policymakers in making informed decisions on their policy mix for energy access, energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy;
  - Develop and disseminate evidence-based policy recommendations and guidance on global and regional trends and new developments related to increasing access to energy, increasing the share of renewable sources of energy in the energy mix and improving energy efficiency, in partnership with international development agencies and development banks;
  - Focus its capacity-building efforts on small island developing States, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries to accelerate progress towards inclusive access to clean cooking and to produce policy guidelines at the national level to increase access for poor households to clean cooking fuels;

- (d) Offer up-to-date data and indicators, policy information and energy infrastructure mapping through the Asia Pacific Energy Portal, the knowledge platform focused on the measurement and review of progress towards Goal 7 in the Asia-Pacific region;
- (e) Facilitate peer-to-peer exchanges and partnerships with member States and subnational authorities on energy access, energy efficiency, renewable sources of energy and sustainable energy in urban areas through data collection and analysis, including methodology design and recommendations on policy and technology solutions tailored to the local context, and capacity-building for local authorities involved in decision-making and planning;
- (f) Produce and contribute to the development of knowledge products and capacity-building activities focused on broadening the understanding of the benefits and implications of energy connectivity for energy security and resilience, affordability and sustainability, with a view to encouraging increased power system integration, in particular;
- (g) Facilitate intergovernmental dialogue and provide recommendations on policies, legislation and mechanisms needed for energy connectivity to enable and enhance the transition to sustainable energy systems, such as the regional road map on power system connectivity: promoting cross-border electricity connectivity for sustainable development;
- (h) Offer policy options and analysis to strengthen the resilience of the energy sector to future crises on the basis of lessons learned from past crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

19.197 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

- (a) Improved capacity to implement energy transition policies, in particular the capacity to plan for and realize nationally appropriate targets to advance nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement;
- (b) Increased acceptance of evidence-based policies, strategies and investment plans to promote energy access, energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy at the city and national levels for a transition towards low-greenhouse-gas-emissions economies;
- (c) Greater energy connectivity and energy access among underserved populations in the region;
- (d) Incorporation of policy options and measures to enhance the disaster resilience of the energy sector into member States' national and local strategies;
- (e) Reduction in the adverse effects of cooking on the health of women and children in Asia and the Pacific.

## Programme performance in 2021

### Increased commitment to phasing out the use of coal to enable net zero emissions targets

19.198 The Asia-Pacific region relies heavily on fossil fuels to meet its energy needs. Achieving the targets of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement will require a rapid pivot away from fossil fuels towards a system based on renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency. The extent to which the region relies on coal for electricity generation represents a significant barrier to the transition to sustainable energy. The region is responsible for more than three quarters of global coal-fired power generation and almost all – 94 per cent – of the global total of proposed coal-fired power stations. This proposed capacity, if realized, will present a significant challenge in the form of high locked-in emissions and will exacerbate the already challenging efforts to meet the Paris Agreement targets.

19.199 To explore the constraints and opportunities with regard to the region's transition to a future less dependent on coal and to discuss issues related to coal-fired power generation and alternative development pathways, the subprogramme organized a multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on the margins of the third session of the Committee on Energy. The broader social and economic implications of efforts to achieve net zero emissions targets by mid-century and of the phasing out of the use of coal were also key issues discussed at the regional round table on extractive industries,

one of the five round tables organized by the regional commissions, jointly with the Office of the Secretary-General. The research products and technical support of the subprogramme also informed member States' efforts, linked to Sustainable Development Goal 7, to phase out coal from their power systems in view of the energy transition and its broader implications for the extractive industries, including shifting demand from fossil fuels to critical minerals.

- 19.200 Progress towards the objective, as measured by the percentage of member States that announce mid-century net zero emissions targets, is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.52).

Table 19.52  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)
21 per cent of member States in the Asia-Pacific region committed to achieving net zero emissions targets by mid-century	Select member States in the region committed to accelerating actions to achieve net zero carbon dioxide emissions by mid-century	Of the total countries committed to net zero targets, member States in the region accounted for 25 per cent, including Bhutan, one of two countries in the world that announced the achievement of net zero targets in 2021

## Planned results for 2023

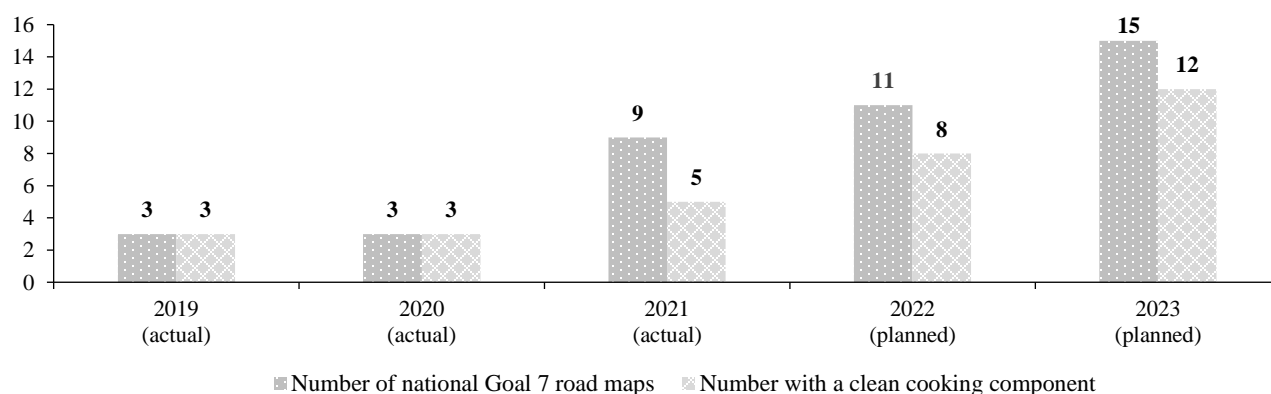
### Result 1: evidence-based and people-focused planning for sustainable energy

#### Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 19.201 The subprogramme's work contributed to the development of five national road maps on Sustainable Development Goal 7, in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji, Georgia and Tonga, that include strategies for attaining universal access to clean cooking fuel and technologies, which met the planned target. The subprogramme's work further contributed to the development by nine member States of national Goal 7 road maps, which did not meet the planned target of 16, owing to COVID-19, which had an impact on the securing of agreements with partner countries.
- 19.202 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.XI).

Figure 19.XI

**Performance measure: number of national road maps on Sustainable Development Goal 7 in the Asia-Pacific region that include strategies for attaining universal access to clean cooking fuels and technologies (cumulative)**



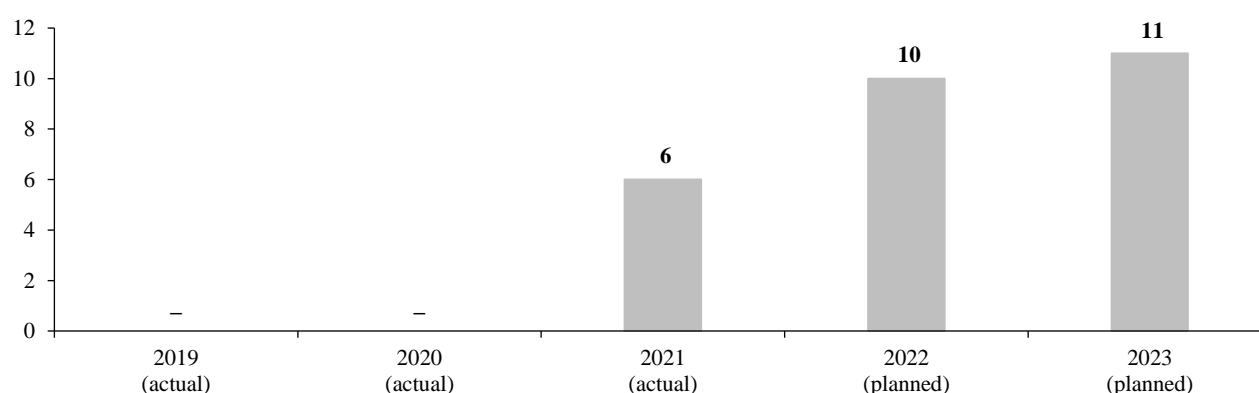
## Result 2: localization of Sustainable Development Goal 7: evidence-based energy efficiency and renewable strategies for urban areas

### Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 19.203 The subprogramme's work contributed to the development of six localized road maps on Sustainable Development Goal 7 taken up at the city level in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, which exceeded the planned target of five.
- 19.204 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.XII).

Figure 19.XII

**Performance measure: number of localized road maps on Sustainable Development Goal 7 taken up at the city level in the Asia-Pacific region (cumulative)**



## Result 3: evidence-based strategies for increasing sustainable power system connectivity

### Proposed programme plan for 2023

- 19.205 In 2018, member States, facilitated by the ESCAP secretariat, made commitments to improving cross-border electricity connectivity in the Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Energy Transition towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies in Asia and the Pacific. The subprogramme contributed to the finalization of the regional road map on power system connectivity by holding four meetings of the Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity and the development of relevant publications, including reports on the potential for sustainable power system connectivity in North-East Asia, South Asia and South-East Asia. The regional road map, which was endorsed by the Commission at its seventy-seventh session, represents a direct response to the Ministerial Declaration and includes a vision, a set of principles and nine strategies to increase sustainable power system integration in the region. The road map is the first ESCAP-facilitated regional cooperation mechanism of its kind on Sustainable Development Goal 7.

### *Lessons learned and planned change*

- 19.206 The lesson for the subprogramme was that there is a need to better articulate the linkage between power system connectivity and sustainability, including with regard to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 and the Paris Agreement targets, and the implementation of the decisions adopted at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties. There is also a need to increase coordination and collaboration among the many existing subregional and regional power system connectivity initiatives. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will collaborate more proactively with other subregional and regional organizations engaged in or supporting power system connectivity efforts and extend its partnerships to include other relevant initiatives. To fully address member States' concerns on the implications of the decisions on power system connectivity adopted

at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties, the subprogramme will better communicate the evidence-based analysis contained in its work products.

19.207 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.53).

Table 19.53  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
ESCAP member States emphasized the importance of a regional road map on power system connectivity	ESCAP member States agreed on draft text of a regional road map on power system connectivity through informal consultation	Committee on Energy endorsed the regional road map on power system connectivity at its third session, and the Commission endorsed it at its seventy-seventh session	ESCAP member States provide national and subregional updates on the status of power system connectivity and confirm the time frames for achieving the road map milestones	ESCAP member States analyse gaps in policies, regulations and standards in each subregion and agree on a set of principles for enabling sustainable power system connectivity

## Deliverables

19.208 Table 19.54 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 19.54  
Subprogramme 9: deliverables for the period 2021–2023, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
Reports for:				
1. The Commission	1	1	1	1
2. The Committee on Energy	1	6	–	–
3. The Asian and Pacific Energy Forum	–	–	–	3
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>
4. Meetings of the Committee on Energy	6	6	–	–
5. Asian and Pacific Energy Forum	–	–	–	6
6. Meetings of the Expert Working Group on Universal Access to Modern Energy Services, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Cleaner Use of Fossil Fuels	4	4	4	4
7. Meetings of the Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity	4	5	4	4
8. Meetings of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment (energy-related issues)	2	2	2	2
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
9. On the implementation of Goal 7	2	6	2	1

**Part V**                      **Regional cooperation for development**

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2021 actual</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
10. Policy dialogues on energy	1	1	1	1
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
11. On energy	1	1	4	3
<b>Technical materials</b> (number of materials)	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
12. On energy	1	5	2	1
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>				
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> policy advice to all member States, upon request, on the implementation of Goal 7.				
<b>Databases and substantive digital materials:</b> Asia Pacific Energy Portal.				
<b>D. Communication deliverables</b>				
<b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> information materials on subregional statistical perspectives on sustainable energy targeted at government officials and technical experts in the region.				
<b>External and media relations:</b> press releases and op-ed articles on renewable sources of energy, energy efficiency, energy access and energy connectivity; press interviews for major publications and events.				
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> web pages on renewable sources of energy, energy efficiency, cleaner use of fossil fuels, access to electricity, access to clean cooking, and energy connectivity and regional cooperation.				

## B. Proposed post and non-post resource requirements for 2023

### Overview

19.209 The proposed regular budget resources for 2023, including the breakdown of resource changes, as applicable, are reflected in tables 19.55 to 19.57.

Table 19.55

#### Overall: evolution of financial resources by object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Changes				Percentage	2023 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total		
Post	46 432.7	48 689.6	—	—	—	—	—	48 689.6
Other staff costs	439.4	783.4	—	—	2.5	2.5	0.3	785.9
Hospitality	0.4	5.4	—	—	—	—	—	5.4
Consultants	674.7	268.9	—	—	(34.9)	(34.9)	(13.0)	234.0
Experts	—	407.4	—	—	(18.8)	(18.8)	(4.6)	388.6
Travel of staff	29.7	402.0	—	—	11.8	11.8	2.9	413.8
Contractual services	1 304.7	1 171.9	—	—	49.4	49.4	4.2	1 221.3
General operating expenses	2 186.7	2 013.1	—	—	(4.2)	(4.2)	(0.2)	2 008.9
Supplies and materials	46.1	113.4	—	—	(3.1)	(3.1)	(2.7)	110.3
Furniture and equipment	950.6	412.3	—	—	(2.7)	(2.7)	(0.7)	409.6
Improvement of premises	69.8	44.9	—	—	—	—	—	44.9
Grants and contributions	1101.2	940.9	(940.9)	—	—	(940.9)	(100.0)	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>53 236.0</b>	<b>55 253.2</b>	<b>(940.9)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(940.9)</b>	<b>(1.7)</b>	<b>54 312.3</b>

Table 19.56

#### Overall: proposed posts and post changes for 2023

(Number of posts)

	Number	Details
Approved for 2022	418	1 USG, 2 D-2, 15 D-1, 35 P-5, 63 P-4, 52 P-3, 33 P-2/1, 3 NPO, 214 LL
Redeployments	—	1 P-4 from the Office of the Executive Secretary to the Sustainable Development and Countries in Special Situations section within executive direction and management
	—	1 LL from subprogramme 1 to executive direction and management
Proposed for 2023	418	1 USG, 2 D-2, 15 D-1, 35 P-5, 63 P-4, 52 P-3, 33 P-2/1, 3 NPO, 214 LL

*Note:* The following abbreviations are used in tables and figures: GS (OL), General Service (Other level); GS (PL), General Service (Principal level); (LL), Local level; NPO, National Professional Officer; USG, Under-Secretary-General.

Table 19.57

**Overall: proposed posts by category and grade<sup>a</sup>**

(Number of posts)

Category and grade	2022 approved	Changes				2023 proposed
		Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	
Professional and higher						
USG	1	—	—	—	—	1
D-2	2	—	—	—	—	2
D-1	15	—	—	—	—	15
P-5	35	—	—	—	—	35
P-4	63	—	—	—	—	63
P-3	52	—	—	—	—	52
P-2/1	33	—	—	—	—	33
Subtotal	201	—	—	—	—	201
General Service and related						
NPO	3	—	—	—	—	3
LL	214	—	—	—	—	214
Subtotal	217	—	—	—	—	217
Total	418	—	—	—	—	418

<sup>a</sup> Includes four temporary posts (three P-4 and one P-3) that were approved pursuant to General Assembly resolution [71/272](#).

19.210 Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2023 are reflected in tables 19.58 to 19.60 and figure 19.XIII.

19.211 As reflected in tables 19.58 (1) and 19.59 (1), the overall resources proposed for 2023 amount to \$54,312,300 before recosting, reflecting a decrease of \$940,900 (or 1.7 per cent) compared with the appropriation for 2022. Resource changes result from two factors, namely: (a) technical adjustments; and (b) other changes. The proposed level of resources provides for the full, efficient and effective implementation of mandates.

Table 19.58

**Overall: evolution of financial resources by source of funding, component and subprogramme**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Component/subprogramme	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Changes					2023 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
A. Policymaking organs	267.9	447.9	—	—	—	—	—	447.9
B. Executive direction and management	3 506.3	3 954.8	—	—	59.9	59.9	1.5	4 014.7
C. Programme of work								
1. Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development	2 924.8	3 000.0	—	—	(72.1)	(72.1)	(2.4)	2 927.9
2. Trade, investment and innovation	3 362.6	3 278.0	—	—	14.7	14.7	0.4	3 292.7



**Section 19 Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific**

Component/subprogramme	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Changes					2023 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
3. Transport	3 127.7	3 370.5	–	–	1.1	1.1	–	3 371.6
4. Environment and development	2 823.7	2 927.6	–	–	4.6	4.6	0.2	2 932.2
5. Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management	2 392.7	2 816.7	–	–	(5.0)	(5.0)	(0.2)	2 811.7
6. Social development	3 368.3	4 005.1	–	–	(42.2)	(42.2)	(1.1)	3 962.9
7. Statistics	2 909.9	3 056.0	–	–	33.3	33.3	1.1	3 089.3
8. Subregional activities for development	4 034.3	4 397.9	–	–	7.2	7.2	0.2	4 405.1
9. Energy	1 728.4	1 799.5	–	–	(1.5)	(1.5)	(0.1)	1 798.0
<b>Subtotal, C</b>	<b>26 672.4</b>	<b>28 651.3</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(59.9)</b>	<b>(59.9)</b>	<b>(0.2)</b>	<b>28 591.4</b>
D. Programme support	22 789.4	22 199.2	(940.9)	–	–	(940.9)	(4.2)	21 258.3
<b>Subtotal, 1</b>	<b>53 236.0</b>	<b>55 253.2</b>	<b>(940.9)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(940.9)</b>	<b>(1.7)</b>	<b>54 312.3</b>

**(2) Extrabudgetary**

Component/subprogramme	2021 expenditure	2022 estimate	Change	Percentage	2023 estimate
A. Policymaking organs	–	–	–	–	–
B. Executive direction and management	101.3	204.2	68.8	33.7	273.0
C. Programme of work					
1. Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development	161.6	88.9	(88.9)	(100)	–
2. Trade, investment and innovation	2 229.5	4 505.6	(1 415.6)	(31.4)	3 090.0
3. Transport	462.6	897.8	85.0	9.5	982.8
4. Environment and development	2 137.5	3 614.7	(887.4)	(24.5)	2 727.3
5. Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management	2 225.8	5 367.8	(640.9)	(11.9)	4 726.9
6. Social development	869.9	1 751.1	(333.0)	(19.0)	1 418.1
7. Statistics	2 169.2	4 004.5	(926.3)	(23.1)	3 078.2
8. Subregional activities for development	1 446.4	2 710.7	(134.0)	(4.9)	2 576.7
9. Energy	805.2	1 072.8	(495.1)	(46.1)	577.7
<b>Subtotal, C</b>	<b>12 507.7</b>	<b>24 013.9</b>	<b>(4 836.2)</b>	<b>(20.1)</b>	<b>19 177.7</b>
D. Programme support	4 242.7	4 271.5	(17.6)	(0.4)	4 253.9
<b>Subtotal, 2</b>	<b>16 851.7</b>	<b>28 489.6</b>	<b>(4 785.0)</b>	<b>(16.8)</b>	<b>23 704.6</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>70 087.7</b>	<b>83 742.8</b>	<b>(5 725.9)</b>	<b>(6.8)</b>	<b>78 016.9</b>

Table 19.59

**Overall: proposed posts for 2023 by source of funding, component and subprogramme**

(Number of posts)

(1) *Regular budget*

Component/subprogramme	2022 approved	Changes				2023 proposed
		Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	
A. Policymaking organs	–	–	–	–	–	–
B. Executive direction and management	24	–	–	1	1	25
C. Programme of work						
1. Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development	23	–	–	(1)	(1)	22
2. Trade, investment and innovation	25	–	–	–	–	25
3. Transport	25	–	–	–	–	25
4. Environment and development	22	–	–	–	–	22
5. Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management	21	–	–	–	–	21
6. Social development	30	–	–	–	–	30
7. Statistics	24	–	–	–	–	24
8. Subregional activities for development	25	–	–	–	–	25
9. Energy	12	–	–	–	–	12
<b>Subtotal, C</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>206</b>
D. Programme support	187	–	–	–	–	187
<b>Subtotal, 1</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>418</b>

(2) *Extrabudgetary*

Component/subprogramme	2022 estimate	Change	2023 estimate
A. Policymaking organs	–	–	–
B. Executive direction and management	–	–	–
C. Programme of work			
1. Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development	–	–	–
2. Trade, investment and innovation	11	–	11
3. Transport	2	–	2
4. Environment and development	10	–	10
5. Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management	18	5	23
6. Social development	3	–	3
7. Statistics	14	(1)	13
8. Subregional activities for development	24	(2)	22
9. Energy	–	–	–
<b>Subtotal, C</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>84</b>
D. Programme support	32	–	32
<b>Subtotal, 2</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>534</b>

Note: Extrabudgetary posts include experts on a non-reimbursable loan.

Table 19.60

**Overall: evolution of financial and post resources**

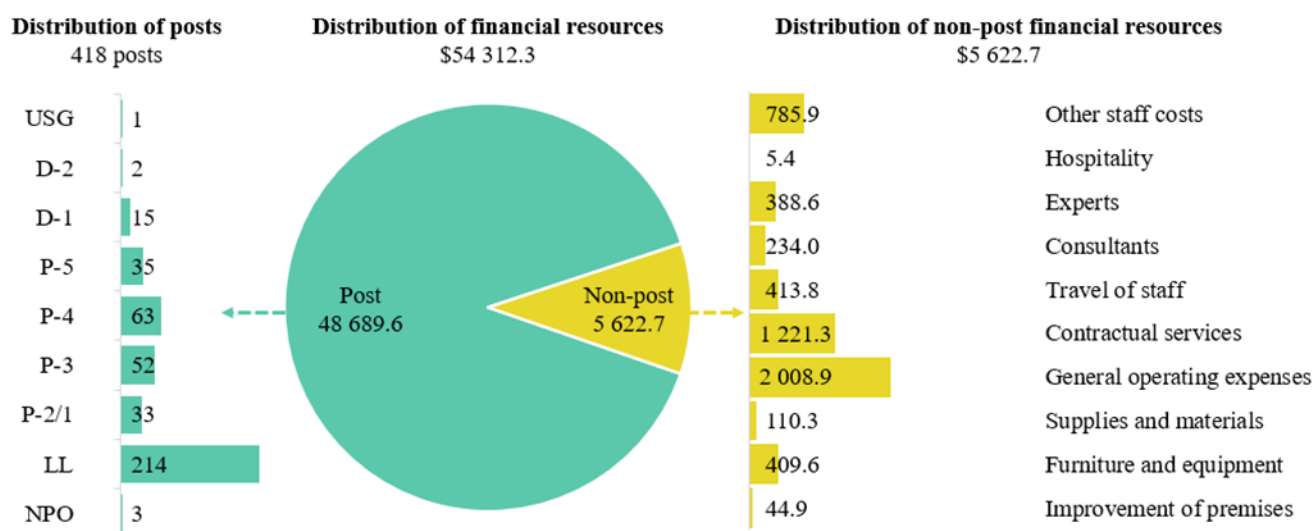
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	Changes							2023 estimate (before recosting)
	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	46 432.7	48 689.6	—	—	—	—	—	48 689.6
Non-post	6 803.3	6 563.6	(940.9)	—	—	(940.9)	(14.3)	5 622.7
Total	53 236.0	55 253.2	(940.9)	—	—	(940.9)	(1.7)	54 312.3
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		201	—	—	—	—	—	201
General Service and related		217	—	—	—	—	—	217
Total		418	—	—	—	—	—	418

Figure 19.XIII

**Distribution of proposed resources for 2023 (before recosting)**

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)

**Explanation of variances by factor, component and subprogramme****Overall resource changes****Technical adjustments**

- 19.212 As reflected in table 19.58 (1), resource changes reflect a decrease of \$940,900 under programme support related to the removal of non-recurrent requirements approved by the General Assembly for 2022 in its resolution [76/246](#) relating to the seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project at ESCAP. Resource requirements relating to the seismic mitigation project at ESCAP will be presented to the General Assembly in the report of the Secretary-General on the seismic mitigation

retrofit and life-cycle replacements project at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific premises in Bangkok during the main part of the seventy-seventh session of the Assembly.

### Other changes

19.213 As reflected in table 19.58 (1), the net effect of the proposed changes is cost-neutral. The breakdown of changes is as follows:

- (a) **Executive direction and management.** The increase of \$59,900 in post resources relates to the inward redeployment of a Local level post from subprogramme 1 (see annex III);
- (b) **Subprogramme 1, Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development.** The net decrease of \$72,100 comprises: (i) a decrease under post resources (\$59,900), which relates to the outward redeployment of one Local level post to executive direction and management (see annex III); (ii) reduced requirements under consultants (\$7,800) and experts (\$12,000) owing to a decrease in the number of expert group meetings and associated consultant services; and (iii) a decrease in travel of staff (\$4,000) owing to a reduced volume of planned travel, offset in part by an increase in contractual services (\$11,600) owing to an increase in requirements for a publication for the *Financing for Development in Asia and the Pacific* series;
- (c) **Subprogramme 2, Trade, investment and innovation.** The increase of \$14,700 under non-post resources relates mainly to an increased requirement under contractual services (\$14,100) owing to an increase in the provision for the substantive editing of a flagship publication on trade and investment;
- (d) **Subprogramme 3, Transport.** The increase of \$1,100 under non-post resources relates mainly to an increased requirement under consultants (\$1,400) owing to an increase in the number of consultancy days required to support planned expert group meetings;
- (e) **Subprogramme 4, Environment and development.** The net increase of \$4,600 under non-post resources relates mainly to an increased requirement under contractual services (\$5,400) owing to the increase in the number of publications, offset in part by a decrease under consultants (\$1,300) owing to a reduction in the number of consultancy days required;
- (f) **Subprogramme 5, Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management.** The net decrease of \$5,000 under non-post resources relates mainly to a decreased requirement under experts (\$12,000) and consultants (\$3,700) owing to a reduced number of expert group meetings and associated consultancy services, offset in part by an increase in contractual services (\$10,900) owing to the publication of one flagship report on disaster risk reduction;
- (g) **Subprogramme 6, Social development.** The net decrease of \$42,200 under non-post resources relates mainly to decreased requirements under consultants (\$20,400) and experts (\$17,600) owing to a reduced number of expert group meetings on the social outlook for Asia and the Pacific and associated consultancy services, as well as contractual services (\$12,600) owing to a reduced number of publications, offset in part by an increase in travel of staff (\$8,400) owing to an increase in planned travel for effective engagement with member States in the region in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- (h) **Subprogramme 7, Statistics.** The increase of \$33,300 under non-post resources relates mainly to an increase in requirements under experts (\$24,500) and consultants (\$3,900) owing to an increased number of experts required for the expert group meetings and associated consultancy services, as well as travel of staff (\$3,700) owing to an increase in planned travel for effective engagement with member States in the region in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- (i) **Subprogramme 8, component 1, Subregional activities for development in the Pacific.** The increase of \$7,900 under non-post resources relates mainly to increased requirements under general operating expenses (\$7,500) owing to an anticipated increase in communication costs owing to an upgrade of the Internet bandwidth;

- (j) **Subprogramme 8, component 2, Subregional activities for development in East and North-East Asia.** The net decrease of \$2,000 under non-post resources relates mainly to a decreased requirement under experts (\$2,600) owing to a reduced number of expert group meetings and general operating expenses (\$2,200) as a result of lower requirements for communication services and maintenance of equipment, offset in part by an increase under consultants (\$3,500) owing to consultancy requirements in the area of emerging economic and social development issues in East and North-East Asia;
- (k) **Subprogramme 8, component 3, Subregional activities for development in North and Central Asia.** The decrease of \$6,700 under non-post resources relates mainly to decreased requirements under contractual services (\$2,900) owing to a reduced requirement for logistical support for meetings and general operating expenses (\$2,900) as a result of a reduced requirement for maintenance of official vehicles and communication services;
- (l) **Subprogramme 8, component 4, Subregional activities for development in South and South-West Asia.** The decrease of \$3,900 in non-post resources relates mainly to a decrease in the provision for general operating expenses (\$6,500) as a result of reduced communications and utilities requirements, as well as an anticipated decrease in the requirement under experts (\$1,800) as a result of reduced costs associated with travel for expert group meetings, offset in part by increased requirements under contractual services (\$5,400) owing to an increase in data processing services;
- (m) **Subprogramme 8, component 5, Subregional activities for development in South-East Asia.** The increase of \$11,900 in non-post resources relates to increased requirements under consultants (\$4,800) and experts (\$7,100) owing to an increase in the number of expert group meetings and associated consultancy services;
- (n) **Subprogramme 9, Energy.** The decrease of \$1,500 in non-post resources relates mainly to reduced requirements under consultancy services (\$5,300) owing to a decrease in the provision for such services in the area of energy connectivity, offset in part by an increase in the provision for travel of staff (\$4,500) owing to the increased volume of travel planned for enhancing engagement with member States in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

### Extrabudgetary resources

- 19.214 As reflected in tables 19.58 (2) and 19.59 (2), ESCAP expects to continue to receive both cash and in-kind contributions, which would complement regular budget resources. In 2023, extrabudgetary resources are estimated at \$23,704,500 and would provide for 116 posts, as presented in table 19.59 (2). Total in-kind contributions, valued at \$4.52 million, comprise donated right-to-use premises in Bangkok for ESCAP (valued at \$1.3 million) and premises at subregional offices and regional institutes (valued at \$1.8 million), as well as experts on non-reimbursable loans and United Nations Volunteers (valued at \$1.4 million). Extrabudgetary resources represent 30.4 per cent of the total resources for this section.
- 19.215 The extrabudgetary resources under this section are subject to the oversight of the secretariat of ESCAP, which has delegated authority from the Secretary-General.

### Policymaking organs

- 19.216 The resources proposed under this component would cover the requirements for standing intergovernmental meetings serviced by the secretariat. The Commission, which consists of 53 members and 9 associate members, provides overall direction to the work of the secretariat and reports to the Economic and Social Council. It meets annually, with each session comprising a senior officials segment and a ministerial segment, to discuss and decide on important issues pertaining to inclusive and sustainable development in the region. The provisions proposed for 2023 are in accordance with Commission resolution 73/1, which set out the conference structure of the Commission, comprising

the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and nine committees. In addition to the annual session of the Commission and the Asia-Pacific Forum, the biennial sessions of the following three committees will be held: the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development; the Committee on Trade and Investment; and the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction. In addition, no more than eight ad hoc ministerial conferences or other intergovernmental meetings should be held in addition to the regular calendar of intergovernmental meetings during each biennium. In accordance with Commission resolution 74/9, the third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum will be organized as an ad hoc meeting in place of the Committee on Energy, in accordance with the provisions of the conference structure of the Commission ([E/2017/39-E/ESCAP/73/40](#), annex II). The seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference, a statutory organ of the Commission, will also be convened, in accordance with Commission resolution 74 (XXIII).

- 19.217 Table 19.61 provides information on the standing intergovernmental organs and related resource requirements under the regular budget.

Table 19.61

**Policymaking organs**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Policymaking organ</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Additional information</i>	<i>2022 appropriation</i>	<i>2023 estimate (before recosting)</i>
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	The Commission provides overall direction to the work of the secretariat and reports to the Economic and Social Council. It holds regular annual sessions, with each session comprising a senior officials segment and a ministerial segment, to discuss and decide on important issues pertaining to inclusive and sustainable development in the region in the follow-up to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.	Mandate: Economic and Social Council resolutions <a href="#">37 (IV)</a> , <a href="#">1895 (LVII)</a> and <a href="#">2015/30</a> Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2023: 1 (seventy-ninth session)	213.3	255.2
Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development	The Forum is an inclusive intergovernmental platform that meets annually. It supports regional preparations for the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of both the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.	Mandate: Economic and Social Council resolution <a href="#">2015/30</a> and Commission resolutions 71/1 and 73/1 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2023: 1 (tenth session)	24.6	22.3
Committee on Transport	A subsidiary organ of the Commission that addresses transport issues.	Mandate: Economic and Social Council resolution <a href="#">2015/30</a> and decision 2017/269 and Commission resolution 71/1 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2023: none	24.6	—
Committee on Environment and Development	A subsidiary organ of the Commission that addresses environment and development issues.	Mandate: Economic and Social Council resolution <a href="#">2015/30</a> and Commission resolution 71/1 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2023: none	24.6	—

**Section 19 Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific**

<i>Policymaking organ</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Additional information</i>	<i>2022 appropriation</i>	<i>2023 estimate (before recosting)</i>
Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation	A subsidiary organ of the Commission that addresses information and communications technology and science, technology and innovation issues.	Mandate: Economic and Social Council resolution <a href="#">2015/30</a> and Commission resolution 71/1 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2023: none	24.6	—
Committee on Social Development	A subsidiary organ of the Commission that addresses social development issues.	Mandate: Economic and Social Council resolution <a href="#">2015/30</a> and Commission resolution 71/1 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2023: none	24.6	—
Committee on Statistics	A subsidiary organ of the Commission that addresses statistical issues.	Mandate: Economic and Social Council resolution <a href="#">2015/30</a> and Commission resolution 71/1 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2023: none	24.6	—
Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development	A subsidiary organ of the Commission that addresses macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development issues.	Mandate: Economic and Social Council resolution <a href="#">2015/30</a> and Commission resolution 71/1 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2023: 1 (fourth session)	—	15.1
Committee on Trade and Investment	A subsidiary organ of the Commission that addresses trade and investment issues.	Mandate: Economic and Social Council resolution <a href="#">2015/30</a> and Commission resolution 71/1 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2023: 1 (eighth session)	—	15.1
Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction	A subsidiary organ of the Commission that addresses disaster risk reduction issues.	Mandate: Economic and Social Council resolution <a href="#">2015/30</a> and Commission resolution 71/1 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2023: 6 (eighth session)	—	15.1
Committee on Energy	A subsidiary organ of the Commission that addresses energy issues.	Mandate: Economic and Social Council resolution <a href="#">2015/30</a> and Commission resolution 71/1 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2023: none	—	—
Ministerial Conference on Transport	The Conference will evaluate the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2017–2021) and consider a future programme of work.	Mandate: Economic and Social Council decision 2017/269 and Commission resolution 73/4 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2023: none	—	—

**Part V Regional cooperation for development**

<i>Policymaking organ</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Additional information</i>	<i>2022 appropriation</i>	<i>2023 estimate (before recosting)</i>
Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific	The Conference will review progress made in the advancement of regional economic cooperation and integration.	Mandate: Economic and Social Council decision 2018/260 and Commission resolution 74/10 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2023: none	—	—
Asia-Pacific Review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing	The Conference will review progress made in the advancement of regional economic cooperation and integration.	Mandate: General Assembly resolution <a href="#">75/152</a> and Economic and Social Council resolution <a href="#">2020/8</a> Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2023: none	31.2	—
Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022	The conference will review the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, and consider a future programme of work.	Mandate: Commission resolutions 69/13 and 74/7 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2023: none	31.2	—
Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific	The conference will review progress in implementation of Phase-I and the start of the Phase-II of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030).	Mandate: Commission decision 75/4 and Commission resolution 75/6 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2023: none	24.6	—
Asian and Pacific Energy Forum		Mandate: Commission resolutions 67/2, 70/9, 73/8 and 74/9 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2023: 1 (third session)	—	15.1
Asian and Pacific Population Conference		Mandate: Commission resolution 74 (XXIII) Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2023: 1 (seventh session)	—	110.0
<b>Total</b>			<b>447.9</b>	<b>447.9</b>

19.218 The proposed regular budget resources for 2023 amount to \$447,900 and reflect no change compared with the appropriation for 2022. Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2023 are reflected in table 19.62 and figure 19.XIV.



Table 19.62

**Policymaking organs: evolution of financial resources**

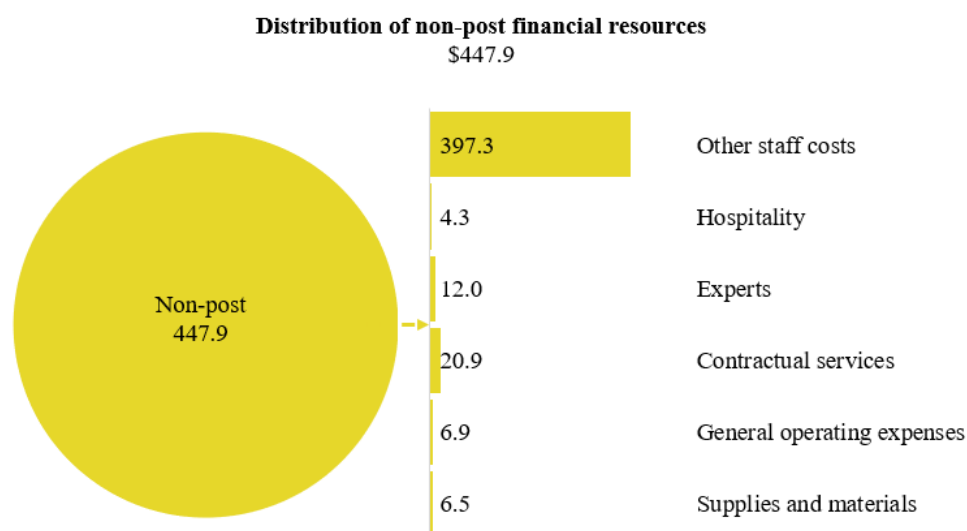
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Changes				Total	Percentage	2023 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other				
Non-post	267.9	447.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	447.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>267.9</b>	<b>447.9</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>447.9</b>

Figure 19.XIV

**Policymaking organs: distribution of proposed resources for 2023 (before recosting)**

(Thousands of United States dollars )

**Executive direction and management**

- 19.219 Executive direction and management is led by the Office of the Executive Secretary and supported by the Sustainable Development and Countries in Special Situations section. The Office provides overall policy direction and management to the secretariat to support member States through the provision of strategic analyses, policy options and capacity-building activities. The efforts are aimed at addressing key development challenges through the provision of innovative solutions for equitable and inclusive economic prosperity, social progress and environmental sustainability across Asia and the Pacific. Emerging issues in the regional development agenda will be identified, and regional concerns and priorities will be articulated at the global level.
- 19.220 The Office of the Executive Secretary provides guidance to divisions, subregional offices and regional institutions on the implementation of the ESCAP programme of work and on ensuring its accountability. It also provides direction on the mainstreaming of policies and strategies relating to gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as on disability inclusion, across the programme of work.
- 19.221 The Office of the Executive Secretary provides overall direction and management with respect to the preparation of the annual theme study and the organization of the annual session of the Commission, an inclusive intergovernmental platform for regional cooperation. It also guides the implementation of

reforms to the ESCAP conference structure pursuant to Commission resolution [73/1](#); the strengthening of organizational effectiveness and results-based management; and the implementation of United Nations system-wide change management and reform initiatives.

- 19.222 The Office of the Executive Secretary provides overall direction to programme support units in ensuring gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive programme planning and financial and human resources management, as well as accountability systems. Every effort will be made to advance gender parity.
- 19.223 The Sustainable Development and Countries in Special Situations section supports the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. The section takes a concerted approach to mainstreaming the issues faced by these groups of countries in the overall programme of work, monitors the implementation of the programmes of action for these countries and provides strategic analyses to address key development challenges. It also guides the organization of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development as the multi-stakeholder platform through which to discuss, review and follow up on regional priorities and needs for sustainable development.
- 19.224 In accordance with the 2030 Agenda, in particular target 12.6 of the Goals, in which organizations are encouraged to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle, and in compliance with the cross-cutting mandate set out in paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution [72/219](#), as well as with the environmental policy of the United Nations Secretariat ([ST/SGB/2019/7](#)), the Office is integrating environmental management practices into its operations. In 2021, ESCAP continued the energy efficiency efforts through its daily Earth Hour campaign, through which office lights were automatically switched off during the lunch break, and improvements and adjustments to facilities management systems. ESCAP achieved an energy efficiency improvement of 40 per cent compared with 2016 – its reference environmental baseline year – and 15 per cent compared with 2020. The energy efficiency improvements are equivalent to 7,171 tons of carbon dioxide over the five years since the launch of the ESCAP environmental management system. In the period 2020–2021, ESCAP expanded its on-site solar panels and purchased international renewable energy certificates to source 100 per cent of its energy consumption from solar energy produced locally in Thailand, thus achieving the United Nations Secretariat 2030 targets as early as in 2020. In the same year, ESCAP continued its waste prevention and management efforts and achieved a rate of 80 per cent for waste recycling (an increase of 56 per cent compared with 2016). Efforts included the continuation of the compound-wide ban on all main single-use catering items and the establishment of a new waste management system that boosted recycling (centralized recycling bins, a new waste sorting area and organic waste composting). In 2021, ESCAP meetings were organized online or in a format, which significantly reduced the organizational air travel footprint by more than 90 per cent. ESCAP will have achieved climate neutrality in its 2021 operations by procuring certified carbon emission reduction credits by June 2022. In 2022, the Office will continue to reduce its carbon footprint through the establishment of an environmental management system to ensure systematic and monitored environmental management. The system will serve to target energy, waste, water, sustainable meetings and travel and will address staff awareness as a cross-cutting issue for all the identified environmental issues. It should be noted that, although ESCAP reduction trends were already in place and yielding positive environmental results before the COVID-19 pandemic, the levels of progress reached to date in some of the targeted areas may not be sustainable at the same level in the long term if building occupancy rates and air travel were to increase.
- 19.225 Information on compliance with the timely submission of documentation and advance booking for air travel is reflected in table 19.63. Restrictions on international travel and increased entry requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic continued to have a negative impact on the timely planning and preparation of travel. The advance purchase compliance rate decreased, from 49 per cent in 2020 to 39 per cent in 2021. The number of travel requests continued to be extremely low, although a sharp increase, from 12 in the third quarter of 2021 to 61 in the fourth quarter – when some member States in the Asia-Pacific region relaxed their international travel and entry restrictions – was observed. While ESCAP continues to implement measures to improve the compliance rate,

which include regular monitoring of and reporting on the Organization's advance purchase compliance rate, as well as bilateral consultations with respective divisions/offices to improve their travel planning, the evolving pandemic situation, as well as ever-changing policies and restrictions related to travel, have affected the compliance rate.

Table 19.63  
**Compliance rate**  
(Percentage)

	<i>Actual 2019</i>	<i>Actual 2020</i>	<i>Actual 2021</i>	<i>Planned 2022</i>	<i>Planned 2023</i>
Timely submission of documentation	81	93	93	100	100
Air tickets purchased at least two weeks before the commencement of travel	61	49	39	100	100

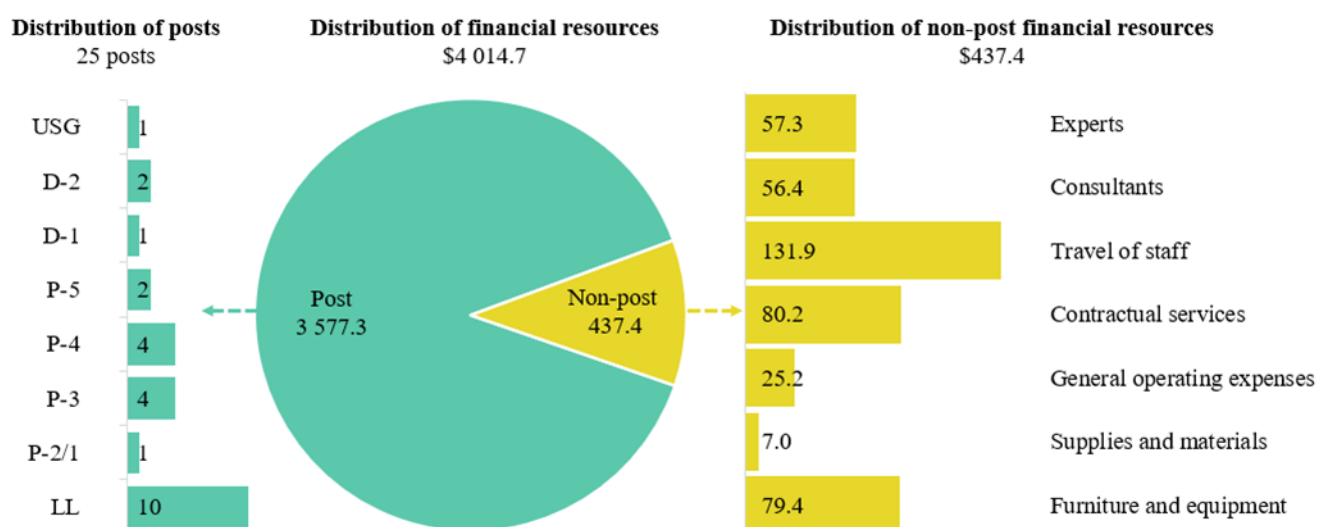
- 19.226 The proposed regular budget resources for 2023 amount to \$4,014,700 and reflect a net increase of \$59,900 in the resource level compared with the appropriation for 2022. The proposed increase is explained in paragraph 19.213 (a). Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2023 are reflected in table 19.64 and figure 19.XV.

Table 19.64  
**Executive direction and management: evolution of financial and post resources**  
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Changes					2023 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	3 179.3	3 517.4	—	—	59.9	59.9	1.7	3 577.3
Non-post	327.0	437.4	—	—	—	—	—	437.4
Total	3 506.3	3 954.8	—	—	59.9	59.9	1.5	4 014.7
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		15	—	—	—	—	—	15
General Service and related		9	—	—	1	1	11.1	10
Total		24	—	—	1	1	4.2	25

Figure 19.XV  
Executive direction and management: distribution of proposed resources for 2023 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



### Extrabudgetary resources

- 19.227 Extrabudgetary resources are estimated at \$273,000 under executive direction and management and would provide for non-post resources. The resources would support: (a) a technical cooperation project with the Asian Development Bank and UNDP on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; and (b) research and capacity-building activities for least developed countries. The estimated increase of \$68,750 compared with 2022 is attributable mainly to the anticipated recovery from COVID-19 pandemic disruptions, which would allow for normalization of travel activities.

## Programme of work

### Subprogramme 1

#### Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development

- 19.228 The proposed regular budget resources for 2023 amount to \$2,927,900 and reflect a decrease of \$72,100 compared with the appropriation for 2022. The proposed decrease is explained in paragraph 19.213 (b). Additional details on the distribution of resources for 2023 are reflected in table 19.65 and figure 19.XVI.

Table 19.65  
Subprogramme 1: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

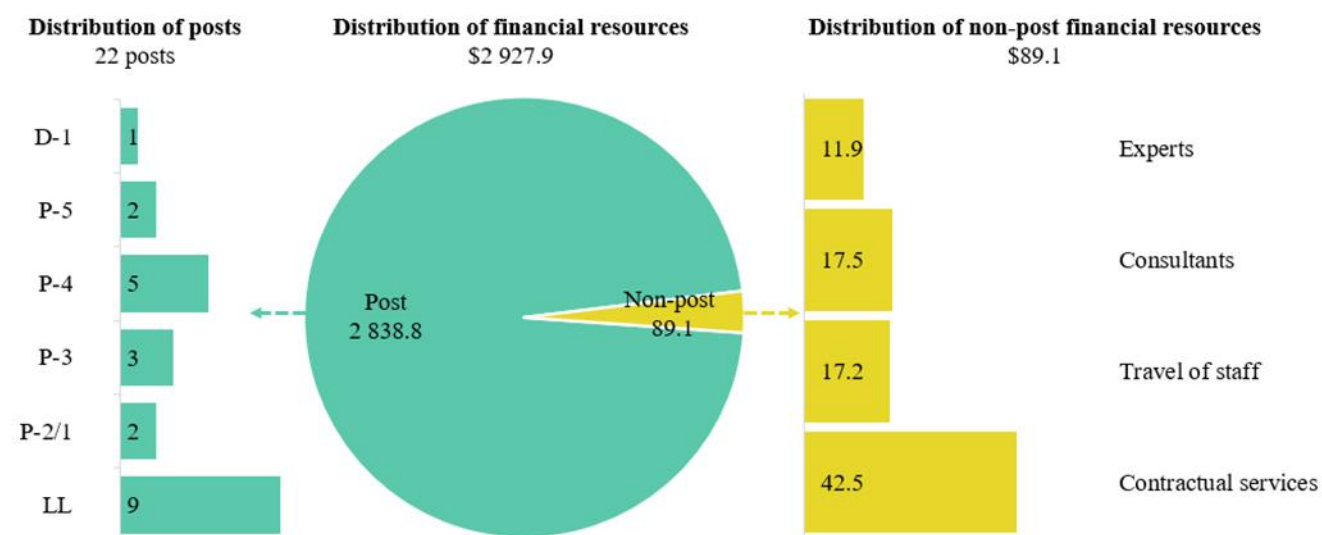
	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Changes					2023 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	2 816.0	2 898.7	—	—	(59.9)	(59.9)	(2.1)	2 838.8
Non-post	108.8	101.3	—	—	(12.2)	(12.2)	(12.0)	89.1
Total	2 924.8	3 000.0	—	—	(72.1)	(72.1)	(2.4)	2 927.9

	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Changes				2023 estimate (before recosting)	
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total		Percentage
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		13	—	—	—	—	—	13
General Service and related		10	—	—	(1)	(1)	(10.0)	9
Total		23	—	—	(1)	(1)	(4.3)	22

Figure 19.XVI

### Subprogramme 1: distribution of proposed resources for 2023 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



### Extrabudgetary resources

- 19.229 No extrabudgetary resources are estimated for this subprogramme in 2023. The estimated decrease of \$88,900 is attributable mainly to the completion of technical cooperation projects in 2022.

### Subprogramme 2 Trade, investment and innovation

- 19.230 The proposed regular budget resources for 2023 amount to \$3,292,700 and reflect an increase of \$14,700 in the resource level compared with the appropriation for 2022. The proposed increase is explained in paragraph 19.213 (c). Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2023 are reflected in table 19.66 and figure 19.XVII.

Table 19.66

**Subprogramme 2: evolution of financial and post resources**

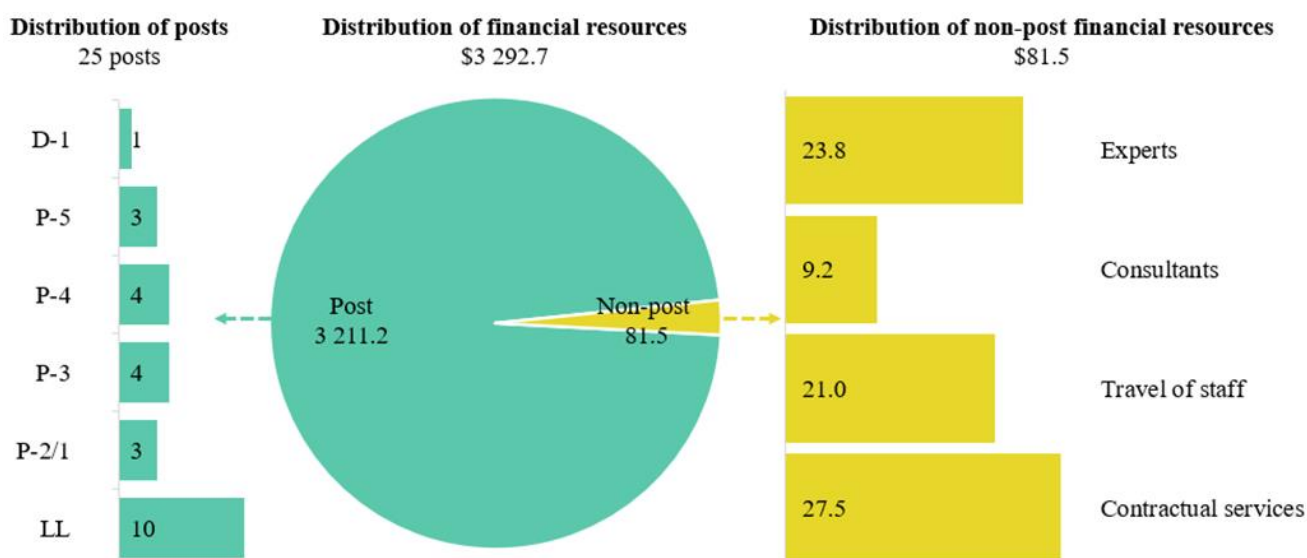
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	Changes							2023 estimate (before recosting)
	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	3 289.0	3 211.2	—	—	—	—	—	3 211.2
Non-post	73.6	66.8	—	—	14.7	14.7	22.0	81.5
Total	3 362.6	3 278.0	—	—	14.7	14.7	0.4	3 292.7
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		15	—	—	—	—	—	15
General Service and related		10	—	—	—	—	—	10
Total		25	—	—	—	—	—	25

Figure 19.XVII

**Subprogramme 2: distribution of proposed resources for 2023 (before recosting)**

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)


**Extrabudgetary resources**

- 19.231 Extrabudgetary resources for the subprogramme are estimated at \$3,090,000 and would provide for 11 posts (1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 National Professional Officer and 5 Local level), as well as non-post resources. The resources would support technical cooperation projects on women's entrepreneurship (innovative finance component), trade policy and facilitation, investment, enterprise and innovation, as well as technical cooperation activities and the operational costs of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology. The estimated decrease of \$1,415,600 is attributable mainly to the completion of technical cooperation projects in 2022.

### Subprogramme 3 Transport

19.232 The proposed regular budget resources for 2023 amount to \$3,371,600 and reflect an increase of \$1,100 compared with the appropriation for 2022. The proposed increase is explained in paragraph 19.213 (d). Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2023 are reflected in table 19.67 and figure 19.XVIII.

Table 19.67

#### Subprogramme 3: evolution of financial and post resources

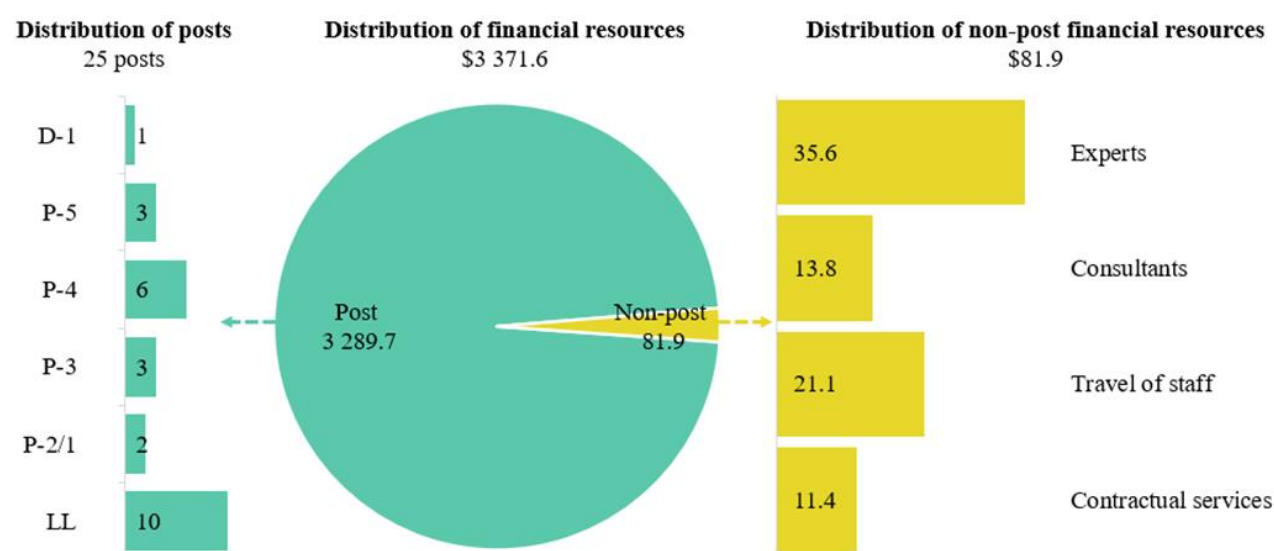
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Changes					2023 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	3 073.7	3 289.7	—	—	—	—	—	3 289.7
Non-post	54.0	80.8	—	—	1.1	1.1	1.4	81.9
Total	3 127.7	3 370.5	—	—	1.1	1.1	0.0	3 371.6
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		15	—	—	—	—	—	15
General Service and related		10	—	—	—	—	—	10
Total		25	—	—	—	—	—	25

Figure 19.XVIII

#### Subprogramme 3: distribution of proposed resources for 2023 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



### Extrabudgetary resources

- 19.233 Extrabudgetary resources for the subprogramme are estimated at \$982,800 and would provide for two posts (P-4), as well as non-post resources. The resources would contribute to the achievement of Goals 3, 9 and 11 by supporting technical cooperation projects focused on sustainable transport connectivity and logistics and sustainable transport mobility in the Asia-Pacific region. The estimated increase of \$85,000 is attributable mainly to projected contributions to support technical cooperation projects on sustainable transport development in the region.

### Subprogramme 4 Environment and development

- 19.234 The proposed regular budget resources for 2023 amount to \$2,932,200 and reflect an increase of \$4,600 compared with the appropriation for 2022. The proposed increase is explained in paragraph 19.213 (e). Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2023 are reflected in table 19.68 and figure 19.XIX.

Table 19.68

#### Subprogramme 4: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

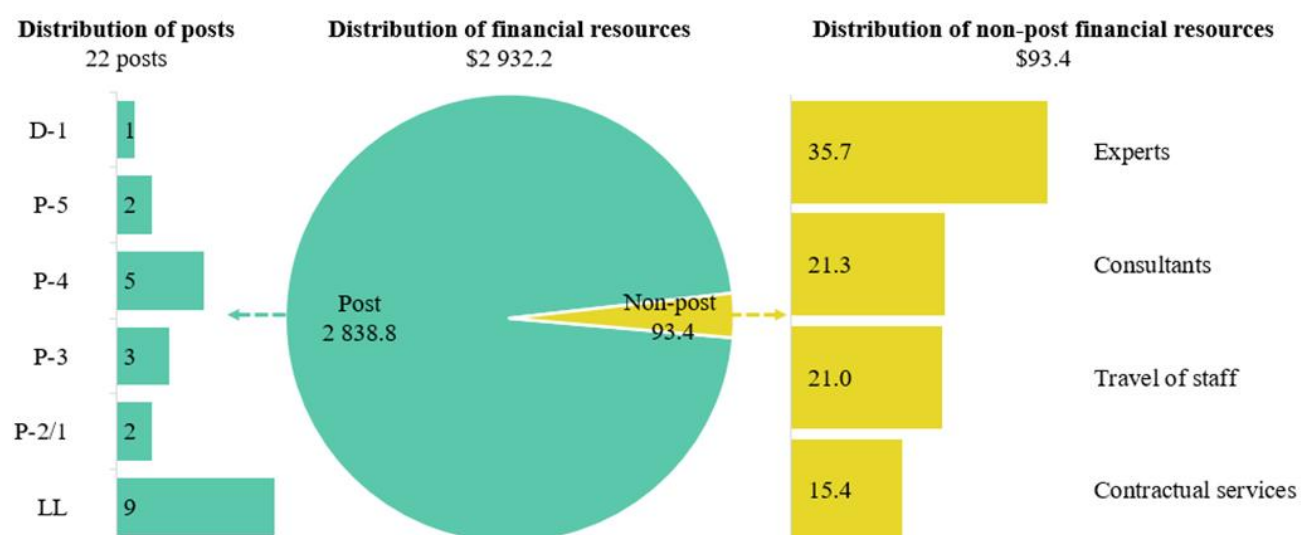
	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Changes					2023 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	2 719.4	2 838.8	—	—	—	—	—	2 838.8
Non-post	104.3	88.8	—	—	4.6	4.6	5.2	93.4
Total	2 823.7	2 927.6	—	—	4.6	4.6	0.2	2 932.2
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		13	—	—	—	—	—	13
General Service and related		9	—	—	—	—	—	9
Total		22	—	—	—	—	—	22



Figure 19.XIX

**Subprogramme 4: distribution of proposed resources for 2023 (before recosting)**

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)

**Extrabudgetary resources**

- 19.235 Extrabudgetary resources for the subprogramme are estimated at \$2,727,300 and would provide for 10 posts (1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 National Professional Officer and 4 Local level), as well as non-post resources. The resources would support technical cooperation projects on the achievement of Goals 1, 2, 6, 11–15 and 17, in particular in the promotion of regional cooperation and networking, research and analysis and capacity-building, for sustainable urban development and sustainable agricultural mechanization in the Asia-Pacific region. The estimated decrease of \$887,400 compared with the appropriation for 2022 reflects the completion of technical cooperation projects in 2022.

**Subprogramme 5****Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management**

- 19.236 The proposed regular budget resources for 2023 amount to \$2,811,700 and reflect a decrease of \$5,000 compared with the appropriation for 2022. The proposed decrease is explained in paragraph 19.213 (f). Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2023 are reflected in table 19.69 and figure 19.XX.

Table 19.69

**Subprogramme 5: evolution of financial and post resources**

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

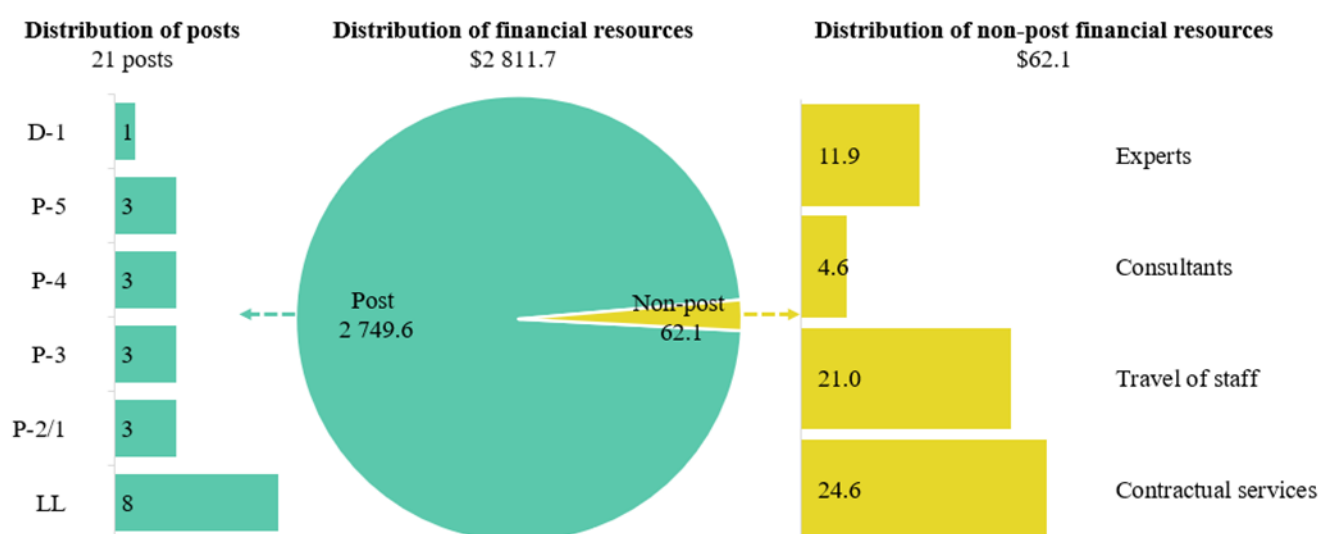
	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Changes					2023 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	2 328.1	2 749.6	—	—	—	—	—	2 749.6
Non-post	64.6	67.1	—	—	(5.0)	(5.0)	(7.5)	62.1
Total	2 392.7	2 816.7	—	—	(5.0)	(5.0)	(0.2)	2 811.7

	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Changes					2023 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
<b>Post resources by category</b>								
Professional and higher		13	–	–	–	–	–	13
General Service and related		8	–	–	–	–	–	8
<b>Total</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>21</b>

Figure 19.XX

### Subprogramme 5: distribution of proposed resources for 2023 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



### Extrabudgetary resources

- 19.237 Extrabudgetary resources for the subprogramme are estimated at \$4,726,900 and would provide for 23 posts (2 D-1, 1 P-5, 3 P-4, 5 P-3, 4 National Professional Officer and 8 Local level), as well as non-post resources. The resources would support technical cooperation projects on the achievement of all the Goals, in particular Goals 1, 4, 5, 9–11, 13–15 and 17, through efforts to bridge the digital divide and to advance the use of technologies and geospatial data for disaster resilience in particular and for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region, considering social, economic and environmental aspects. The resources would also support the operational costs and technical cooperation activities of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development and the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management. The estimated decrease of \$640,900 is attributable mainly to the completion of technical cooperation projects in 2022.

### Subprogramme 6 Social development

- 19.238 The proposed regular budget resources for 2023 amount to \$3,962,900 and reflect a decrease of \$42,200 compared with the appropriation for 2022. The proposed decrease is explained in paragraph 19.213 (g). Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2023 are reflected in table 19.70 and figure 19.XXI.

Table 19.70

**Subprogramme 6: evolution of financial and post resources**

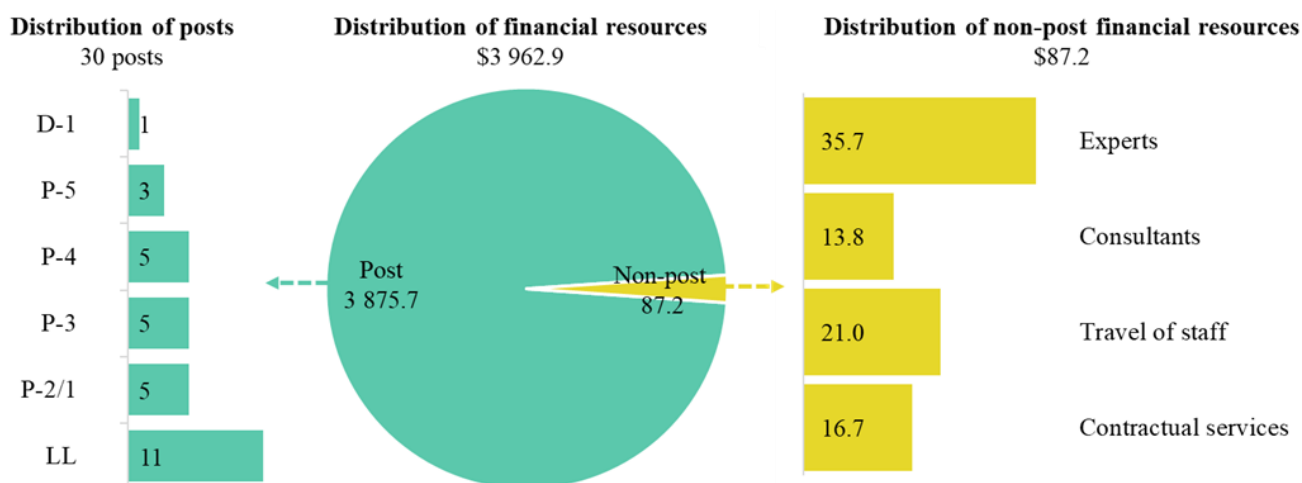
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	Changes							2023 estimate (before recosting)
	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	3 229.0	3 875.7	—	—	—	—	—	3 875.7
Non-post	139.3	129.4	—	—	(42.2)	(42.2)	(32.6)	87.2
Total	3 368.3	4 005.1	—	—	(42.2)	(42.2)	(1.1)	3 962.9
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		19	—	—	—	—	—	19
General Service and related		11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Total		30	—	—	—	—	—	30

Figure 19.XXI

**Subprogramme 6: distribution of proposed resources for 2023 (before recosting)**

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)


**Extrabudgetary resources**

- 19.239 Extrabudgetary resources for the subprogramme are estimated at \$1,418,100 and would provide for three posts (2 P-4 and 1 P-3), as well as non-post resources. The resources would support technical cooperation projects on achieving Goals 1, 3–5, 8, 10 and 17 and would support member States in addressing the needs of those left furthest behind; enhancing social protection, the promotion of the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities, older persons and migrants; and promoting gender equality and the economic empowerment of women. The estimated decrease of \$333,000 compared with the appropriation for 2022 reflects the completion of technical cooperation projects in 2022.

## Subprogramme 7

### Statistics

19.240 The proposed regular budget resources for 2023 amount to \$3,089,300 and reflect an increase of \$33,300 compared with the appropriation for 2022. The proposed increase is explained in paragraph 19.213 (h). Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2023 are reflected in table 19.71 and figure 19.XXII.

Table 19.71

### Subprogramme 7: evolution of financial and post resources

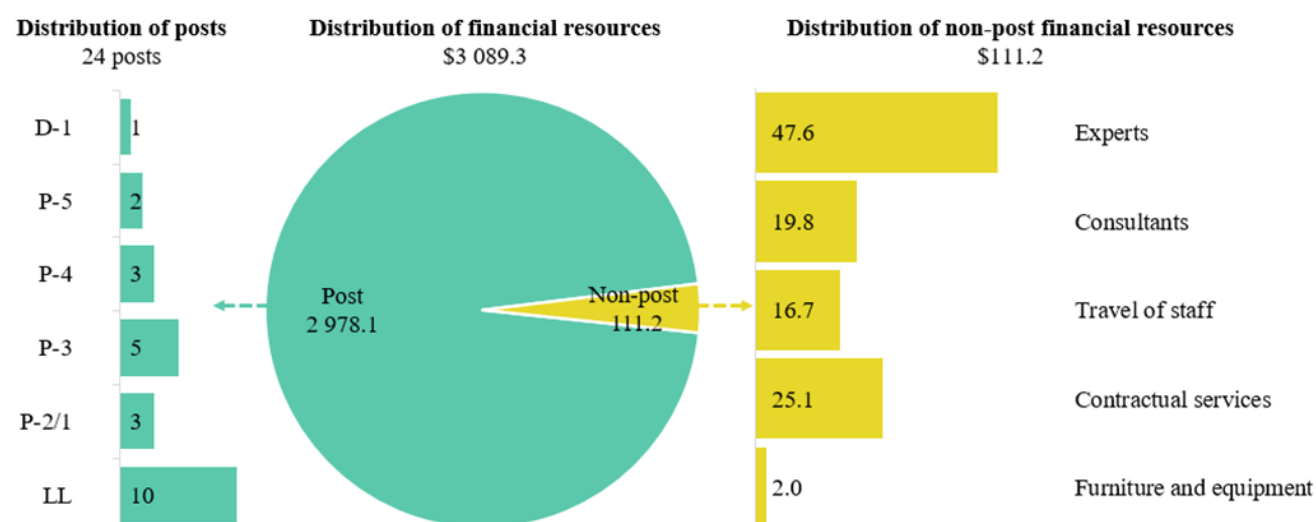
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Changes					2023 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	2 812.7	2 978.1	—	—	—	—	—	2 978.1
Non-post	97.2	77.9	—	—	33.3	33.3	42.7	111.2
Total	2 909.9	3 056.0	—	—	33.3	33.3	1.1	3 089.3
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		14	—	—	—	—	—	14
General Service and related		10	—	—	—	—	—	10
Total		24	—	—	—	—	—	24

Figure 19.XXII

### Subprogramme 7: distribution of proposed resources for 2023 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



### Extrabudgetary resources

19.241 Extrabudgetary resources for the subprogramme are estimated at \$3,078,200 and would provide for 13 posts (1 D-1, 1 P-5, 1 P-4, 4 P-3, 1 P-2/1 and 5 Local level), as well as non-post resources. The resources would support statistical capacity-building activities to enhance data and statistics for the

2030 Agenda and would improve national monitoring systems by strengthening policy-data links. The resources would also support operational costs and technical cooperation activities of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific. The estimated decrease of \$926,300 is attributable mainly to the completion of technical cooperation projects in 2022.

## Subprogramme 8 Subregional activities for development

- 19.242 The proposed regular budget resources for 2023 amount to \$4,405,100 and reflect an increase of \$7,200 compared with the appropriation for 2022. The proposed regular budget resources for 2023 of the various components of the subprogramme are presented below.

## Component 1 Subregional activities for development in the Pacific

- 19.243 The proposed regular budget resources for 2023 amount to \$1,430,200 and reflect an increase of \$7,900 compared with the appropriation for 2022. The proposed increase is explained in paragraph 19.213 (i). Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2023 are reflected in table 19.72 and figure 19.XXIII.

Table 19.72

### Subprogramme 8, component 1: evolution of financial and post resources

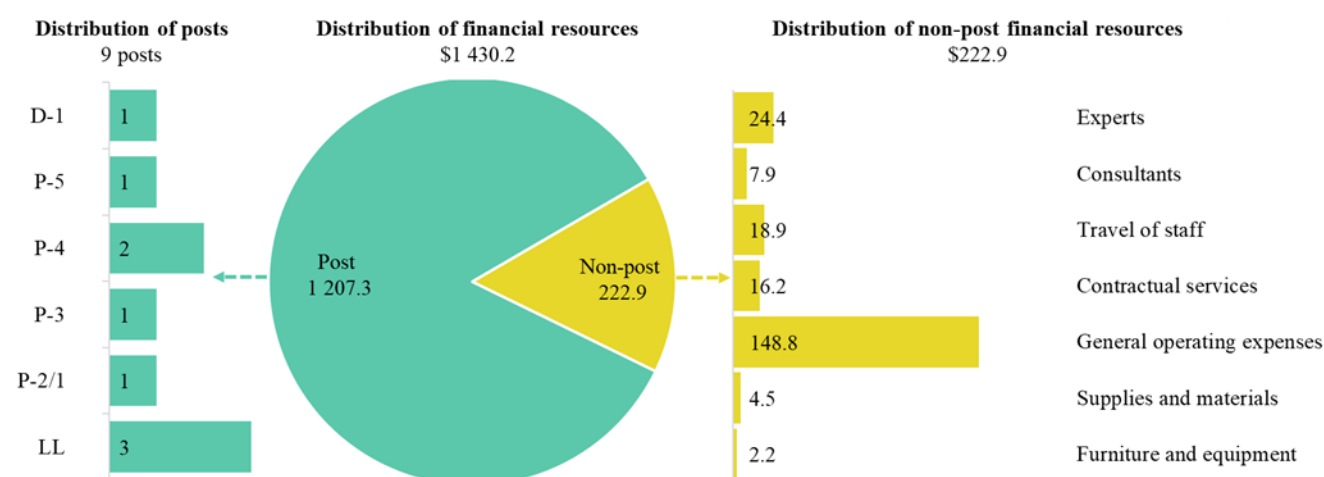
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	Changes							2023 estimate (before recosting)
	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	1 240.3	1 207.3	—	—	—	—	—	1 207.3
Non-post	181.7	215.0	—	—	7.9	7.9	3.7	222.9
Total	1 422.0	1 422.3	—	—	7.9	7.9	0.6	1 430.2
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		6	—	—	—	—	—	6
General Service and related		3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Total		9	—	—	—	—	—	9

Figure 19.XXIII

**Subprogramme 8, component 1: distribution of proposed resources for 2023 (before recosting)**

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)


**Extrabudgetary resources**

- 19.244 Extrabudgetary resources for the component are estimated at \$256,700 and would provide for non-post resources. The resources would support technical cooperation projects on the promotion of regional cooperation and networking for sustainable development. The estimated decrease of \$54,700 compared with the appropriation for 2022 reflects the completion of technical cooperation projects in 2022.

**Component 2**
**Subregional activities for development in East and North-East Asia**

- 19.245 The proposed regular budget resources for 2023 amount to \$927,700 and reflect a decrease of \$2,000 compared with the appropriation for 2022. The proposed decrease is explained in paragraph 19.213 (j). Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2023 are reflected in table 19.73 and figure 19.XXIV.

Table 19.73

**Subprogramme 8, component 2: evolution of financial and post resources**

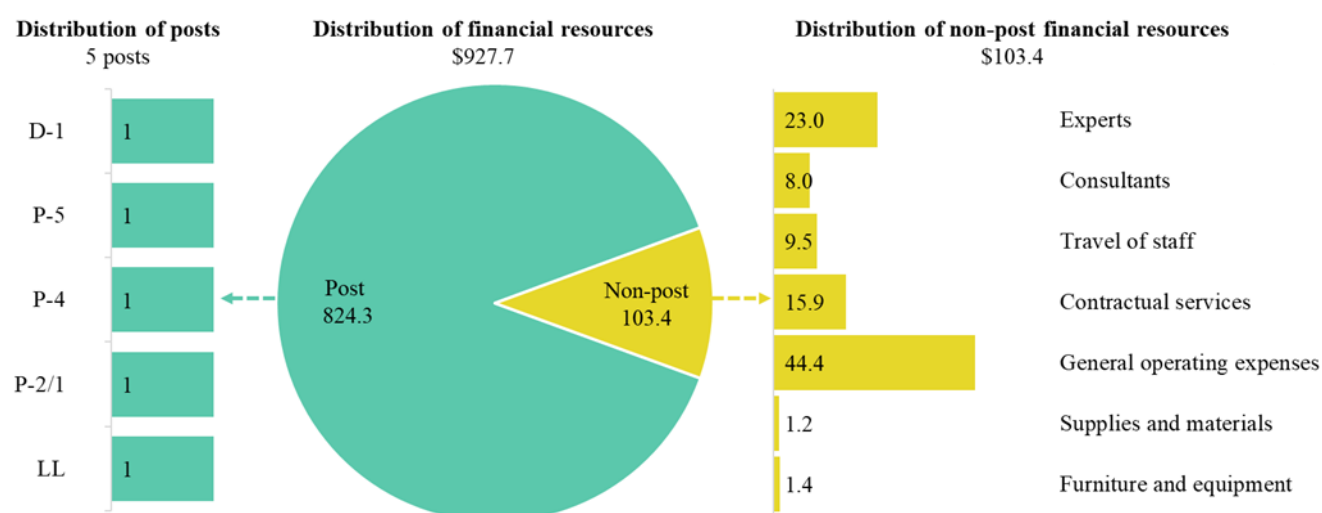
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	Changes							2023 estimate (before recosting)
	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	891.7	824.3	—	—	—	—	—	824.3
Non-post	67.6	105.4	—	—	(2.0)	(2.0)	(1.9)	103.4
Total	959.3	929.7	—	—	(2.0)	(2.0)	(0.2)	927.7
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		4	—	—	—	—	—	4
General Service and related		1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total		5	—	—	—	—	—	5

Figure 19.XXIV

**Subprogramme 8, component 2: distribution of proposed resources for 2023 (before recosting)**

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)

**Extrabudgetary resources**

- 19.246 Extrabudgetary resources for the component are estimated at \$1,886,800 and would provide for 12 posts (1 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 P-2/1 and 8 Local level), as well as non-post resources. The resources would support technical cooperation projects on promoting and strengthening policy coordination relating to sustainable connectivity, environmental sustainability and innovation for inclusive and resilient societies in East and North-East Asia, contributing mainly to the achievement of Goals 3, 5, 7, 9-11, 13-15 and 17. The estimated increase of \$94,900 compared with the appropriation for 2022 reflects the anticipated recovery from COVID-19 pandemic disruptions, which would allow for in-person meetings, as well as travel.

**Component 3****Subregional activities for development in North and Central Asia**

- 19.247 The proposed regular budget resources for 2023 amount to \$712,400 and reflect a decrease of \$6,700 compared with the appropriation for 2022. The proposed decrease is explained in paragraph 19.213 (k). Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2023 are reflected in table 19.74 and figure 19.XXV.

Table 19.74

**Subprogramme 8, component 3: evolution of financial and post resources**

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

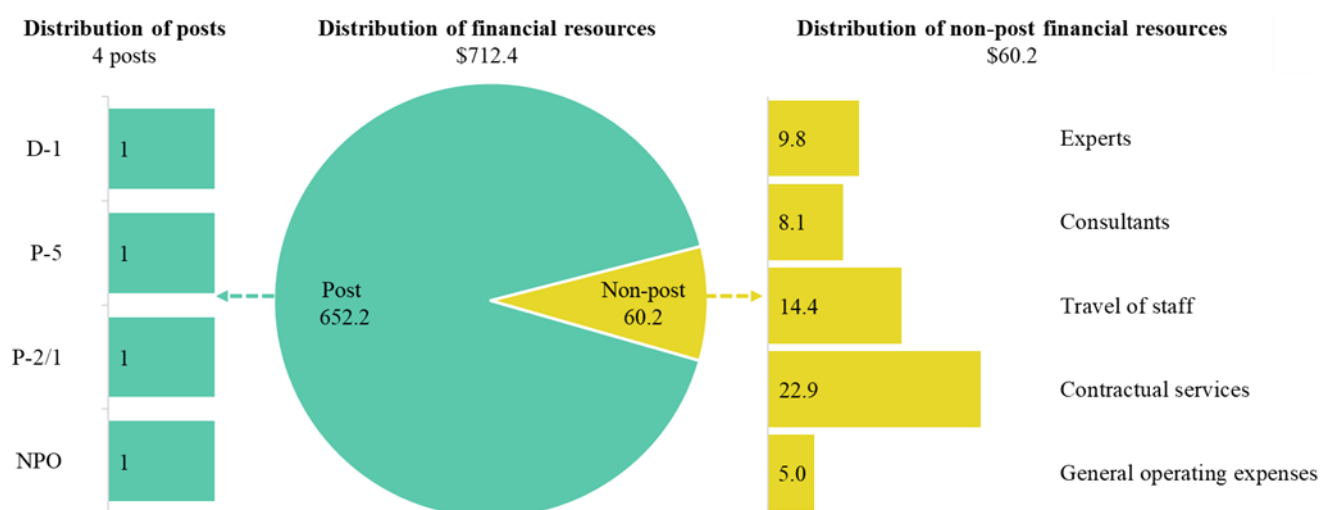
	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Changes					2023 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	494.4	652.2	—	—	—	—	—	652.2
Non-post	77.2	66.9	—	—	(6.7)	(6.7)	(10.0)	60.2
Total	571.6	719.1	—	—	(6.7)	(6.7)	(0.9)	712.4

	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Changes					2023 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		3	—	—	—	—	—	3
General Service and related		1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total		4	—	—	—	—	—	4

Figure 19.XXV

**Subprogramme 8, component 3: distribution of proposed resources for 2023 (before recosting)**

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



**Extrabudgetary resources**

- 19.248 Extrabudgetary resources for the component are estimated at \$319,800 and would provide for four Local level posts, as well as non-post resources. The resources would contribute to the achievement of Goal 17 by supporting technical cooperation projects for capacity-building and for research and analysis to support implementation of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, which facilitates economic cooperation and the integration of participating countries into the world economy and provides a platform for cross-border cooperation for the achievement of the Goals. The estimated increase of \$127,000 reflects projected contributions to capacity-building activities relating to digital transformation and the use of new technologies to enhance the resilience of rail and intermodal transport in North and Central Asia.

**Component 4**

**Subregional activities for development in South and South-West Asia**

- 19.249 The proposed regular budget resources for 2023 amount to \$1,098,000 and reflect a decrease of \$3,900 compared with the appropriation for 2022. The proposed decrease is explained in paragraph 19.213 (I). Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2023 are reflected in table 19.75 and figure 19.XXVI.



Table 19.75

**Subprogramme 8, component 4: evolution of financial and post resources**

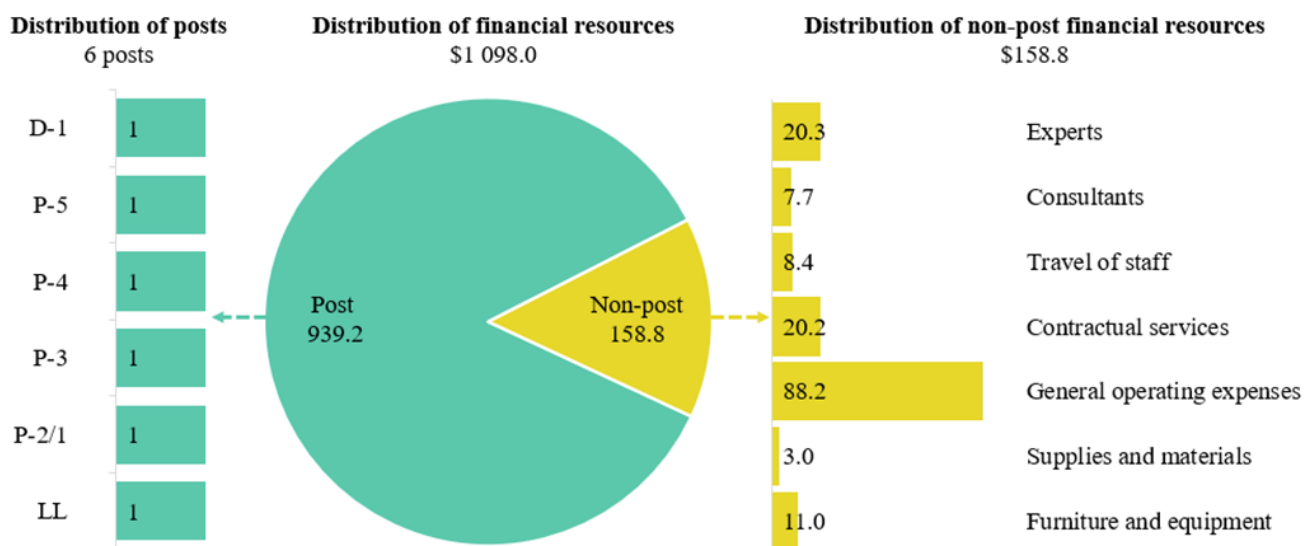
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Changes					2023 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	713.7	939.2	—	—	—	—	—	939.2
Non-post	133.9	162.7	—	—	(3.9)	(3.9)	(2.4)	158.8
Total	847.6	1 101.9	—	—	(3.9)	(3.9)	(0.4)	1 098.0
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		5	—	—	—	—	—	5
General Service and related		1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total		6	—	—	—	—	—	6

Figure 19.XXVI

**Subprogramme 8, component 4: distribution of proposed resources for 2023 (before recosting)**

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)

**Extrabudgetary resources**

- 19.250 Extrabudgetary resources for the component are estimated at \$113,400 and would provide for six posts (1 National Professional Officer and 5 Local level), as well as non-post resources. The resources would contribute to supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the subregion, as well as the operational costs of the Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia. The estimated decrease of \$301,200 is attributable mainly to the completion of technical cooperation projects in 2022.

## Component 5

### Subregional activities for development in South-East Asia

19.251 The proposed regular budget resources for 2023 amount to \$236,800 and reflect an increase of \$11,900 compared with the appropriation for 2022. The proposed increase is explained in paragraph 19.213 (m). Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2023 are reflected in table 19.76 and figure 19.XXVII.

Table 19.76

#### Subprogramme 8, component 5: evolution of financial and post resources

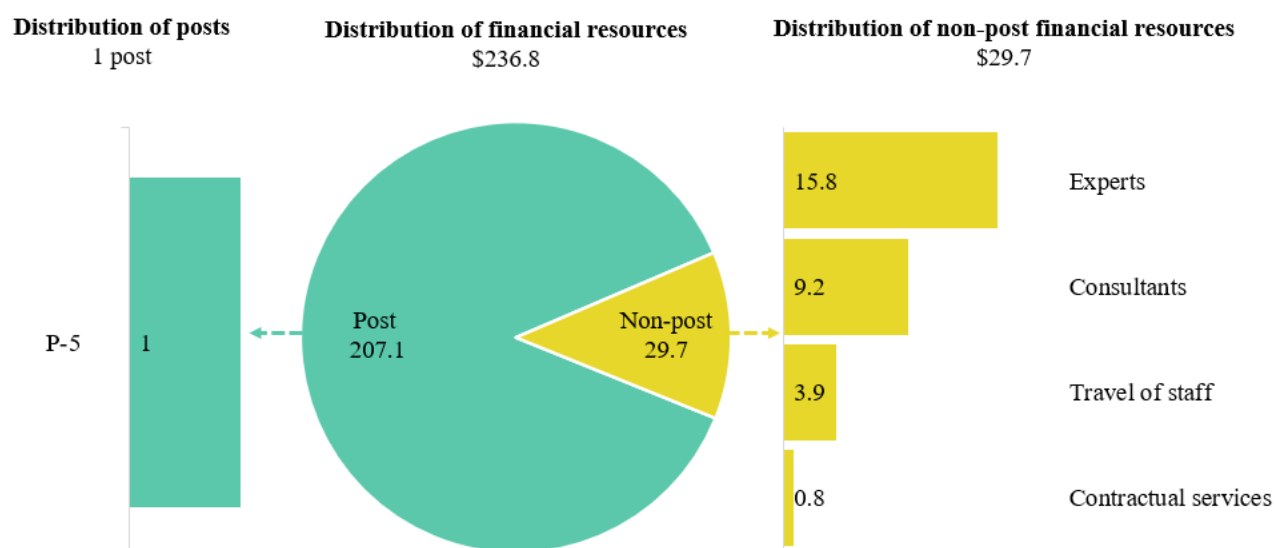
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Changes					2023 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	207.8	207.1	—	—	—	—	—	207.1
Non-post	26.0	17.8	—	—	11.9	11.9	66.9	29.7
Total	233.8	224.9	—	—	11.9	11.9	4.9	236.8
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total		1	—	—	—	—	—	1

Figure 19.XXVII

#### Subprogramme 8, component 5: distribution of proposed resources for 2023 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



## Subprogramme 9 Energy

19.252 The proposed regular budget resources for 2023 amount to \$1,798,000 and reflect a decrease of \$1,500 compared with the appropriation for 2022. The proposed decrease is explained in paragraph 19.213 (n). Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2023 are reflected in table 19.77 and figure 19.XXVIII.

Table 19.77

### Subprogramme 9: evolution of financial and post resources

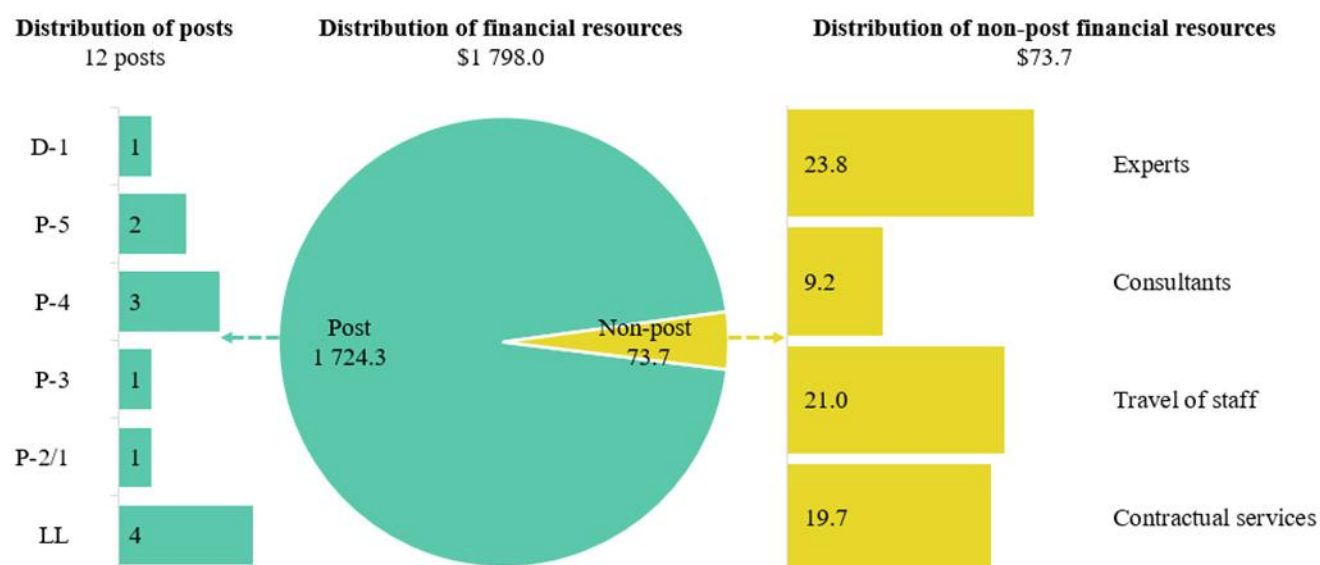
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Changes					2023 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	1 665.3	1 724.3	—	—	—	—	—	1 724.3
Non-post	63.1	75.2	—	—	(1.5)	(1.5)	(2.0)	73.7
Total	1 728.4	1 799.5	—	—	(1.5)	(1.5)	(0.1)	1 798.0
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		8	—	—	—	—	—	8
General Service and related		4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Total		12	—	—	—	—	—	12

Figure 19.XXVIII

### Subprogramme 9: distribution of proposed resources for 2023 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



### Extrabudgetary resources

- 19.253 Extrabudgetary resources for the subprogramme are estimated at \$577,700 and would provide for non-post resources. The resources would support technical cooperation projects on the achievement of Goal 7 in the region by enhancing the capacity of member States for cleaner energy, as well as energy efficiency, energy access and energy connectivity. The estimated decrease of \$495,100 is attributable mainly to the completion of technical cooperation projects in 2022.

### Programme support

- 19.254 Programme support comprises: (a) the Strategy and Programme Management Division, with functions related to strategic programme planning, management and budgeting, technical cooperation and resource mobilization, evaluation and partnerships; (b) the Division of Administration, with functions related to financial resources management, human resources management, information and communications technology management and commercial and general services; (c) the Communications and Knowledge Management Section, with functions related to providing communication, knowledge management and information services; and (d) the Conference and Documentation Services Section, with functions related to interpretation, translation and editorial services and document reproduction and printing.
- 19.255 The Strategy and Programme Management Division accords priority to improving the relevance and impact of the work of ESCAP through more strategic, results-based programme management; enhanced oversight, monitoring and evaluation of programme and project results; support for enhanced technical cooperation and capacity development; and strengthened resource mobilization and collaboration with development partners.
- 19.256 The Division of Administration will continue to focus on improving support for the work of the Commission in implementing its programmes through its operational arms. Since the beginning of the pandemic, in 2020, and continuing through 2022, the Division has swiftly adjusted and/or upgraded its support operations, notably in the areas of information technology and conference support, allowing staff to switch seamlessly from an in-person working modality to a virtual one, enabling virtual or hybrid meetings to be held with stakeholders, and has partnered with the World Health Organization in systematically and methodologically responding to COVID-19 risks in order to ensure the health and safety of all personnel based in the shared Bangkok premises. Many of the initiatives and measures will continue to be mainstreamed into the Division's operational support in 2023.
- 19.257 The Office of the Chief is responsible for: (a) spearheading the directives of the Secretary-General on data innovation and analytics through the broad implementation of business intelligence tools and dashboards; partnerships by leading the environmental management system, in partnership with UNEP, to implement efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of ESCAP, improve energy efficiency, reduce waste and change mindsets; actively championing, together with the resident coordinator offices in the region, the implementation of the business operations strategy in locations where ESCAP has a presence; bringing about continuous improvement through management reform and business operations reform under the United Nations development system; a bilateral agreement with ILO on improving occupational safety and health standards for the Bangkok shared premises; and working side by side with the World Health Organization on COVID-19 response and mitigation measures for Bangkok-based entities; (b) business transformation and accountability, including oversight and monitoring; (c) cost-effective and sustainable management and maintenance of all building facilities, with a focus on disability inclusion through the application of universal design principles, which are focused on reducing all obstacles for all people through accessibility measures; (d) procurement and supply chain services; and (e) ongoing management and execution of the seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project.
- 19.258 The Human Resources Management Section is responsible for: (a) providing support for the achievement of human resources indicators; (b) implementing the human resources management reform initiatives of the Secretary-General to create a more mobile, versatile, gender-balanced and

multi-skilled workforce through effective workforce planning, the skilful management of staff development resources and the efficient and streamlined administration of human capital; and (c) providing occupational health services, including leadership in promoting and maintaining organizational responses to potential pandemics.

- 19.259 The Financial Resources Management Section is responsible for: (a) providing strategic advice on the effective utilization of resources in accordance with financial rules and regulations; (b) the management of financial risk and organizational resilience; (c) strengthening the management of post and non-post resources by conducting thorough approval processes for all accounts and ensuring the accuracy of payments, payroll and financial reporting; (d) the management and monitoring of cost-recovery and programme support resources for administrative support services to clients; and (e) collaborating on the formulation and implementation of internal control frameworks and any other financial initiatives.
- 19.260 The Information Management, Communications and Technology Section is responsible for: (a) strengthening efficiency in the management of ICT resources and further upgrading technological tools and applications to support development and management reform initiatives; and (b) upgrading information technology infrastructure to support and facilitate the new working modalities adopted owing to COVID-19.
- 19.261 The Commercial and General Services Section is responsible for: (a) providing and coordinating integrated events management services, including the operation and management of the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok for meetings and events, whether in person, hybrid or virtual, under the ESCAP programme of work; and (b) integrated travel and transportation services, host country relation services and other general support services.
- 19.262 The Communications and Knowledge Management Section is responsible for providing communications, knowledge management and information/library services. This includes managing media relations, developing traditional and social media content, managing the ESCAP web presence, providing design and multimedia support, developing and managing ESCAP branding, organizing special advocacy events, exhibitions and group briefings, and developing promotional material to be disseminated across the region. In response to the ESCAP programme of work and in alignment with the 2030 Agenda, the Section will manage the publications programme and provide library and knowledge management services, including the purchase and management of subscriptions to electronic resources, databases and online publications. To preserve institutional memory and knowledge products, the Section maintains a digitization programme and is developing tools to make the official documents, publications and records of ESCAP more accessible and visible. These activities will promote the analytical, normative and capacity-building work of ESCAP and the visibility of the Commission as the most comprehensive platform for inclusive, equitable and sustainable development in the region.
- 19.263 The Conference and Documentation Services Section is responsible for providing editorial, interpretation, translation and text-processing services in the four working languages of ESCAP, including the processing of documentation, reproduction services and the leveraging of language-related information technology and computer-assisted translation tools, such as eLUNa, while ensuring multilingual communication in support of the delivery of the ESCAP mandate to promote and facilitate the achievement of the Goals in Asia and the Pacific.
- 19.264 The proposed regular budget resources for 2023 amount to \$21,258,300 and reflect a decrease of \$940,900 compared with the appropriation for 2022. The proposed decrease is explained in paragraph 19.212. Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2023 are reflected in table 19.78 and figure 19.XXIX.

Table 19.78

**Programme support: evolution of financial and post resources**

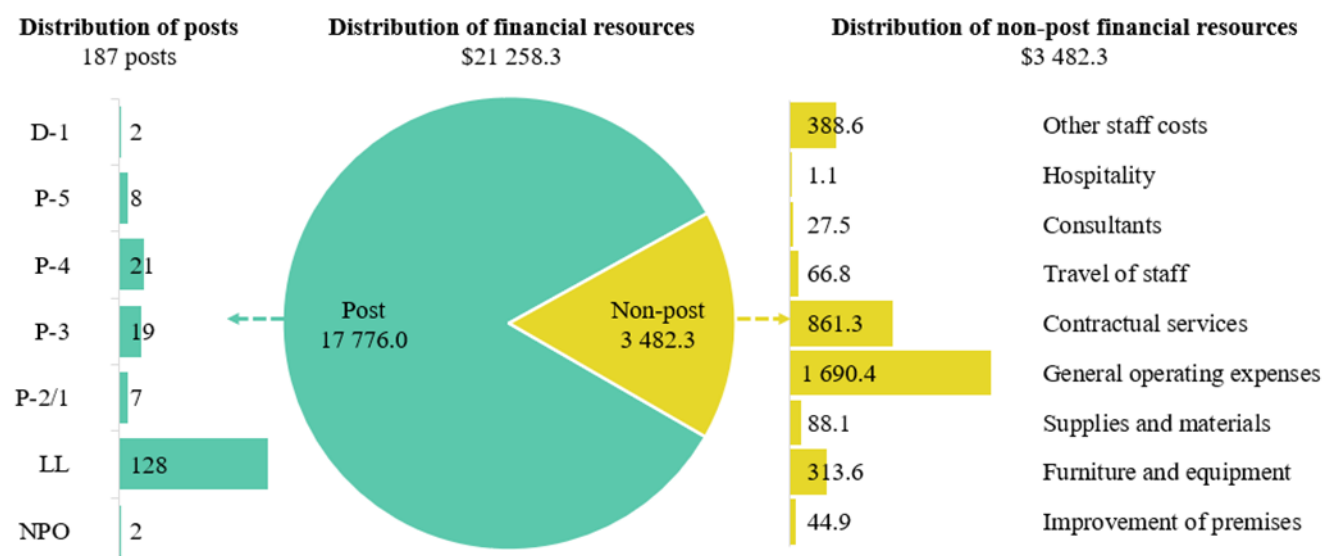
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	Changes							2023 estimate (before recosting)
	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	17 772.2	17 776.0	—	—	—	—	—	17 776.0
Non-post	5 017.2	4 423.2	(940.9)	—	—	(940.9)	(21.3)	3 482.3
Total	22 789.4	22 199.2	(940.9)	—	—	(940.9)	(4.2)	21 258.3
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		57	—	—	—	—	—	57
General Service and related		130	—	—	—	—	—	130
Total		187	—	—	—	—	—	187

Figure 19.XXIX

**Programme support: distribution of proposed resources for 2023 (before recosting)**

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)


**Extrabudgetary resources**

- 19.265 Extrabudgetary resources for programme support are estimated at \$4,253,900 and would provide for 32 posts (4 P-4, 6 P-3, 2 National Professional Officer and 20 Local level), as well as non-post resources. The resources would support central administration and programme services provided to projects funded through voluntary contributions and cost recovery for administrative support services provided to non-ESCAP clients, such as conference hosting services, travel processing, payments processing and human resources administration for clients such as the United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Development Coordination Office and ILO. The expected decrease of \$17,600 compared with the appropriation for 2022 is attributable mainly to the expected completion of activities relating to a project to enhance the ESCAP publications repository in 2022.

## Annex I

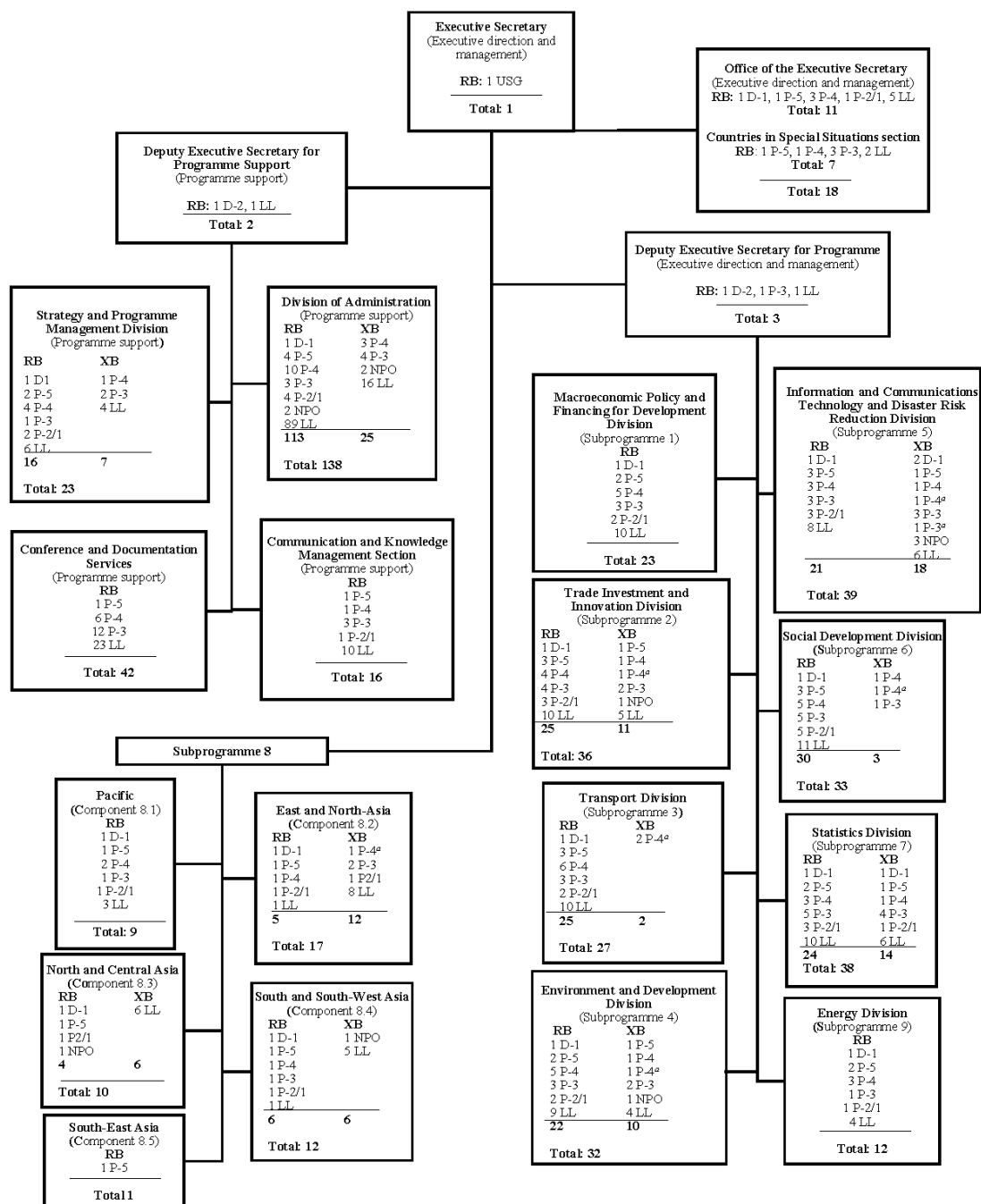
### Organizational structure and post distribution for 2023

Two charts showing the organizational structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) are presented below. Chart A reproduces the approved organizational structure for 2022, with updated estimates for extrabudgetary posts, as contained in document [A/76/6 \(Sect. 19\)](#). Chart B presents the proposed organizational structure for 2023.

#### Justification for the proposed changes

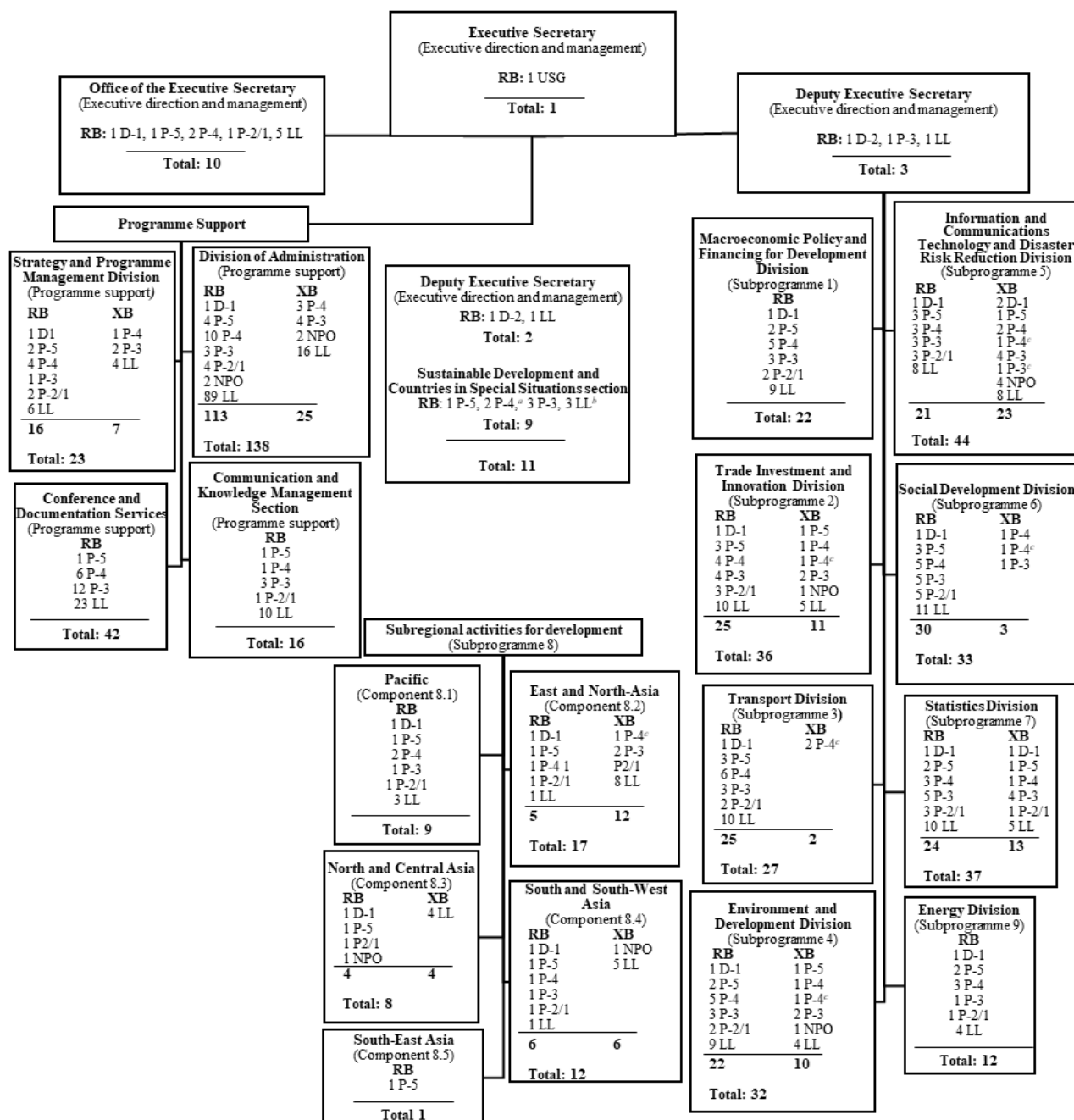
The structure of ESCAP has been realigned to strengthen support to member States in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through more effective implementation of the reform of the United Nations development system, which requires enhanced coordination within the United Nations system at the country, regional and global levels. Beginning in 2023, the Deputy Executive Secretary will oversee subregional activities for development (subprogramme 8) and the Sustainable Development and Countries in Special Situations section, which were previously under the Office of the Executive Secretary. The Office of the Deputy Executive Secretary will provide guidance and coordinate support to United Nations resident coordinators/United Nations country teams at the country level and to the United Nations regional collaborative platform at the regional level and will assist the Executive Secretary in her engagements with principals of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group at the global level. It will coordinate ESCAP engagement with subregional intergovernmental organizations in Asia and the Pacific. In addition, it will supervise ESCAP work regarding follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, including assisting member States in preparing their voluntary national reviews, organizing the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and participating in ESCAP engagement with the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The programme support areas will report directly to the Executive Secretary in supporting executive direction and management and the programme of work.

## A. Organizational structure and post distribution for 2022





## B. Organizational structure and post distribution for 2023



Abbreviations: LL, Local level; NPO, National Professional Officer; RB, regular budget; USG, Under-Secretary-General;

XB, extrabudgetary.

<sup>a</sup> One P-4 redeployed from the Office of the Executive Secretary to the Sustainable Development and Countries in Special Situations section within executive direction and management.

<sup>b</sup> One Local level redeployed from subprogramme 1 to the Sustainable Development and Countries in Special Situations section.

<sup>c</sup> Non-reimbursable loan.

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## Annex II

### Summary of follow-up action taken to implement relevant recommendations of advisory and oversight bodies

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*Brief description of the recommendation*

*Action taken to implement the recommendation*

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#### **Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions**

**[A/76/7](#) and [A/76/7/Corr.1](#)**

The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide consolidated information on the status of upgrading of obsolete information and communications technology equipment in the context of the next proposed programme budget (para. V.33).

ESCAP has continued efforts to upgrade obsolete information and communications technology equipment. In 2021, ESCAP replaced all obsolete computers and distributed digital toolkits to staff, which facilitated remote working conditions; information and communications technology infrastructure was upgraded, and obsolete technology was replaced. In 2022 and 2023, ESCAP will continue to replace the laptops and distribute the digital toolkits to personnel and replace the remaining obsolete technology, such as firewalls and servers.

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## Annex III

### Summary of proposed changes, by component and subprogramme

<i>Component/subprogramme</i>	<i>Posts</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Reason for change</i>
Executive direction and management	1	P-4	<b>Redeployment</b> of 1 Sustainable Development Officer from the Office of the Executive Secretary to the Sustainable Development and Countries in Special Situations section within executive direction and management	To prepare and coordinate studies on specific economic, environmental and social issues to be considered at the annual Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development following the outcomes of the subregional preparatory meetings, and to institutionalize the subregional preparatory meetings and Forum
Executive direction and management	1	LL	<b>Redeployment</b> of 1 Staff Assistant from subprogramme 1	To provide required administrative support in organizing the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, as well as to assist in organization-wide coordination of cross-cutting support from the Sustainable Development and Countries in Special Situations section
Subprogramme 1	(1)	LL	<b>Redeployment</b> of 1 Staff Assistant to executive direction and management	See reason for change given under executive direction and management

*Abbreviation:* LL, Local level.