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Proposed programme budget for 2022

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/76/50](#).

** 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.

*** 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.



Foreword

As we embark on a path to recover from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the socioeconomic impacts of the crisis remain fresh and linger. The roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines is offering a glimmer of hope to the people of the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. We continue to step up our efforts to support member States in keeping the momentum and accelerating progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while mitigating pandemic-induced crises.

In 2022, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) will celebrate its seventy-fifth anniversary. ESCAP remains committed to serving member States in helping them to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic through strengthening regional cooperation in 2022. We will focus on a number of areas for regional cooperation: ensuring economic recovery, protecting people, restoring and building resilience in supply chain connectivity, and protecting and restoring ecosystems. With our enhanced action to address climate change, ESCAP will scale up opportunities for accelerating the transition to renewable energy, building resilience to natural disasters and forging a science, innovation and technology-based response, along with mainstreaming data and statistics across the programme of work.

ESCAP is committed to ensuring meaningful delivery of services in a comprehensive and effective manner. Our focus has been to strengthen coordination within the United Nations system through the regional collaborative platform by leveraging the available expertise and resources for a sustainable recovery. I am confident that our active engagement with regional organizations and subregional cooperation frameworks will further foster synergies across areas for regional cooperation. We have strengthened effective policy advisory services to member States through the United Nations resident coordinators, United Nations country teams and the work of the issue-based coalitions.

Going forward, we will focus on the modernization of business processes by enabling internal management to deliver better, while taking concrete action for gender mainstreaming and disability inclusion. With the establishment of road maps for innovation, data and digital strategies, ESCAP is implementing changes in internal management practices to improve delivery continuously for intergovernmental mandates, evidence-based research and analysis, and capacity-building programmes and activities. By harnessing agility and alignment across programmes, ESCAP is well placed to meet the aspirations of “We the Peoples” 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 2022 and programme performance for 2020

Overall orientation

Mandates and background

- 19.1 The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is the regional intergovernmental platform and development arm of the United Nations and is responsible for assisting its members and associate members in integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development. Its research, intergovernmental and capacity-building functions support members in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through nine subprogrammes. 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 ESCAP was established. The conference structure of the Commission is reviewed periodically and was most recently aligned with the requirements of the 2030 Agenda through Council resolution 2015/30 and ESCAP resolution 73/1. ESCAP will conduct a review of the conference structure. The review will be presented at the seventy-eighth session of the Commission, in 2022, for its consideration and decision.
- 19.2 The multisectoral expertise of ESCAP and its balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development across its programme has been of increasing relevance in responding to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. In 2020, ESCAP has focused on assessing the development impact of that health crisis and reorienting its support for member States where it was most needed. At its seventy-sixth session, the Commission endorsed resolution 76/2, by which the importance of international and regional cooperation to strengthen resilience of member States to the socioeconomic effects of pandemics and other related crises was reaffirmed.
- 19.3 The support of ESCAP for its member States in response to and in recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is grouped into four priority action areas for regional cooperation: ensuring economic recovery; protecting people; restoring and building resilience in supply chain connectivity; and protecting and restoring ecosystems. The member States have identified “Building back better from crises through regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific” as the theme of the seventy-seventh session of the Commission, and ESCAP is in the process of preparing the a study on the theme of regional cooperation, including in these action areas. Data and statistics and science, technology and innovation remain key means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the COVID-19 recovery efforts in the region.
- 19.4 ESCAP support is aimed at providing analysis and policy options and developing the capacity of Governments to formulate and implement policies for sustainable development while building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic and effectively addressing the challenge of climate change. Such support is also provided through the implementation of projects under the regular programme of technical cooperation and the United Nations Development Account.

Strategy and external factors for 2022

- 19.5 The year 2022 will mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of ESCAP, the most inclusive intergovernmental platform in Asia and the Pacific. In 2022, the focus of ESCAP will be on supporting member States in their COVID-19 pandemic recovery efforts while ensuring that the progress made to date in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals is not only maintained, but also taken forward. Asia-Pacific member States reaffirmed their commitment to accelerating the achievement of the Goals, notwithstanding the pandemic, at the Seventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, where they emphasized the importance of multilateralism, the removal of systemic barriers, investing in institutions, engaging the private sector and coherent policymaking to deliver on the decade of action

for the Goals. Given the added strain of the pandemic-induced economic contraction on sustainable development in the region, ESCAP will focus efforts on planning and delivering in partnership with United Nations development system entities and development banks at the regional and national levels. ESCAP will continue to enable opportunities to generate innovative policies for integrated, inclusive and sustainable development and to build consensus on norms and agreements to address shared challenges. ESCAP will also create opportunities for regional dialogue and cooperation in all four priority areas for recovery, with an emphasis on transboundary issues such as connectivity and ecosystems, through intergovernmental meetings scheduled to be held in 2022. It will also focus on building the capacities of member States to respond to the challenge posed by climate change.

- 19.6 The COVID-19 pandemic notwithstanding, ESCAP will strive to support its member States in accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through its three core functions, namely, research and analysis, intergovernmental consensus-building and norm-setting, and capacity development. In this effort, ESCAP will be guided by the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including its resolution 74/4, in which the Assembly endorsed “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, is the reference framework.
- 19.7 Guided by the priorities identified in global and regional frameworks and by needs and requests for support in implementing those frameworks at the national level, technical assistance will be provided to member States, especially those in special situations comprising least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other countries, in such areas as macroeconomic policy and financing for development, sustainable infrastructure connectivity and trade facilitation, technology, management of natural resources, sustainable urban development, disaster risk reduction and resilience, social development, statistics and energy. In this period of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting member States in bridging the digital divide, which has accentuated inequalities within and across countries, and in making full use of technology and innovation to advance sustainable development will be of specific focus. ESCAP will continue to provide diagnostic tools and policy support to advance economic recovery efforts in the region not limited in vision to short-term economic growth gains but rather aimed at the long-term economic transformation required pursuant to the 2030 Agenda. Through its cross-cutting subprogramme on subregional activities for development, the programme will strive to ensure that the Commission’s work in individual sectors and with member States is in line with the regionally agreed priorities, including regional cooperation, in particular on transboundary issues. The programme will further strive to ensure that those priorities lead to concrete subregional and regional outcomes and that regional outcomes feed into national sustainable development efforts. In that endeavour, the programme will coordinate closely with resident coordinators and United Nations country teams.
- 19.8 ESCAP, together with a broad range of partners, including its member States, other United Nations development system entities, other international organizations, the private sector and civil society, supports the follow-up on and review of the 2030 Agenda. Support provided by ESCAP to its member States in the follow-up on and review of the 2030 Agenda at the regional and global levels will continue to rely on analytical, intergovernmental and capacity-building work. Through its activities, ESCAP supported 10 countries in Asia and the Pacific in the preparation of voluntary national reviews submitted in 2020 at the high-level political forum on sustainable development. In 2022, ESCAP and its partners will continue to: (a) convene the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development as an annual, inclusive intergovernmental forum, which provides space for multi-stakeholder engagement for follow-up and review in the region, to discuss regional priorities and needs for achieving sustainable development; (b) prepare annual progress reports on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and develop policy recommendations to accelerate progress in achieving the Goals in the region; and (c) support peer learning and strengthen the capacity of member States with regard to voluntary national review planning, policy coherence, stakeholder engagement and data and statistics.

- 19.9 For 2022, the planned deliverables and activities of ESCAP reflect the likely ongoing challenges related to COVID-19 that are being faced by member States. Such planned deliverables and activities include helping member States to support their populations, in particular individuals and groups in vulnerable situations, through, for example, ongoing impact assessments and monitoring of policies and measures affecting trade and transport in the region and building the resilience of institutions and regional frameworks to further crises, including pandemics such as the COVID-19 pandemic, through regional cooperation. Specific examples of such planned deliverables and activities are provided under subprogrammes 2, 3 and 5. The support provided to member States on issues related to COVID-19 is expected to contribute to planned results in 2022, as described under all subprogrammes and components of ESCAP.
- 19.10 With regard to cooperation with other entities at the global, regional national and local levels, ESCAP will continue to deliver on the United Nations framework for the immediate socioeconomic response to COVID-19, in addition to ongoing collaboration in various areas such as gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, social protection, financing for development, road safety and migration. Strengthening engagement with regional and subregional organizations and development partners is a strategic approach for ESCAP in implementing its programme and for promoting and facilitating South-South cooperation, triangular cooperation and regional partnerships. Indeed, the objective of each component under subprogramme 8 is to strengthen regional cooperation, in particular on transboundary issues, in line with the subregional priorities. Sustainable connectivity and resilient and inclusive societies are priorities common to various ESCAP subregions. More concretely, the work of ESCAP at the subregional level, with substantive support from sectoral subprogrammes, has, for example, facilitated the adoption of the 2021–2025 workplan of the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership and the development and the implementation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Comprehensive Recovery Framework, as depicted in the frameworks of components 2 and 5 of subprogramme 8, respectively.
- 19.11 With regard to inter-agency coordination and liaison, the United Nations development system entities in Asia-Pacific, in line with the reform proposals, have begun the transition to work within the framework of the regional collaborative platform, to which ESCAP, 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 provide secretariat support. ESCAP substantive divisions collaborate in supporting issue-based coalitions established pursuant to the regional collaborative platform. ESCAP is co-leading the coalition on climate change mitigation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), where ESCAP expertise, across various subprogrammes and geared to support the accelerated achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 7 and 13, the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the building of social, economic and environmental resilience to the impact of climate change, is of specific relevance. Furthermore, the “Sustainable Development Goals help desk” knowledge management hub, co-led by ESCAP and the Development Coordination Office regional office for Asia and the Pacific, serves as the main platform for sharing policy expertise and providing rapid response to needs of countries, as well as of United Nations country teams, to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This close collaboration among the United Nations development system entities in the region will continue to gain strength into 2022 and beyond.
- 19.12 With regard to the external factors, the overall plan for 2022 is based on the following planning assumptions:
- (a) COVID-19 pandemic recovery policies are in line with the 2030 Agenda;
 - (b) National Governments maintain and strengthen their commitment to the Commission as the principal platform in the region for leveraging regional cooperation to meet transboundary and common challenges, such as the recovery from the effects of the pandemic;
 - (c) Extrabudgetary funding for technical cooperation continues to be available.
- 19.13 With regard to the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme plan is based on the assumption that the proposed deliverables and activities for 2022 will be feasible to implement. However, if the

pandemic were to continue to have an impact on the planned deliverables and activities, these would be adjusted during 2022 within the scope of the overall objectives, strategies and mandates. Any such adjustments would be reported as part of the programme performance information.

- 19.14 ESCAP integrates a gender perspective in its operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate. For example, gender is a thematic area for subprogrammes 6 and 7. In the 2022 programme plan, the contributions of subprogrammes 2, 4 and 5 and all components of subprogramme 8 to women's economic empowerment and gender equality are set out in their frameworks. The delivery of results on gender-related Sustainable Development Goals and the mainstreaming of gender into the programme will be guided by the ESCAP gender equality policy and an implementation plan (2019–2023).
- 19.15 With regard to disability inclusion, ESCAP is promoting it through a twin-track approach in line with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy and the ESCAP disability inclusion policy and implementation plan. In the 2022 programme plan, subprogramme 6 and component 1 of subprogramme 8 cover disability-specific interventions to protect and empower persons with disability and, ultimately, to build disability-inclusive societies. Subprogramme 6 is also intended to address intersectional discrimination based on gender and disability.
- 19.16 Beyond substantive advancements, ESCAP has taken steps towards modernizing work processes and digital transformation to serve member States in a more agile way. Its significant progress in innovation, data and digital capacities over the past two years is also evidenced by the results of a survey conducted by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination. Guided by the data strategy of the Secretary-General, ESCAP promotes data-driven management, for example, through the use of dashboards to facilitate consolidated programme monitoring and decision-making by senior management. This transformation was expedited by the pandemic and the use of virtual modalities for programme delivery.

Programme performance in 2020

Impact of COVID-19 on programme delivery

- 19.17 During 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on the planned deliverables and activities of ESCAP in four major ways: (a) the changing of deliverables in terms of design and modality; (b) the postponement of planned deliverables; (c) the repurposing of activities with a COVID-19 response component, when possible; and (d) the introduction of additional deliverables. The first type of impact refers to the organization of intergovernmental meetings, expert group meetings and seminars, workshops and training events virtually or through a hybrid modality. This included the Seventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, the seventy-sixth session of the Commission and five Committee sessions. In many cases, the number of sessions was reduced, given time zone conflicts and limits to keeping participants engaged in a virtual setting over long hours. These reductions are reflected in the deliverable tables throughout the present programme plan. Secondly, on the basis of member States' requests, the second Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific and the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration were postponed to 2021. Thirdly, the analytical products, intergovernmental meetings and project activities were repurposed to incorporate COVID-19 impact assessments and mitigation or recovery measures. For example, the 2020 *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific* incorporated an assessment of the economic impact of the pandemic and discussed fiscal policy measures to mitigate the impact. Specific examples of such an impact are provided under all subprogrammes. With respect to the third type of impact, the postponement of planned deliverables and activities also had an effect on the expected results for 2020, as described in the programme performance under components 1 and 2 of subprogramme 8.
- 19.18 At the same time, however, some planned deliverables and new activities were identified during 2020, within the overall scope of the subprogramme objectives, in order to support member States

on issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Those new activities included expert group meetings, seminars and technical materials. Specific examples of new activities are provided under all subprogrammes. The new deliverables and activities contributed to results in 2020, as described in the programme performance under subprogrammes 1, 2, 3 and 7 and components 4 and 5 of subprogramme 8.

- 19.19 Reflecting the importance of continuous improvement and responding to the evolving needs of member States, the programme will mainstream lessons learned and best practices related to the adjustments to and adaptation of its programme owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specific examples of good practices include the scaling up of e-learning activities and the organization of hybrid meetings to allow for the balanced representation of member States in intergovernmental deliberations. For 2022, the programme will continue to target opportunities to maximize participation through virtual modalities while safeguarding the benefits of in-person engagement for specific activities.

Legislative mandates

- 19.20 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the programme.

General Assembly resolutions

61/16	Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council	70/299	Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level
66/288	The future we want		
67/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community	71/243	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
68/1	Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council	71/312 71/321	Our ocean, our future: call for action Enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them
69/15	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway		
69/137	Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024	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
69/277	Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations	73/133	Graduation of countries from the least developed country category
69/283	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030	73/254	Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners
69/288	Comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States	73/330	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)	73/332	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	73/334	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
70/192	Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development	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
70/294	Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020		

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74/4	Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly	74/307	United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19
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	75/15	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations
		75/16	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation
		75/90	The situation in Afghanistan
74/120	Promoting social integration through social inclusion	75/154	Inclusive development for and with persons with disabilities
74/215	Agricultural technology for sustainable development	75/168	Rights of indigenous peoples
		75/175	Human rights and extreme poverty
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	75/182	The right to development
		75/213	Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Agenda 21
74/228	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence	75/215	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
74/233	Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries		
74/235	Women in development	75/227	Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
74/238	Operational activities for development of the United Nations system	75/228	Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
74/253	Enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities to conferences and meetings of the United Nations system	75/230	Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)
74/270	Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)	75/233	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
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	75/234	South-South Cooperation
74/306	Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic	75/235	Agriculture development, food security and nutrition
		75/239	Oceans and the law of the sea

Economic and Social Council resolutions

37 (IV)	Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East	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
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”	2016/11	Committing to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific
1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields	2018/5	Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all
2014/11	Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development	2019/6	Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies
		2019/8	Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-first session

Part V Regional cooperation for development

2019/27	Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations	2020/16	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020
2020/5	Strengthening coordination of the statistical programmes in the United Nations system	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
2020/9	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system		

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

66/1	Incheon Declaration	72/8	Fostering regional cooperation and partnerships to respond to the climate change challenge in the Asia-Pacific region
66/9	Full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and its regional and global outcomes in the Asia-Pacific region	73/1	A conference structure of the Commission aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
66/15	Strengthening of the evaluation function of the secretariat of the Commission	73/2	Strengthening the regional mechanism for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024
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	73/9	Regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda 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	74/1	Supporting the smooth transition of the least developed countries in Asia and the Pacific towards a sustainable graduation
68/9	Terms of reference of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	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
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	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
70/1	Implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration 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
70/10	Implementation of the Bangkok Declaration of the Asia-Pacific region on the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015	75/3	Advancing partnerships within and across regions for the sustainable development of Asia and the Pacific
71/2	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 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
71/3	Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024		
71/4	Implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway	76/2	Regional cooperation to address the socioeconomic effects of pandemics and crises in Asia and the Pacific
72/6	Committing to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific		

Deliverables

19.21 Table 19.1 lists all cross-cutting deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022.

Table 19.1

Cross-cutting deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	2	19	2	11
1. Reports for ESCAP	1	9	1	5
2. Reports for the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development	1	10	1	6
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	23	15	34	34
3. Meetings of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development	6	2	6	6
4. Meetings of the Commission	10	2	10	10
5. Meetings of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	–	6	6	6
6. Expert group meetings on the <i>Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report</i>	4	–	–	–
7. Expert group meetings on the programme of action for least developed countries	–	–	3	3
8. Expert group meetings on the programme of action for landlocked developing countries	–	–	3	–
9. Expert group meetings on the programme of action for small island developing States	–	–	3	–
10. Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination	1	1	1	1
11. Meetings of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	1	1	1	1
12. Meetings of the Fifth Committee	1	1	1	1
13. Meetings of the regional collaborative platform	–	2	–	6
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	–	1	1	1
14. Capacity-building projects on selected issues pertinent to the sustainable development of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	–	1	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	3	2	7	6
15. Subregional workshops on priorities of the programmes of action for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	2	–	4	3
16. Policy dialogues based on the <i>Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report</i>	1	2	3	3
Publications (number of publications)	4	4	3	5
17. ESCAP theme study	1	1	1	1
18. <i>Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report</i>	1	1	1	1
19. Publications on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda	2	2	1	1
20. <i>Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Journal</i>	–	–	–	2
Technical materials (number of materials)	3	5	4	4
21. Documents on issues relevant to Asia-Pacific least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	3	5	4	4
C. Substantive deliverables				
Databases and substantive digital materials: Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Goal partnership data portal; and substantive blog posts for the ESCAP website for regional and global access.				

Category and subcategory	2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
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D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: observance of United Nations international days, including United Nations Day; press conferences/press briefing and press interviews for major publications and events; and outreach activities upon demand for the general public, including for academic organizations for approximately 300 participants.

External and media relations: press releases and op-ed articles on the work and activities of ESCAP.

Digital platforms and multimedia content: Sustainable Development Goals help desk accessed by 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; multimedia promotional content, including videos and educational materials for major publications and events; and inputs for ESCAP social media platforms.

Evaluation activities

- 19.22 The following self-evaluations completed in 2020 have guided the proposed programme plan for 2022:
- (a) Self-evaluation on the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation;
 - (b) Self-evaluation on the Asia and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development.
- 19.23 The findings of the self-evaluations referenced above have been taken into account for the proposed programme plan for 2022. For example, the self-evaluation on the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation recommended reviewing the charter of the Subregional Programme and setting a relevant long-term vision, mission and goals, which was reflected in the strategy and result 1 of component 2 in the present report. With respect to the Asia and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, the recommendations were the designing of a medium-term strategy in line with the digital era and the inclusion of advisory services to member States in the area of information and communications technology (ICT) for development in the Training Centre's workplan, in addition to its training programmes. These recommendations have been reflected in the strategy and the deliverables of subprogramme 5.
- 19.24 The following self-evaluations are planned for 2022:
- (a) Self-evaluation on the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030);
 - (b) Self-evaluation on the subprogramme on environment and development subprogramme.

Programme of work

Subprogramme 1

Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development

Objective

- 19.25 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

- 19.26 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will continue to focus on promoting a more balanced and multidimensional development approach, beyond the primary focus on economic growth, and help member States to transform their economies in a manner that is consistent with the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda. The subprogramme will pay specific attention to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other systemic and persistent development challenges, such as climate change, which aggravate existing vulnerabilities, including poverty, inequality and environmental degradation. If not addressed, these challenges may reverse development progress achieved to date in the Asia-Pacific region, in particular in the most vulnerable countries. Therefore, it is necessary to build adequate resilience and support economic transition towards sustainable development in the post-COVID-19 era. Such a transition requires holistic policy considerations and coordinated action on three fronts: economic stability and resilience; inclusiveness; and sustainability.
- 19.27 The subprogramme will advance policies and potential pathways for such an economic transition towards sustainable development through research and knowledge products, capacity-building and technical assistance, and advocacy and intergovernmental coordination. On the research front, the subprogramme will build on its ongoing work, including the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific*, the *Financing for Development in Asia and the Pacific* series, policy papers and other research products, to help member States to mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals into economic policymaking. Using its ongoing and original analytical work, the subprogramme will also provide substantive input to global processes and publications coordinated by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and others, especially with regard to financing for development and the United Nations socioeconomic response framework to the COVID-19 pandemic. The subprogramme will also continue to support the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework processes, as and when needed.
- 19.28 The subprogramme will further strengthen the links between its research and its capacity-building work to support the development of national economic policies and financing strategies that support the transition of economies towards sustainable development and help them to build resilience to shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, in cooperation with United Nations country teams, where possible. It will also support regional cooperation platforms and expand expert networks, such as the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnership Network of Asia and the Pacific, for effective knowledge dissemination and peer learning.
- 19.29 The subprogramme will continue to support its main intergovernmental platform, the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development, to facilitate discussion with member States on economic policies and financing issues that are expected to help the envisaged economic transition. It will also leverage other existing platforms, such as the annual sessions of the Commission and the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, for this purpose.
- 19.30 Across these three lines of its work, the subprogramme will contribute to and seek synergy in achieving Sustainable Development Goals 1, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 17. Furthermore, the subprogramme will build on its existing and extensive cooperation with multilateral organizations and Asia-Pacific think tanks to advance its work highlighted above. It will also strengthen its cooperation with specialized agencies for policy advice and capacity-building, with a focus on transformative economic policies and financing for development strategies. Expected main partners for 2022 include, but are not limited to, ASEAN, the Global Green Growth Institute and the Astana International Financial Centre.
- 19.31 The subprogramme plans to support member States on issues related to COVID-19 by focusing on macroeconomic and financing for development policies that promote economic transformation towards sustainable development and more resilient economies.
- 19.32 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) An improved understanding of the impact of economic policies on sustainable development;

- (b) Enhanced capacity of policymakers to mainstream and align economic policies and financing strategies with sustainable development objectives;
 - (c) A greater ability of the member States to mobilize and allocate financial resources for sustainable development.
- 19.33 The planned support on issues related to COVID-19 is expected to result in the advancement and greater scope of economic recovery measures that integrate sustainable development and more resilient economies.

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.34 Programme performance in 2020 includes the below result that emerged during 2020, as well as programme performance presented under results 1 and 2 below.

Better-informed policymaking by member States in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

- 19.35 As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the region is expected to face its deepest economic slowdown since at least the 1970s, along with significant job losses and an increase in poverty. To mitigate the impact of the pandemic and rebuild the economy towards greater resilience and sustainability, adequate, timely and well-targeted economic policies, in particular macroeconomic stimulus packages, are urgently needed. In this vein, it was crucial for policymakers to keep track of the rapidly evolving pandemic and policy developments in the region to perform quick yet systematic analyses of potential policy interventions.
- 19.36 The subprogramme supported Asia-Pacific policymakers on those two fronts by developing an online tracker¹ of policy responses to COVID-19 and a hands-on and applied Excel-based model² for COVID-19 impact and policy assessment. The online tracker is a comprehensive stocktaking and data visualization tool to keep policymakers updated on the pandemic situation and containment measures and to provide them with a detailed breakdown of economic stimulus and related trade, transport, social protection and statistics policy responses in the ESCAP region, and was developed with support and input from other subprogrammes.
- 19.37 The Excel-based assessment model is also supported through the regional programme on technical cooperation and comprises three main deliverables: (a) the Excel-based model, to assess the impact of COVID-19 and inform policy responses; (b) a user manual on how to use the model in different country contexts; and (c) an open webinar, to introduce the model to policymakers and experts.
- 19.38 The subprogramme's broad engagement with and substantive contributions to the United Nations system-wide processes and initiatives in response to the COVID-19 crisis also contributed to making countries better equipped to assess the impact of economic recovery policies on sustainable development. This included the provision of analytical materials, support for global meetings and the organization of a regional conversation as part of the Initiative on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.39 The above-mentioned work contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by policymakers from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Georgia, India, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, Samoa, Timor-Leste and Tonga stating that they would use the tool in policymaking or research work. In total, 138 government policymakers from 24 Asia-Pacific countries attended the introductory webinar on the subprogramme's Excel model to assess the impact of COVID-19 and design policy responses (see table 19.2).

¹ Available at www.unescap.org/covid19/policy-responses.

² Available at www.unescap.org/resources/assessing-impact-covid-19-asia-and-pacific-and-designing-policy-responses-excel-based.

Table 19.2
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)
—	—	Policymakers from 10 countries reported that they would use the COVID-19 impact and assessment tool and/or knowledge products to inform their policymaking in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Planned results for 2022

- 19.40 The planned results for 2022 include results 1 and 2, which are updates of results presented in the preceding proposed programme plans and therefore show both the programme performance in 2020 and the proposed programme plan for 2022. Result 3 is a new planned result.

Result 1: enhanced understanding of financing needs and strategies for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals³

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.41 The subprogramme collaborated with Samoa in the area of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprise financing and supported the Samoa Business Hub initiative with multiple research pieces. Samoa has since taken steps, in late 2019 and into 2020, to strengthen the Hub and related public support for such financing.
- 19.42 The subprogramme also organized an Asia-Pacific conference on financing for inclusive and sustainable development in December 2019 with follow-up support to member States in 2020. That event and the follow-up on various topics provided a knowledge exchange platform for 27 participating ESCAP member States on their new financing for development policy initiatives. In particular, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, China, Indonesia, Kazakhstan and Sri Lanka shared their concrete policy actions on various fronts at the event.
- 19.43 The above-mentioned work contributed to new initiatives by seven member States designing and implementing financing strategies to bridge financing gaps for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which exceeded the target of five member States reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.44 The subprogramme will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate. To continue further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will provide targeted capacity support to member States on financing for development strategies and policies, with the overarching aim of better aligning financial resource allocation with sustainable development priorities through both financial market development and necessary public sector guidance and support in the process.
- 19.45 In particular, the subprogramme will continue to focus on thematic issues such as infrastructure financing, capital market development, inclusive financial services and climate financing, through its research products, seminars and training sessions and its support for regional financing for development networks. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.3).

³ As reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020 (A/74/6 (Sect. 19)).

Table 19.3
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned) ^a	2022 (planned)
Large financing gaps, especially in countries with special needs, to implement the Sustainable Development Goals	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 for designing and implementing financing strategies to bridge financing gaps for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda	New initiatives by at least five member States for transforming their economies according to the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda, including but not limited to financing strategies	Three new initiatives by member States for transforming their economies according to the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda, including but not limited to financing strategies

^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

Result 2: Asia-Pacific countries take action to transform their economies for sustainable development⁴

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.46 The subprogramme has proposed, in the 2020 edition of its flagship publication, the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific*, an accelerated transition towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 12 (sustainable consumption and production), given its pivotal role for sustainable development within planetary boundaries. Building on this work, the subprogramme organized eight policy dialogues, in which policy makers and experts from Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand shared their most recent policy initiatives on the transition towards sustainable development.
- 19.47 In parallel, the Excel-based model to assess the impact of COVID-19 and design policy responses developed by the subprogramme also served the dual purpose of supporting analysis of economic recovery policies towards sustainable development and COVID-19 impact assessment, as highlighted in the result that emerged in 2020, above. Such policy analysis using the model has been conducted for Afghanistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Samoa and Sri Lanka as part of the subprogramme's ongoing capacity-building work, supported also by the United Nations Development Account.
- 19.48 The above-mentioned work contributed to five member States being informed of the design of economic policies and the implementation of financing strategies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, through knowledge products of the subprogramme and starting the process of designing such policies and implementing such strategies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which met the planned target, as reflected in the programme budget for 2021.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.49 The subprogramme will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will, for example, evaluate changes in financial system and regulations that help to channel investment towards the Sustainable Development Goals and analyse the potential of fiscal policies and the reorientation of public expenditure to support resilient, inclusive and sustainable development. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.4).

⁴ As reflected in the programme budget for 2021 (A/75/6/Add.1).

Table 19.4
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned) ^a	2022 (planned)
Increased awareness of the adverse implications of pursuing growth-centric development approaches, and policy options and financing strategies to effectively pursue the 2030 Agenda, as reflected in the feedback from participants in the subprogramme's capacity-building activities	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	Policy action aimed at transforming their economies according to the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda, informed by knowledge products prepared under the subprogramme, taken by at least five member States	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

^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

Result 3: enhanced capacity of member States in designing policies and strategies for resilient economies

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.50 In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent global economic crisis, the subprogramme has laid the groundwork for strengthening the resilience of economic development to non-economic shocks and the role of policies, in particular fiscal policy, in this regard. The subprogramme has, in particular, conducted an analysis of the impact of the pandemic and of the policy responses in the region, which will be published in the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2021*, as well as in a series of planned policy briefs and working papers.

Lessons learned and planned change

- 19.51 The lesson for the subprogramme was that, given the research-oriented and macroeconomic focus of its work, proving genuine linkages of its work with concrete policy action is a major challenge. This is due mainly to the fact that macroeconomic policies by nature are comprehensive, take time to form and implement and are often influenced by many factors simultaneously, thus rendering the task of tracking and establishing linkages very difficult. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will strengthen efforts in results-tracking to collect more information on how its work was used by member States and devote more resources to the development of ready-to-use policy manuals and analytical tools to facilitate the translation of its research into action and, subsequently, to actual changes. Building on the research undertaken in 2020 and planned for 2021, the subprogramme will conduct timely and relevant policy analysis, including results-tracking, to demonstrate how national and regional fiscal, debt and financial strategies and other economic measures can facilitate post-COVID-19 economic recovery and strengthen economic resilience to future economic and non-economic shocks.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.52 This work is expected to contribute to the objective, demonstrated by three member States being prepared for implementing national strategies and policy initiatives towards more resilient economies, including but not limited to fiscal and financial measures (see table 19.5).

Table 19.5
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned)	2022 (planned)
—	—	—	Member States build consensus on strategies and policies towards more resilient economies at the seventy-seventh session of the Commission and the third session of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development	Three member States implement national strategies and policy initiatives towards more resilient economies, including but not limited to fiscal and financial measures

Legislative mandates

- 19.53 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

General Assembly resolutions

74/205	Financial inclusion for sustainable development	75/204	International financial system and development
74/231	Development cooperation with middle-income countries	75/205	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		

Deliverables

- 19.54 Table 19.6 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.6

Subprogramme 1: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	1	4	1
1. Reports for ESCAP	1	1	1	1
2. Reports for the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development	–	–	3	–
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	8	4	14	8
3. Meetings of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development	–	–	6	–
4. Regional dialogues on issues related to financing for development	–	–	4	–
5. Expert group meetings on financing for development	4	–	–	4
6. Expert group meetings on the <i>Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific</i> publication	4	4	4	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	1	3	1	1
7. Projects on selected economic policy and financing for development issues	1	3	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	6	8	7	7
8. Economic and Social Council side event on financing for development	1	–	1	1
9. 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	5	8	6	6
Publications (number of publications)	1	1	4	1
10. <i>Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific</i>	1	1	1	1
11. <i>Financing for Development in Asia and the Pacific</i> book series	–	–	1	–
12. <i>Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Journal</i>	–	–	2	–
Technical materials (number of materials)	11	27	14	10
13. Knowledge products on economic issues and policies tailored to countries' specific circumstances	8	8	8	4
14. Working paper series on macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development	1	6	2	2
15. Policy briefs on macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development	2	13	4	4
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: technical advice on at least 2 broad issues related to financing for development and macroeconomic policy; advisory support for the task forces of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network; and country notes and presentation materials on macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development.				
Databases and substantive digital materials: substantive blog posts for the ESCAP website for regional and global access.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: press interviews for major publications and events.				
External and media relations: press releases and op-ed articles on the work and activities of the subprogramme.				
Digital platforms and multimedia content: regular, typically monthly, updating and maintenance of web pages of the subprogramme for the ESCAP website in 4 areas, including economic assessment and sustainable development, financing for development, regional economic cooperation and integration and infrastructure financing and public-private partnerships; and inputs for ESCAP social media platforms.				

Subprogramme 2

Trade, investment and innovation

Objective

- 19.55 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

- 19.56 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will support member States in formulating and implementing policies and measures to facilitate trade, investment and innovation in support of sustainable development, with a specific focus on the needs of least developed and landlocked countries. This work encompasses increasing the capacity of member States to negotiate and implement trade and investment agreements and to design and implement trade facilitation policies and measures, including through the adoption of paperless trade systems. This work is implemented in close cooperation with global and regional partners, including the Asian Development Bank, UNCTAD and the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- 19.57 The subprogramme, including through the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, will also provide capacity-building through workshops, training activities and policy advice and develop knowledge products on sustainable foreign direct investment (FDI), innovation, emerging and frontier technologies, responsible and inclusive business, social enterprise, impact investment and innovative finance for women's entrepreneurship.
- 19.58 In building the capacity of member States to ensure that trade, investment and innovation contributes to sustainable development, the subprogramme will provide support in having member States make progress towards the achievement of the targets of Sustainable Development Goals 8, 9, 17.
- 19.59 The subprogramme plans to support member States on issues related to COVID-19 in the areas of trade facilitation and support for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises. The COVID-19 pandemic showed the importance of keeping trade flowing, in particular in critical goods, further highlighting the importance of trade digitalization, given that it reduces physical interaction in the trade process. In response to COVID-19, the subprogramme will support member States in advancing paperless and contactless trade. The pandemic also highlighted the vulnerability of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in times of crisis. In response, the subprogramme will continue its work to enable policies for FDI and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, with a key focus on innovative financial and digital tools to support women entrepreneurs.
- 19.60 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) The reduction in trade costs and the 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;
 - (d) The integration of inclusivity and sustainability dimensions in technology and innovation policies in the region.
- 19.61 The planned support on issues related to COVID-19 is expected to result in the increased resilience of supply chains by enabling continued trade activities and use of technology and innovation in mitigating the impact of future pandemics.

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.62 Programme performance in 2020 includes the below result that emerged during 2020, as well as programme performance presented under results 1 and 2 below.

Improved access to innovative trade policy support in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises

- 19.63 When the COVID-19 pandemic hit and factories and borders began to close, countries around the world adopted export bans and other barriers to trade on essential goods, such as masks and medical equipment, exposing the vulnerability of supply chains to disruptions and accentuating the importance of maintaining trade flows. In addition, this highlighted the lack of adequate provisions in bilateral and regional trade agreements in Asia and the Pacific to deal with crisis situations and keep trade going in times of emergencies.
- 19.64 Therefore, in order to address this gap and to ensure greater resilience of trade flows in the post-COVID-19 era, ESCAP and a number of other United Nations entities jointly launched an initiative to develop model provisions for trade agreements, to ensure more cooperation and predictability in times of crisis and pandemic and to speed up recovery. For the subprogramme, the initiative included the organization of an online “policy hackathon”, in collaboration with UNCTAD, the regional commissions, WTO and the Consumer Unity and Trust Society. More than 200 trade analysts from Government, academia, civil society and the private sector were brought together in a 45-day online policy hackathon to develop model provisions for regional and other trade agreements to avoid trade disruptions in times of crisis and pandemic.
- 19.65 This inclusive policy formulation exercise included 60 written contributions authored by more than 150 co-authors, selected by a core group of senior experts for publication in an online repository, providing a range of policy options for increasing the resilience of trade through trade agreements. A webinar series was organized to promote and further discuss the top-rated contributions, with more than 300 registered participants. All input gathered during the policy hackathon and webinars are being channelled to support the preparation of a handbook of model trade provisions in times of crisis and pandemic, to be jointly published by ESCAP and collaborating United Nations organizations, on the basis of which training sessions for trade negotiators will be organized in 2021. The objective is to provide options for clauses that trade policymakers can include in trade agreements to minimize disruptions in the trade of critical goods in future crises.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.66 The above-mentioned work contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by access by member States to an online repository of peer-reviewed solutions to respond to emergent challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The online repository and related pages had 9,581 unique visits (see table 19.7).

Table 19.7

Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)
—	—	Member States' access to online repository of peer-reviewed solutions to respond to emergent challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic

Planned results for 2022

- 19.67 The planned results for 2022 include results 1 and 2, which are updates of results presented in the preceding proposed programme plans and therefore show both the programme performance in 2020 and the proposed programme plan for 2022. Result 3 is a new planned result.

Result 1: harnessing innovative business models for social progress⁵

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.68 The subprogramme has continued its work on promoting innovative business models such as impact investment and social enterprise through advocacy activities, research and analysis, capacity-building, facilitating regional knowledge-sharing, and hands-on policy advice to member States. These activities were also supported by the United Nations Development Account. The subprogramme's activities supported the adoption of the Social Enterprise Act in Thailand; the integration of social entrepreneurship as a key pillar in Indonesia's medium-term national development plan; the establishment of a cross-government working group on inclusive business and impact investment led by the Myanmar Directorate of Investment and Company Administration; the launch of the Malaysia Social Impact Exchange which is intended to channel untapped corporate resources towards high-performing social purpose organizations; the establishment of the National Advisory Board for Impact Investment led by the Bangladesh Ministry of Finance; and the incorporation of social enterprise in the Organic Law in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, the Philippines.
- 19.69 The above-mentioned work contributed to six countries in the region implementing measures to support impact enterprises and investors, which met the planned target of implementation of measures by member States to support impact enterprises and investors, reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.70 The subprogramme will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will provide policy support to member States on social enterprise, impact investment and inclusive business, subject to demand and the availability of resources. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.8).

Table 19.8
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned) ^a	2022 (planned)
Absence of measures to support impact enterprises and investors	Development of measures by member States to support impact enterprises and investors	Implementation of measures by six countries (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Thailand) to support impact enterprises and investors	Implementation of measures by member States to support impact enterprises and investors	Implementation of measures by member States to support innovative business models

^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

⁵ As reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020 (A/74/6 (Sect. 19)).

Result 2: harnessing innovative technologies to enhance women's access to financial services⁶

Programme performance in 2020

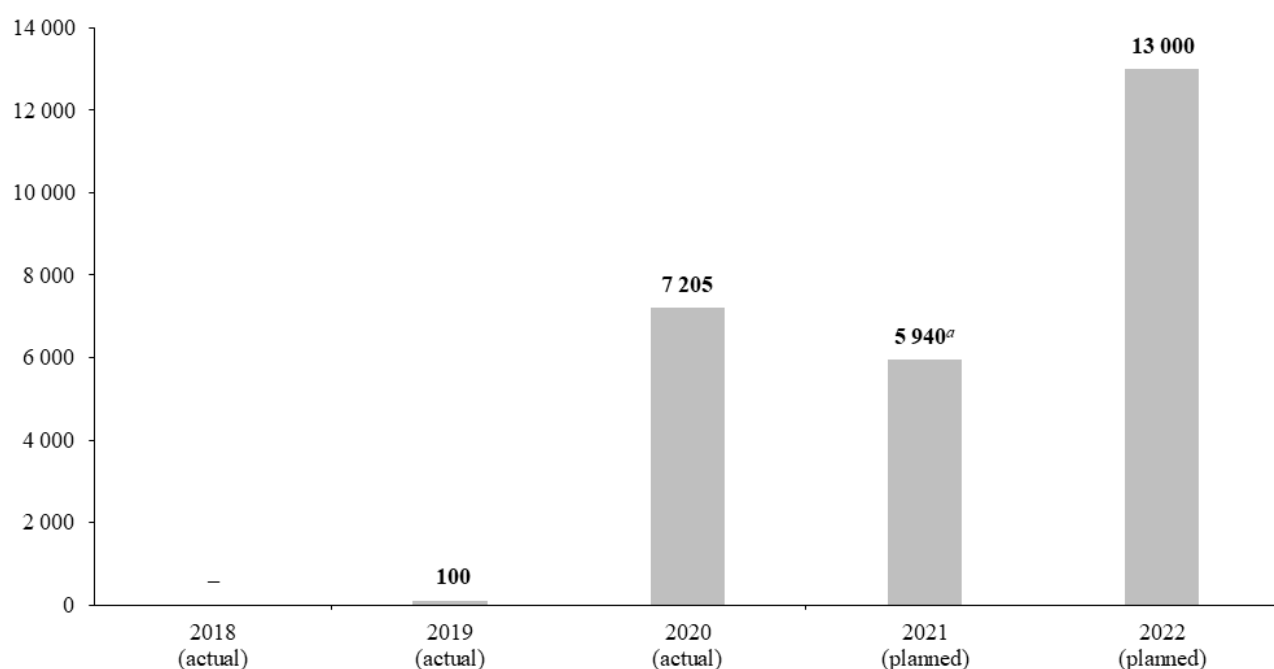
- 19.71 To increase access to finance by women entrepreneurs, the subprogramme supported the launch of a women's bond and an impact investment fund for women entrepreneurs in 2020 and continued to provide advice and support to the winners of the 2019 challenge fund on digital and financial solutions for women entrepreneurs. The subprogramme has also provided policy advice and capacity-building support to Governments on how to ensure an enabling policy environment for digital and financial technologies in support of women's entrepreneurship, including through supporting studies on access by micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to finance in Bangladesh and Samoa. A research challenge on access to finance for women entrepreneurs was also launched in 2020, which received more than 60 proposals, with 6 winning proposals awarded funding for their research.
- 19.72 The above-mentioned work contributed to 7,205 women entrepreneurs having improved access to financial services, with support from ESCAP, in 2020, which exceeded the planned target of 2,500 women entrepreneurs having access to financial services with support from ESCAP, as reflected in the programme budget for 2021.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.73 The subprogramme will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will provide technical assistance to Governments and intermediaries to enhance women's access to financial services, including through the women's bond, impact investment funds and additional challenge funds. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.I).

Figure 19.I

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



^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

⁶ As reflected in the programme budget for 2021 (A/75/6 (Sect. 19)).

Result 3: making trade processes more efficient, transparent and safer through paperless and contactless trade

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.74 The subprogramme has a long-standing programme on trade facilitation, focused on supporting member States in making trade processes “paperless”. Enabling the electronic exchange of trade data and documents across borders not only helps to reduce trade costs and make it easier to comply with trade procedures, but also can help to identify illegal trade transactions and illicit financial flows. Moreover, it can lead to reduced physical contact between traders and customs and other officials, thus limiting opportunities for both corruption and contagion during a pandemic.
- 19.75 The benefits and implementation difficulties associated with digitalizing cross-border trade processes led ESCAP member States to negotiate a United Nations treaty, namely, the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific. The Framework Agreement, adopted in 2016, provides an inclusive platform for countries at all levels of development to cooperate and develop harmonized cross-border paperless trade solutions.
- 19.76 Since 2016, the subprogramme has supported the intergovernmental steering group that developed the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific in devising an implementation road map. The subprogramme has also implemented a series of capacity-building and technical activities related to the treaty. Following Bangladesh’s and China’s ratification of the treaty in October and November 2020, respectively, the Framework Agreement entered into force in February 2021.

Lessons learned and planned change

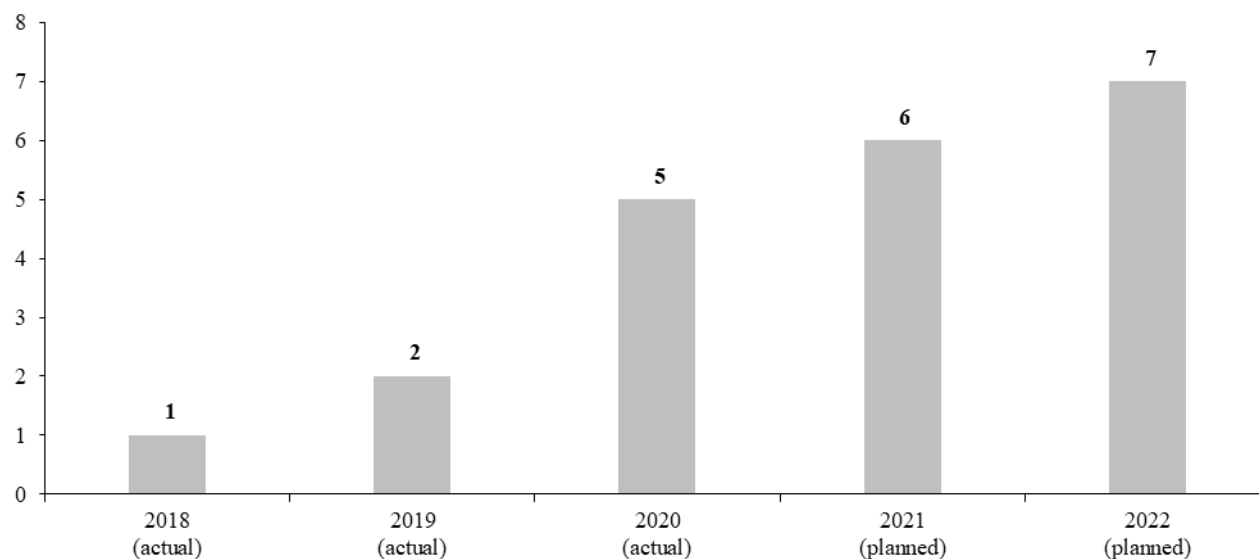
- 19.77 The lesson for the subprogramme was that it needed to design differentiated support activities for various government bodies within the same country, given that they may have different levels of readiness in paperless trade. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will provide more tailored assessments and programmes for the different agencies and stakeholders involved. Capacity-building support and technical assistance will be targeted and responsive to ensure that no country is left behind in the adoption of paperless trade.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.78 This work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by seven ESCAP member States acceding to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, bringing the total number of countries having acceded to or ratified the agreement to seven (see figure 19.II).

Figure 19.II

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



Legislative mandates

19.79 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

General Assembly resolutions

74/229	Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development	75/211	Entrepreneurship for sustainable development
75/203	International trade and development		

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	72/12	Harnessing science, technology and innovation for inclusive and sustainable development 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	73/3	Advancing integrated and seamless connectivity for 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
72/4	Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific		

Deliverables

19.80 Table 19.9 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.9

Subprogramme 2: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	16	9	18	16
1. Reports for ESCAP	2	2	1	2
2. Reports for the Committee on Trade and Investment	–	–	6	–
3. Reports for the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation	3	4	–	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	–	4	4
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	31	13	30	33
7. Meetings of the Committee on Trade and Investment	–	–	6	–
8. Meetings of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation	3	3	–	3
9. Meetings of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	4	3	4	4
10. Meetings of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement Standing Committee	8	–	8	8
11. Meetings of Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation, the Paperless Trade Council, and the Standing Committee	4	–	4	6
12. Expert group meetings on trade, investment and innovation	8	3	4	8
13. Meetings of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network	2	3	2	2
14. Meetings of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Working Group on Trade	2	1	2	2
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	4	6	4	4
15. Capacity-building project on women's entrepreneurship: innovative finance component	1	1	1	1
16. Capacity-building projects on trade policy and facilitation	1	4	1	1
17. Capacity-building projects on investment, enterprise and innovation	1	1	1	1
18. Capacity-building projects on new and emerging technologies	1	–	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	6	6	1	–
19. Asia-Pacific Business Forum	1	–	1	–
20. Workshops on trade, investment and innovation	5	6	–	–
Publications (number of publications)	2	1	3	2
21. <i>Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report</i>	–	–	1	–
22. <i>Studies in Trade, Investment and Innovation</i>	1	1	2	1
23. <i>Science, Technology and Innovation in Asia and the Pacific</i>	1	–	–	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	10	10	11	9
24. Trade, Investment and Innovation Working Paper Series	2	2	2	2
25. Policy Briefs on trade, investment and innovation	4	4	4	3
26. Reports on trade facilitation and paperless trade implementation	–	–	1	–
27. <i>Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor</i>	4	4	4	4

Category and subcategory	2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
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C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services in three broad areas on trade, investment and innovation; establishment and support of 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 advisory support for the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development.

Databases and substantive digital materials: 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; online courses on trade, investment and innovation; country fact sheets and briefing notes on trade and investment; and substantive blog posts for the ESCAP website for regional and global access.

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: outreach programmes and briefings on trade, investment and innovation; information and multimedia materials on ESCAP work in trade, investment and innovation; and press interviews for major publications and events.

External and media relations: press releases and op-ed articles on the work and activities of the subprogramme.

Digital platforms and multimedia content: regular, typically monthly, updates, for website of the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade; updating and maintenance of web pages of the subprogramme for the ESCAP website in four areas, including technology and innovation, business and investment, trade facilitation and digital trade, and trade policy and integration; and input for ESCAP social media platforms.

Subprogramme 3 Transport

Objective

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

Strategy

- 19.82 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will continue its work to improve the efficiency of international transport operations and logistics and develop operational transport connectivity so as to create the conditions necessary for a region-wide sustainable transport and logistics system. In particular, the subprogramme will continue to 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. It will also provide technical assistance in eliminating non-physical barriers to regional transport connectivity through strengthened transport facilitation measures, harmonized technical and operational transport standards, regulations and practices, including efficient operational arrangements and harmonized legal frameworks for intermodal transport; facilitate the exchange of good practices on the utilization of new technologies; and conduct research and analysis that address the challenges and ways forward in realizing regional connectivity. This work will help member States to make progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 9, 11, 12, 13 and 17.
- 19.83 The subprogramme will undertake policy advocacy and capacity-building in the areas of sustainable urban transport, road safety and smart transport, including to promote and facilitate the application of the ESCAP-developed sustainable urban transport index, the formulation and implementation of strategies to improve road safety and the development of a road map to support regional cooperation

for wider deployment of smart transport systems. The subprogramme will also strengthen its work on the environmental and social dimensions of transport development and operation. This work will support member States in making progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 3, 7, 11 and 17.

- 19.84 To contribute to the above objective, the subprogramme will continue to collaborate with relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, including the International Maritime Organization, the 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 and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization; and research institutes, associations and other civil society organizations.
- 19.85 The subprogramme plans to support member States on issues related to COVID-19 by conducting research and analysis in order to assess the ongoing impact associated with the pandemic on transport connectivity and offer policy solutions to the member States.
- 19.86 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) to support freight and passenger operations that are affordable, safe, accessible and environmentally friendly;
 - (b) Increased measures and initiatives to enhance transport connectivity to preserve regional transport linkages post-pandemic 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 mobility policy initiatives in member countries, including the planning and development of urban public transport systems, measures to improve transport safety and measures to promote the increasing use of environmentally sustainable modes of transport, and smart mobility approaches in the region.
- 19.87 The planned support on issues related to COVID-19 is expected to result in the application by countries of available policy options and measures that facilitate cross-border transport while helping to contain pandemics such as COVID-19 and other similar disruptions to regional connectivity.

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.88 Programme performance in 2020 includes the below result that emerged during 2020, as well as programme performance presented under results 1 and 2 below.

Enhanced regional dialogue on freight transport connectivity in the context of COVID-19

- 19.89 The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic had led to uncoordinated border closures, controls and restrictions on international freight transport operations, resulting in shortages of essential supplies, which contributed to the initial delay in the pandemic response. Therefore, one of the early lessons of the pandemic was the importance of maintaining transport connectivity and the cross-border movement of basic commodities, agricultural products, foodstuffs and medical supplies. Preserving transport connectivity is indispensable not only for the immediate response to the pandemic, but also for the subsequent recovery efforts rooted in the 2030 Agenda and for building resilience to future pandemics and crises. This is especially important for landlocked developing countries. In its contribution to preserve the region's transport connectivity in 2020, the subprogramme launched an online resource page that monitored national responses on freight transport connectivity during the COVID-19 pandemic to help member States to gain access the relevant information and consider coordinating their policy responses and to provide support to the global observatory on border-crossing status due to COVID-19.

- 19.90 The subprogramme also published a policy brief that provided a preliminary analysis of countries' initial responses to the outbreak and informed current and future policy responses in ensuring the continuity of transport connectivity and logistics in the Asia-Pacific region. It also contributed to coordinating a global United Nations response and calls for action on supply chain connectivity. Furthermore, the subprogramme mobilized and facilitated regional dialogue and country consultations on ways forward for regional cooperation mechanisms that ensure coordinated and timely responses to disruptions in the future.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.91 The above-mentioned work contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by member States agreeing that concrete collaborative initiatives on sustainable freight and transport connectivity for efficient and resilient supply chains shall be taken up within the ESCAP regional mechanisms, including during phase two of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026) and at the sixth session of the Committee on Transport and other regional events (see table 19.10).

Table 19.10
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)
—	—	Countries agreed that concrete collaborative initiatives on sustainable freight and transport connectivity for efficient and resilient supply chains should be taken up within the ESCAP regional mechanisms, including during phase two of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, to be considered in 2021 at the fourth Ministerial Conference on Transport

Planned results for 2022

- 19.92 The planned results for 2022 include results 1 and 2, which are updates of results presented in the preceding proposed programme plans and therefore show both the programme performance in 2020 and the proposed programme plan for 2022. Result 3 is a new planned result.

Result 1: shifting towards more sustainable freight transport in Asia and the Pacific⁷

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.93 The subprogramme has supported member States in the adoption of their national policies and measures to facilitate international rail transport through its analytical work and capacity-building activities on rail freight transport, including the convening of a group of experts to discuss challenges in and opportunities for international railway transport along the trans-Asian railway network and beyond in the times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁷ As reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020 (A/74/6 (Sect. 19)).

- 19.94 The above-mentioned work contributed to the adoption by ESCAP member States of six policies and measures to facilitate international rail transport, which exceeded the planned target of adoption by ESCAP member States of five policies and measures to facilitate international rail transport, reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.95 The subprogramme will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will support member States in designing and implementing facilitation, digitization and harmonization measures along the Trans-Asian Railway Network, the Asian Highway Network and intermodal corridors involving dry ports. The aim of these measures is to enhance the efficiency of the transport systems and accelerate a modal shift towards more environmentally friendly transport within the framework of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2022–2026). The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.11).

Table 19.11
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned) ^a	2022 (planned)
Limited consideration of the practical obstacles to international rail transport, undermining its efficiency and competitiveness	Identification by ESCAP member States of practical measures in support of sustainable freight transport, with a focus on international rail transport	Adoption by ESCAP member States of six policies and measures to facilitate international rail transport	Increased number of freight trains and/or reduced border-crossing times along Trans-Asian Railway routes	Five facilitation, digitization and harmonization measures along the Trans-Asian Railway Network, the Asian Highway Network and intermodal corridors involving dry ports that enhance efficiency of the transport systems and accelerate a modal shift towards more environmentally friendly transport

^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

Result 2: realigning the region's priorities towards sustainable transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific⁸

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.96 The subprogramme has prepared the parliamentary documentation on the review of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2017–2021) and the activities conducted during this phase. That documentation was submitted to the Committee on Transport for the deliberation of member States. The outcome of those deliberations provided the basis for the preparation of phase two of the Regional Action Programme.

⁸ As reflected in the programme budget for 2021 (A/75/6/Add.1).

- 19.97 The above-mentioned work contributed to countries participating in the evaluation of the implementation of the first phase of Regional Action Programme and initiating discussions on areas to be added or strengthened in the second phase, which met the planned target, reflected in the programme budget for 2021.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.98 The subprogramme will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate. The Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2022–2026), in the context of the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals, will maintain the traditional focus areas such as infrastructure and operational connectivity, road safety, urban transport and digitization of transport, while considering a more holistic approach to strengthen the environmental and social dimensions of transport development and operations.
- 19.99 To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will support its member States by scaling up the implementation of analytical, intergovernmental and capacity-building activities under the traditional focus areas such as infrastructure and operational connectivity, road safety, urban transport, and digitization of transport, and by initiating the implementation of new activities to strengthen the environmental and social dimensions of transport development, guided by the second phase of the Regional Action Programme. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.12).

Table 19.12
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned) ^a	2022 (planned)
Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific	Countries further identified key activities to accelerate the implementation of the Regional Action Programme	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	Countries adopt the second phase of the Regional Action Programme and other policy frameworks and tools 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

^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

Result 3: accelerating transformative action in transport for the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.100 The decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals calls for mobilizing regional action, raising ambitions and identifying solutions, and thus offers further impetus and opportunities to reconsider the transport priorities in the Asia-Pacific region and to accelerate impactful change towards sustainability in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. The subprogramme facilitated the review of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2017–2021) at the sixth session of the Committee on Transport. The outcomes of the sixth session Committee are being incorporated into the preparations for the fourth session of the Ministerial Conference on Transport, which will be held at the end of

2021 to discuss the continuous challenge and the tremendous opportunity in the transport sector for making the transition to economic, social and environmental sustainability, to identify priority needs of member States and to set forth future direction through the adoption of phase II of the Regional Action Programme and other policy frameworks and tools that accelerate impactful change towards sustainability.

Lessons learned and planned change

- 19.101 The lesson for the subprogramme was that there was a demand for a more holistic approach to include economic, environmental and social dimensions of transport development and operations in the formulation and implementation of transport policies and measures to support member States in achieving transport-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will provide knowledge products to help member countries to define the optimal set of policy interventions that extends beyond the development of transport infrastructure and operational connectivity, road safety, urban transport and digitization to cover reforms and policies that amplify the wider economic benefits of that infrastructure and include areas of unrealized economic potential or possible positive spillover effects for social and environmental development.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.102 This work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by the adoption of eight policies and measures that intensify support for the efficiency and resilience of supply chains, the environmental dimensions of transport systems and improvements in transport safety to accelerate progress towards achieving transport-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals that are geared towards a safer, more efficient and environmentally sustainable transport sector (see table 19.13).

Table 19.13
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned)	2022 (planned)
The Committee on Transport noted with satisfaction the progress in implementing the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2017–2021) and its numerous policy, institutional and technical complementarities with a number of national programmes and development principles	ESCAP member States continued to formulate and implement transport policies and measures in priority areas, as indicated in phase I of the Regional Action Programme	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 reconsider and adopt the agreed regional transport priorities in the Asia-Pacific region 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

Legislative mandates

19.103 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

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	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	72/5	Strengthening regional cooperation on transport connectivity for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific
71/6	Maritime transport connectivity for sustainable development	73/4	Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific
71/7	Adoption of the Regional Cooperation Framework for the Facilitation of International Railway Transport	74/2	Promotion of the regional framework for the planning, design, development and operation of dry ports of international importance
71/8	Strengthening intraregional and interregional connectivity in Asia and the Pacific	74/3	Improving road safety in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable transport systems

Deliverables

19.104 Table 19.14 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.14

Subprogramme 3: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	4	9	5	4
1. Reports for ESCAP	1	1	–	1
2. Reports for the Committee on Transport	3	8	–	3
3. Reports for the Ministerial Conference on Transport	–	–	5	–
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	20	12	30	22
4. Meetings of the Committee on Transport	6	4	–	6
5. Meetings of the Ministerial Conference on Transport	–	–	10	–
6. Meetings on the Asian Highway Network	–	–	4	–
7. Meetings on the Trans-Asian Railway Network	–	–	4	–
8. Meetings on dry ports	–	–	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	8	4	4	8
11. Expert group meetings on mobility	2	2	–	4

Category and subcategory	2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	7	18	8	8
12. Capacity-building projects on transport connectivity and logistics	4	13	4	4
13. Capacity-building projects on mobility	3	5	4	4
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	1	–	–	–
14. Training event on transport connectivity and logistics	1	–	–	–
Publications (number of publications)	2	2	2	2
15. Publication on transport developments in Asia and the Pacific	–	–	1	–
16. Publications on transport connectivity, logistics and mobility	2	2	1	2
Technical materials (number of materials)	3	3	3	3
17. Technical materials on transport connectivity and logistics	2	2	2	2
18. Technical materials on mobility	1	1	1	1
C. Substantive deliverables				
Databases and substantive digital materials: data collection for the Asian Highway database, the Trans-Asian Railway network and the network of dry ports; materials on road safety for regional and global access; and substantive blog posts for the ESCAP website for regional and global access.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: press interviews for major publications and events.				
External and media relations: press releases and op-ed articles on the work and activities of the subprogramme.				
Digital platforms and multimedia content: regular, typically monthly, updating and maintenance of web pages of the subprogramme for the ESCAP website in six areas, including 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

- 19.105 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

- 19.106 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme, inclusive of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, will employ three main approaches: circular economy-based solutions; nature-based solutions; and governance for environmental transformation. With respect to the first approach, the subprogramme will support the use of optimization tools for resource efficiency; analyse environmental externalities of economic growth patterns; develop policies to reduce waste and to encourage waste to resource and; analyse markets for new low-carbon products. With regard to the second approach, the subprogramme will support member States in protecting, managing sustainably and restoring natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, thereby providing benefits for both human well-being and biodiversity. As regards the third approach, the subprogramme will support integrated and participatory environmental policymaking, such as community-focused financing and systems frameworks, and support the strengthening of engagement and multi-stakeholder partnerships. The subprogramme will also take

into account gender-specific considerations such as the participation of women in decision-making processes and the health impacts of environmental issues, with a focus on countries in special situations, and will generate evidence and provide technical support for integrated policymaking and regional cooperation. The subprogramme will integrate green growth in a cross-cutting way to planned activities, including those related to resource efficiency, ecosystem management and participatory environmental policymaking. These approaches will be applied to the three focus areas, namely, strengthening climate action and sustainable resource use, thereby contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2 and 13–15; realizing sustainable urban development, thereby contributing to the achievement of Goal 11; and eliminating pollution and waste, thereby contributing to the achievement of Goals 6, 11 and 12. The work of the subprogramme in all three areas will contribute to achieving Goal 17.

- 19.107 The subprogramme will support member States in building capacity for ambitious environmental policy, including action for climate empowerment and participation, for the vertical integration of climate action and sustainable resource use among the regional, national, subnational and local levels, including with non-State actors, and for conservation and sustainable use of marine resources. The subprogramme will provide knowledge and capacity-building products on low-carbon, green growth solutions, including on-site and online resource efficiency training and toolboxes to assess and analyse ways to accelerate the implementation of nationally determined contribution commitments and to fulfil reporting requirements with regard to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The subprogramme will also strengthen regional cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development by providing a participatory, multi-stakeholder dialogue platform through the Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean, by coordinating the regional implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development to accelerate transformative ocean action and by promoting the implementation of international conventions and region-wide initiatives.
- 19.108 The subprogramme will help cities to strengthen their urban planning processes, adopt urban resilience strategies, apply appropriate smart technologies and finance urban infrastructure. Building on earlier work, ESCAP will leverage its subregional presence, network partners and intergovernmental platform to increase awareness of sustainable urban solutions, including issues related to infrastructure needs, climate and disaster risk reduction, air pollution and resource consumption. The subprogramme will support member States through capacity-building projects and activities to develop and apply forecasting tools and sustainable urban solutions within the framework of the Penang Platform for Sustainable Urbanization. Specific initiatives, such as the Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy, and other activities aimed at increasing vertical integration will lead to the development of tools and approaches for local authorities to scale up city-based action. Furthermore, the subprogramme will work to reduce air pollution levels, especially in urban areas across the region, by promoting the adoption of recognized clean air measures.
- 19.109 Lastly, the subprogramme will work to strengthen partnerships and cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes (including through the regional collaborative platform and the United Nations country teams), other international, regional and subregional organizations, public-private partnerships, community-based organizations, research institutes, associations and other civil society organizations. The subprogramme will also work closely with other ESCAP subprogrammes to enhance synergy and coherence in relevant areas.
- 19.110 The subprogramme plans to support member States on issues related to COVID-19 by providing analysis of the impact of and responses to the pandemic and policy advice to the member States to ensure a green recovery in the aftermath. The subprogramme will also factor in its work environmental considerations emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 19.111 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
 - (a) Enhanced action to address climate change and accelerate implementation of the Paris Agreement in Asia-Pacific countries;

- (b) More sustainable and resilient communities and reduced negative impacts of urbanization;
 - (c) Development of scenarios, policies and plans to address the risk of air pollution in the region;
 - (d) Enhanced action to strengthen conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, including oceans.
- 19.112 The planned support on issues related to COVID-19 is expected to result in the enhanced capacity of member States to place environmental action at the core of recovery policies that lead to greener and more resilient economies.

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.113 Programme performance in 2020 includes the below result that emerged during 2020, as well as programme performance presented under results 1 and 2 below.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific member States identify prerequisites for accelerating action for delivery of the 2030 Agenda in the context of COVID-19

- 19.114 Although there have been gains in some areas, the Asia-Pacific region is currently not on track to achieve any of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, and environment-related Goals are where progress and reliable data are especially lacking. This urgency to accelerate progress towards achieving the Goals, which was further intensified owing to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, underlies the decade of action for the Goals and was the theme and the main thrust of the Seventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, coordinated by the subprogramme.
- 19.115 To facilitate focused regional dialogue on accelerated action, the subprogramme coordinated knowledge products and consultations, building on the transformative entry points derived from “Gearing up for a decade and delivery for sustainable development: political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit” and the *Global Sustainable Development Report 2019*. Specifically, the subprogramme, together with partners, facilitated the development of six entry point profiles and organized consultations on human well-being and capabilities; sustainable and just economies; food systems and nutrition patterns; the enhancement of power grid connectivity to achieve affordable and clean energy for all; urban and peri-urban development; and global environmental commons. The work on those six entry points culminated in policy recommendations for enabling transformative change and accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region. The subprogramme also organized the Seventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development to exchange best practices and highlight tangible solutions, which concluded with a resounding call for countries to revive international cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnerships to accelerate progress towards achieving the Goals amid addressing the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Outcomes of the forum supported the high-level political forum on sustainable development, where the subprogramme, in collaboration with partners, organized a side event entitled “Fast-tracking the Sustainable Development Goals: driving Asia-Pacific transformations”.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.116 The above-mentioned work contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by all member States identifying a compelling sense of urgency and direction, adequate and Sustainable Development Goal results-based budgeting and accountability, and rigorous data and monitoring systems as prerequisites for the acceleration of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In addition, it was emphasized in the report of the Seventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development that, in order to implement the 2030 Agenda and deliver on the decade of action, a strong, coordinated, inclusive and coherent global response under the multilateral coordination framework was needed (see table 19.15).

Table 19.15
Performance measure

<i>2018 (actual)</i>	<i>2019 (actual)</i>	<i>2020 (actual)</i>
Endorsement of ESCAP regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific by the eighteen member countries in the Pacific sub-region in the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development	Participation and engagement from Government, civil society and related stakeholders in identifying best practices for implementation of the 2030 Agenda	Identification by all member States of prerequisites for the acceleration of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the report on the Seventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and in inputs provided to high-level political forum on sustainable development

Planned results for 2022

- 19.117 The planned results for 2022 include results 1 and 2, which are updates of results presented in the preceding proposed programme plans and therefore show both the programme performance in 2020 and the proposed programme plan for 2022. Result 3 is a new planned result.

Result 1: inclusive and integrated policy processes for effective climate action and natural resources management⁹**Programme performance in 2020**

- 19.118 The subprogramme has continued to focus on the work related to strengthening climate action and the sustainable use of resources and has assisted countries in developing initiatives that promote climate action and broader engagement. The subprogramme also supported ASEAN countries by providing independent, coherent, authoritative and policy-relevant scientific and evidence-based assessments and recommendations on the sustainable management of natural resources in the ASEAN region, and contributed to advancing national action and regional cooperation on decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation.
- 19.119 The above-mentioned work contributed to the establishment of the ASEAN Resources Panel by the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment, which met the planned target of scenarios, policies, plans or programmes developed by member States to operationalize environment and climate action at different levels, taking into account input from various stakeholders, reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020. The ASEAN Resources Panel comprises up to 30 experts and scientists, and its workplan is intended to enhance knowledge and analysis on the environment, and natural resources management trends and impacts, and to provide policy recommendations for consultation and uptake by ASEAN member States.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.120 The subprogramme will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will support member States in strengthening the science policy interface in the development of scenarios, policies, plans and programmes for environment and climate-related action. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.16).

⁹ As reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020 (A/74/6 (Sect. 19)).

Table 19.16
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned) ^a	2022 (planned)
Absent or limited scenarios, policies, plans or programmes developed by member States to operationalize environment and climate action at different levels, taking into account inputs from various stakeholders	Limited scenarios, policies, plans or programmes strengthened by member States to operationalize environment and climate action at different levels, taking into account inputs from various stakeholders	ASEAN member States approved the establishment of the ASEAN Resources Panel	Increase in the number of scenarios, policies, plans or programmes adopted by member States to implement environment- and climate action- related Sustainable Development Goals at different levels	Thirty scenarios, policies, plans or programmes adopted by member States to implement environment- and climate action- related Sustainable Development Goals at different levels

^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

Result 2: more ambitious nationally determined contributions to meet commitments to the Paris Agreement¹⁰

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.121 The subprogramme has responded to member country requests in support for the voluntary national reviews of nationally determined contributions by strengthening regional collaboration on mitigation of climate change, sustainable urbanization and resource efficiency. Due regard has been shown for gender mainstreaming, including outreach to women and girls.
- 19.122 The above-mentioned work contributed to the effective review of nationally determined contributions processes and the revision of the contributions of Mongolia and Myanmar, which met the planned target of scenarios, policies, plans or programmes being developed by member States to operationalize environment and climate action at different levels, including gender mainstreaming, reflected in the programme budget for 2021. The review was considered effective because Mongolia had updated its nationally determined contribution as a result of the process and Myanmar had advanced the revised nationally determined contribution and prepared it for approval by the Government by December 2020.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.123 The subprogramme will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will focus on enhancing knowledge and analysis on the environment, and natural resources use and management trends and impacts in the region, developing specific policy recommendations to enhance the governance of natural resources and the environment and enhancing technical capacities of member countries to improve effective natural resource management policies. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.17).

¹⁰ As reflected in the programme budget for 2021 (A/75/6/Add.1).

Table 19.17
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned) ^a	2022 (planned)
A memorandum of understanding signed by ESCAP and the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement to strengthen regional climate action, with a focus on meeting the targets of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement of 2015	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	With the support of ESCAP, plans updated and revised by at least two countries to make their commitments to nationally determined contributions more ambitious	Plans updated and revised by two additional countries to make their commitments to nationally determined contributions more ambitious

^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

Result 3: member States strengthen regional cooperation on natural resource management, adopt sustainable urban development pathways and develop climate and air pollution mitigation actions

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.124 To support the Asia-Pacific region in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals on climate action, clean water, responsible production and consumption and life below water, the subprogramme convened the sixth session of the Committee on Environment and Development to leverage a multitrack programme of engagement, including consideration of environmental solutions to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for climate change, ecosystem health and clean air and cities for a sustainable future. The Committee decided to establish a technical expert group on environment and development to enhance regional exchange and to mobilize technical expertise in support of the Commission's efforts to accelerate environmental and sustainable development action.

Lessons learned and planned change

- 19.125 The lesson for the subprogramme was that the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need to reflect the close link between the preservation of the environment and healthy human populations in its capacity-building and technical assistance support for member States. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will coordinate exchanges and capacity-building activities on the basis of integrated approaches that link healthy environments and healthy human societies and good policy practices for a green and resilient recovery from the pandemic.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.126 This work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by the enhanced access of member States 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. (see table 19.18).

Table 19.18
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned)	2022 (planned)
Member States call for expanding partnerships for sustainable development at the regional level, including in the area of climate change, at the Fifth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development	Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2019 identifies pathways for climate action in the region, and its outcome contributes 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	The technical expert group on environment and development is operational with full membership and a workplan	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

Legislative mandates

19.127 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

General Assembly resolutions

71/222	International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028	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
71/256	New Urban Agenda		
74/212	International Day of Clean Air for blue skies	75/220	Harmony with Nature
		75/222	Combating sand and dust storms

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2013/19	Conclusion of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development	2017/24	Human settlements
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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

70/11	Implementing the outcome of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development	73/5	Strengthening Asia-Pacific’s support for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14
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	75/4	Strengthening regional cooperation to tackle air pollution challenges in Asia and the Pacific
72/2	Statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization		
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		

Deliverables

19.128 Table 19.19 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.19

Subprogramme 4: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	2	9	1	2
1. Reports for ESCAP	1	1	1	1
2. Reports for the Committee on Environment and Development	1	8	–	1
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	26	13	21	24
3. Meetings of the Committee on Environment and Development	5	4	–	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	2	5	5
6. Meeting of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment	2	–	–	–
7. Expert group meetings for the implementation of internationally agreed agendas related to the environment and development	2	2	2	2
8. Expert group meetings on sustainable and resilient cities in the Asia-Pacific region	8	2	8	8
9. Policy forums on the greening of economic growth for sustainable development	2	1	4	2
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	7	10	9	5
10. Capacity building projects on strengthening implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	2	2	–	–
11. Capacity building projects on the sustainable management of natural resources	1	2	1	1
12. Capacity building project on sustainable urban development	1	2	3	1
13. Capacity building projects on sustainable agricultural mechanization	1	1	1	1
14. Capacity building projects on greening of economic growth	1	1	1	1
15. Capacity building project on supporting countries in Asia-Pacific to meet commitments to the Paris Agreement	1	2	3	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	4	11	11	13
16. Workshops on integrated management of straw residue	–	–	1	1
17. Workshops on strengthening human resources for sustainable agricultural mechanization	3	2	2	1
18. Regional forums on sustainable agricultural mechanization in Asia and the Pacific	1	3	–	1
19. Workshops on promoting sustainable agricultural mechanization through South-South cooperation	–	–	2	1
20. Asia-Pacific Day of Ocean	–	1	1	1
21. Asia-Pacific Climate Week	–	–	5	5
22. International Day of Clean Air for blue skies	–	–	–	1
23. Executive training on environment and development	–	5	–	2
Publications (number of publications)	1	–	2	1
24. Publications on environment and development	1	–	1	1
25. Publication on progress towards sustainable urbanization in Asia-Pacific	–	–	1	–

Category and subcategory	2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
Technical materials (number of materials)	4	4	5	4
26. Documents on the environment and development (policy briefs, knowledge products and case studies)	1	1	3	1
27. Documents on agricultural machinery	3	3	2	3
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: support for working groups on environment and development, including the Issue-based Coalition on Climate Change Mitigation; advisory support for task forces and regional initiatives on UN-Water and sustainable urban development; advisory support for the task forces of ESCAP Sustainable Business Network; and advisory support 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; and substantive blog posts for the ESCAP website for regional and global access.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: information material on agricultural mechanization; observances of United Nations international days, including special events on sustainable urban development and environment and development; and press interviews for major publications and events.				
External and media relations: press releases and op-ed articles on the work and activities of the subprogramme.				
Digital platforms and multimedia content: regular, typically monthly, updating and maintenance of ESCAP web pages of the subprogramme in three areas, including safeguarding natural resources, cities for a sustainable future, and green growth; and input for ESCAP social media platforms.				

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

Objective

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

Strategy

- 19.130 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will support member States by developing norms for inclusive digital connectivity, geospatial data-sharing and disaster resilience-building, supported by policy analysis and evidence-based research. In addition, capacity-building activities will be anchored in regional cooperation mechanisms that promote technical cooperation through South-South and North-South modalities and will be 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. The subprogramme also plans to promote regional policy dialogue and cooperation through expert group meetings on transboundary challenges related to connectivity and disaster risks, including those related to climate change and extreme weather events. The work of the subprogramme is expected to contribute to the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular, Goals 1, 4, 5, 9–11, 13–15 and 17.
- 19.131 The subprogramme also plans to promote building back better¹¹ with resilience, through 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

¹¹ 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.

frameworks and provide gap analysis and policy recommendations, supplemented by advocacy, networking and partnerships in support of the regionally agreed framework.

- 19.132 The subprogramme will also continue to assist member States in harnessing the most recent advances in space technology applications and geospatial data. The subprogramme will 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. The work of the subprogramme will be anchored to regional cooperation mechanisms on regional space applications, drought monitoring and early warning, and geospatial information management. Implementation in this area will be 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).
- 19.133 The subprogramme will further 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.
- 19.134 In order to achieve its objective, the subprogramme will collaborate with relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, including through the regional collaborative platform, international, regional and subregional organizations, regional development banks, community-based organizations, research institutes, associations and other civil society organizations.
- 19.135 The subprogramme plans to support member States on issues related to COVID-19 by strengthening human and institutional capacity to build back better with resilience. In particular, the subprogramme, inclusive of its regional institutions, will provide 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.
- 19.136 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) Improved e-resilience and the cross-border interoperability of ICT networks that support disaster risk reduction and resilience;
 - (d) More reliable, resilient and affordable broadband for all;
 - (e) The anticipation of and reduction in disaster risks 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.
- 19.137 The planned support on issues related to COVID-19 is expected to result in:
- (a) Promotion of a common understanding of the principles of geospatial data-sharing in the context of pandemics and of mapping pandemic risk hotspots, and enhancement of the interoperability of data across sectors through the development of common data formats;
 - (b) Increased capacity of member States to bring broadband to all and to bolster network capacity for e-resilience in times of crisis-led surges in demand.

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.138 Programme performance in 2020 includes the below result that emerged during 2020, as well as programme performance presented under results 1 and 2 below.

Enhancement of the capacity of countries to “build back better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

- 19.139 In 2020, the subprogramme continued its work on promoting the use of space applications to help countries to benefit from several regional mechanisms that have allowed policymakers, practitioners and scientists across the region to use and leverage satellite-derived data without needing a space programme of their own.
- 19.140 In the publication *Geospatial Practices for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific 2020: A Compendium*, the subprogramme collected and documented more than 100 examples of good practices relating to space policies and legislation across Asia-Pacific, with the objective of raising awareness of the benefits and barriers to having access to space applications. The Compendium provides policymakers with guidance on how to replicate or tailor specific applications for different country contexts to achieve sustainable development across various sectors. Furthermore, it supports the streamlining of regional needs assessments and helps to match each country’s experiences with the needs for regional cooperation of other countries.
- 19.141 The subprogramme facilitated the regional sharing of georeferenced big data, the analysis of geospatial and temporal interlinkages and the understanding of risk correlations between COVID-19 and socioeconomic sectors (health, finance, connectivity, education, energy and safety). Two webinars were organized to support policymakers in addressing the question of how space technology applications could best be utilized to address the COVID-19 outbreak and potential future pandemics through enhanced regional cooperation and their role in monitoring and analysing the impact of COVID-19, as well as supporting response and recovery efforts.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.142 The above-mentioned work contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030) at the country and subregional levels, including the establishment of an operational platform for enhanced capacity of Central Asian countries under the Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning and the integration and application of ground-derived and space-derived data for effective monitoring of air pollution (see table 19.20).

Table 19.20

Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)
Member States adopted the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030), a needs-driven blueprint that harnesses space and geospatial applications, as well as digital innovations, to support countries, in particular those with special needs, in achieving the 2030 Agenda	Member States gained access to training materials and tools to enhance the use of space applications in line with needs identified through the Plan of Action	Implementation of the Plan of Action at the country and subregional levels, including the establishment of an operational platform for enhanced capacity of Central Asian countries under the Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning and the integration and application of ground-derived and space-derived data for effective monitoring of air pollution

Planned results for 2022

- 19.143 The planned results for 2022 include results 1 and 2, which are updates of results presented in the preceding proposed programme plans and therefore show both the programme performance in 2020 and the proposed programme plan for 2022. Result 3 is a new planned result.

Result 1: advanced subregional implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway¹²**Programme performance in 2020**

- 19.144 The subprogramme prepared technical papers, including in-depth studies on the co-deployment of information and communications infrastructure with transport and energy infrastructure for specific countries and subregions. The subprogramme also organized the third session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation, at which member States deliberated on bridging the digital divide for inclusive broadband access. Furthermore, the subprogramme organized the fourth session of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Steering Committee, at which participants reviewed the progress made on the subregional implementation of the Master Plan for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway and discussed the future direction for the next phase of its implementation (2022–2026).
- 19.145 The subprogramme continued its work on promoting inclusive regional broadband connectivity. Progress was also made on the establishment of carrier-neutral Internet exchange points in the Pacific island economies that will increase intraregional content exchange and improve the reliability, quality and cost of Internet connectivity. An in-depth study determined the technical feasibility of such a proposal, and consultations with the Pacific island economies are now under way on establishing the operational modalities.
- 19.146 The above-mentioned work contributed to the development and implementation of eight broadband network initiatives within the subregional implementation plans for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway, which met the planned target reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020.

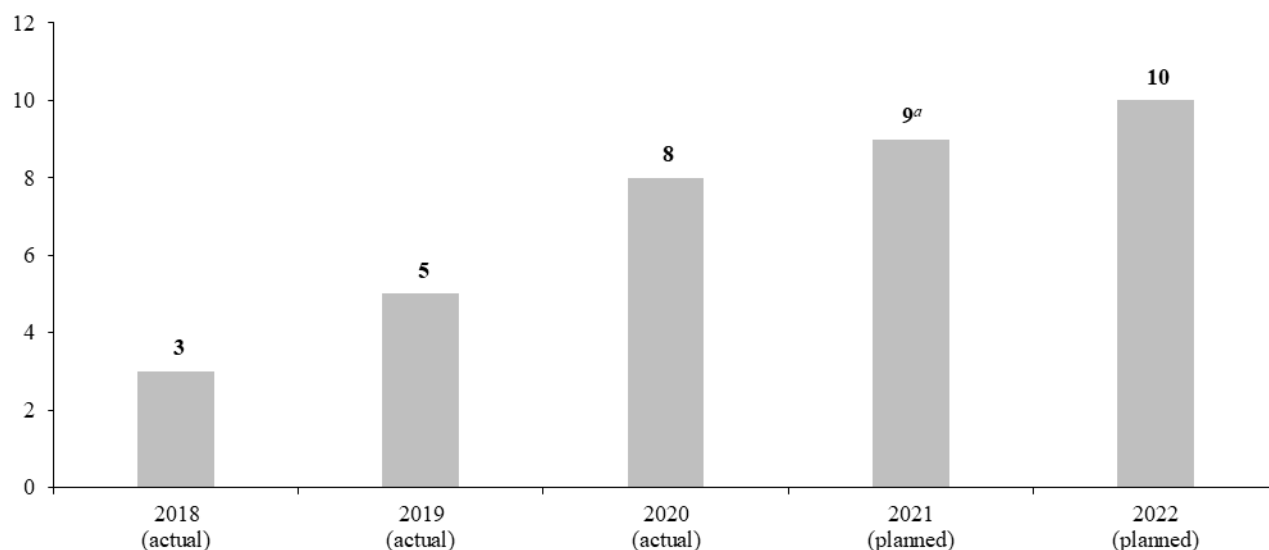
Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.147 The subprogramme will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will support the preparation of the action plan for the next phase of implementation of the Master Plan for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway, 2022–2026, for the consideration of and adoption by the Steering Committee at its fourth session, in 2022. This will lead to strengthened and sustained regional cooperation in broadband connectivity through the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative beyond 2021. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.III).

¹² As reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020 (A/74/6 (Sect. 19)).

Figure 19.III

Performance measure: total number of broadband network initiatives developed and implemented within subregional implementation plans for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (cumulative)



^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

Result 2: accelerating regional policy coordination for risk-informed and climate-resilient development¹³

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.148 The subprogramme has worked on operationalizing the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network through its various activities. In conjunction with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the regional climate outlook forums in Asia and the Pacific and other stakeholders of climate services, the subprogramme has been developing an impact-based forecasting methodology based on seasonal consensus forecast products. The subprogramme produced a policy study on protecting the most vulnerable to cascading risks from climate extremes and COVID-19 in South Asia and an impact-based forecasting methodology paper for the seventeenth session of the South Asian Climate Outlook Forum. The subprogramme also co-organized the sixteenth session of the Forum on Regional Climate Monitoring, Assessment and Prediction for Asia, at which participants reviewed the progress made in climate monitoring and prediction, focusing on seasonal to inter-annual climate prediction methodologies and systems, and discussed climate impacts and services. Furthermore, the subprogramme published the second edition of *Ready for the Dry Years: Resilience to Drought in South-East Asia*, directly contributing to ASEAN policymaking processes. The subprogramme also implemented a series of capacity development activities, including a webinar series, addressing the growing risk of the disaster-climate-health nexus, hazard complexities and the cascading disasters that are occurring in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The subprogramme has also extended technical support to countries, which has resulted in improved risk knowledge and availability of risk information and the mobilization of ESCAP member States and partner institutions to support specific priorities of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response and of other subregions.
- 19.149 The above-mentioned work contributed to 10 initiatives by member States for improving disaster resilience, which met the planned target reflected in the programme budget for 2021.

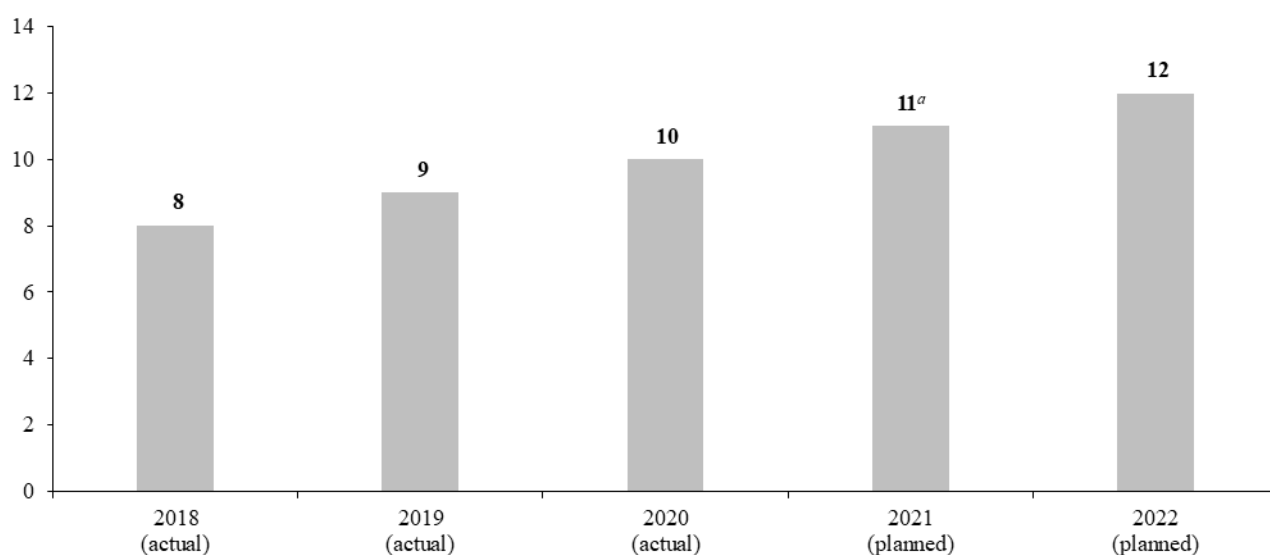
¹³ As reflected in the programme budget for 2021 ([A/75/6/Add.1](#)).

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.150 The subprogramme will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will continue to prioritize its efforts with regard to transboundary river basin floods and slow-onset disasters (drought, desertification and sand and dust storms). The subprogramme will also continue to work on promoting the inclusion and empowerment of at-risk communities in disaster risk hotspots; improving disaster risk information and knowledge and promoting regional cooperation to reduce the risk of transboundary hazards; capitalizing on existing multi-tier partnership networks to build regional cooperation with regard to slow-onset disasters and floods; and promoting solutions through the uptake of innovative technology applications. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.IV).

Figure 19.IV

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



^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

Result 3: bridging development divides through accelerated access to affordable and resilient digital connectivity

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.151 According to International Telecommunication Union (ITU) statistics, approximately 5 per cent of the population in Asia and the Pacific has no access to the Internet. Of those that have Internet access, it is estimated that some two thirds are underconnected, with lower-income and geographically remote countries remaining the most disconnected and benefiting the least from the transformative opportunities for sustainable development that have benefited billions of people in the region.
- 19.152 Given that all aspects of daily life have moved to digital formats during the COVID-19 pandemic, evidence is mounting that the digital divide is accentuating development gaps. Inequalities between rural and urban areas, knowledge gaps between children with and without Internet access and rising unemployment among the poor threaten to reverse the development gains made over the past two decades.
- 19.153 The subprogramme continued to support member States in line with the four pillars of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative, namely, infrastructure connectivity, efficient Internet

traffic and network management, e-resilience and affordable broadband access for all. For example, the subprogramme further strengthened capacities in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia to develop relevant policies and mechanisms for infrastructure connectivity, including co-deployment opportunities across the energy, transport and ICT sectors. To enhance the capacity of member States to implement national strategies for improving the efficiency of Internet traffic management between Pacific island countries and between the Pacific and Asia, the subprogramme conducted working group meetings and capacity training on operational modalities for Internet exchange points.

Lessons learned and planned change

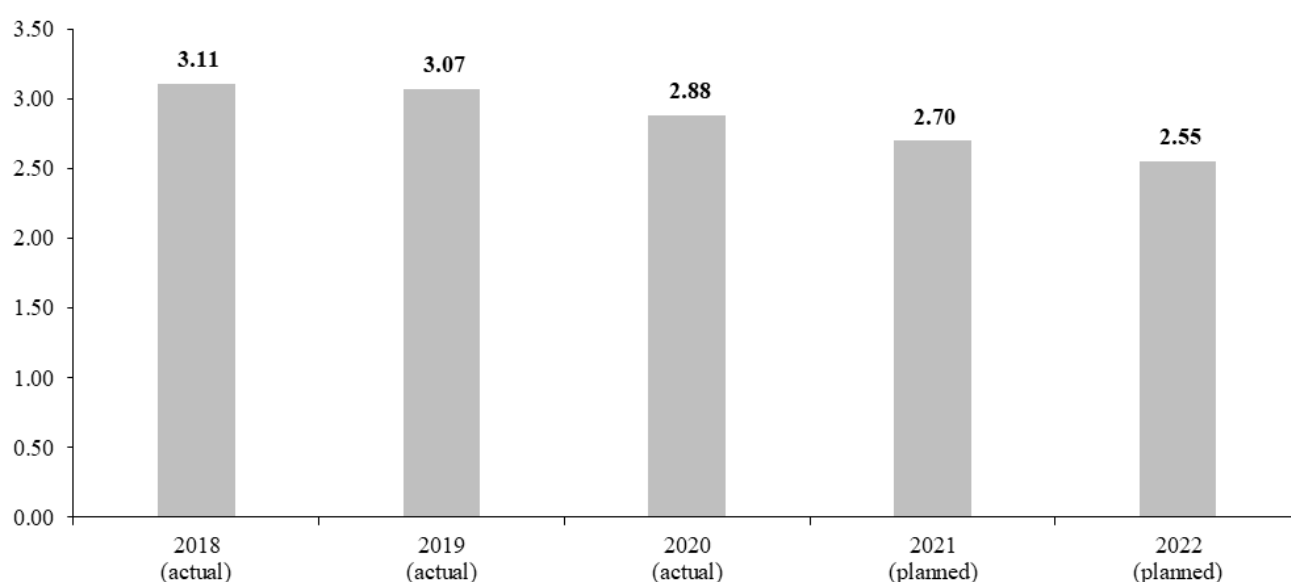
- 19.154 The lesson for the subprogramme was that no fully exhaustive risk assessment or forecasting had been carried out to analyse the possible impact of a crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic on Internet dependence and usage, as well as on the existing digital divide. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will seek ways to incorporate experiences of the pandemic into the next phase of the Master Plan for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway while accelerating the implementation of the initiative, including through the newly established working groups for improving the efficiency of Internet traffic management in countries in special situations (Pacific island countries, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam). In 2022, the subprogramme will also provide analytical products and facilitate intergovernmental deliberations on progress towards bridging the digital divide for inclusive broadband access. The member States will review and discuss this progress during the fourth session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation. The work of the subprogramme will support the development of a new action plan for the next phase of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway, which will be discussed at the sixth session of the Steering Committee.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.155 This work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by declining monthly expenditure in Asia-Pacific on fixed and mobile broadband subscriptions as a percentage of gross national income per capita (see figure 19.V).

Figure 19.V

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



Legislative mandates

19.156 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

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	74/229	Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development
		75/124	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	75/202	Information and communications technologies for sustainable development
74/115	International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development	75/216	Disaster risk reduction
		75/222	Combating sand and dust storms

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	2019/24	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	74/6	Advancing disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific
72/10	Regional review of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society action lines	75/5	Implementation of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration of the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
72/11	Advancing disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific for implementation of internationally agreed development goals	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)
73/3	Advancing integrated and seamless connectivity for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific	75/7	Advancing the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative through regional cooperation

Deliverables

19.157 Table 19.21 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.21

Subprogramme 5: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	5	10	5	7
1. Reports for ESCAP	1	2	3	1
2. Reports for the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction	–	–	2	–
3. Reports for the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation	4	8	–	4
4. Reports for the fourth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific	–	–	–	2
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	35	20	34	32
5. Meetings of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation	3	2	–	3
6. Meetings of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction	–	–	6	–
7. Meetings of the fourth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific	–	–	–	2
8. Meetings of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development	4	2	4	2
9. Meetings of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management	4	2	4	1
10. Meetings of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development	4	2	4	4
11. Meetings of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones	4	3	4	4
12. Meetings of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development	4	2	4	4
13. Meetings of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee	4	6	4	4
14. Expert group meetings on space applications	4	1	–	4
15. Expert group meetings on the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway	4	–	–	4
16. Expert group meetings on disaster risk reduction	–	–	4	–
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	6	10	6	6
17. Capacity-building projects on disaster information management	1	1	1	1
18. Capacity-building projects on disaster risk reduction	2	2	2	2
19. Capacity-building projects on ICT	2	2	2	2
20. Capacity-building projects on space technology applications	1	5	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	14	14.5	14	10
21. Training events on ICT	14	14.5	14	10
Publications (number of publications)	1	1	1	4
22. Publications on disaster risk management	1	1	1	2
23. Publication on geospatial practices for sustainable development in South-East Asia	–	–	–	1
24. Publication on digital transformation for sustainable development	–	–	–	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	9	14	8	6
25. Technical papers on disaster information management	1	1	–	2
26. Technical papers on disaster risk reduction	1	5	–	1
27. Technical papers on ICT	6	6	6	2

Category and subcategory	2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
28. Technical paper on infrastructure resilience	–	–	1	–
29. Technical papers on geospatial information applications	1	2	1	1

C. Substantive deliverables

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

Databases and substantive digital materials: guidelines on space technology applications for regional and global access; guidelines for the development and management of disaster information databases and spatial data infrastructure; substantive blog posts for the ESCAP website for regional and global access.

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: briefing notes and case studies on ICT; brochures on disaster information management; press interviews for major publications and events.

External and media relations: press releases and op-ed articles on the work and activities of the subprogramme.

Digital platforms and multimedia content: regular, typically monthly, updating of 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; regular, typically monthly, updating and maintenance of web pages of the subprogramme for the ESCAP website in seven areas, including the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway, building resilience to disasters, e-resilience, regional cooperation in disaster risk reduction, monitoring drought from space, integration of geospatial information for resilience-building, and space and geospatial information systems for disaster management; regular, typically monthly, updating and maintenance of the website of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management; inputs for ESCAP social media platforms; operationalization of the disaster information portal of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management.

Subprogramme 6 Social development

Objective

- 19.158 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

- 19.159 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme, 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), will bring together Governments on critical issues related to social development in the region. These intergovernmental processes will be informed by analysis and will draw upon the complementary strengths of ESCAP in terms of its regional convening power and the capacity of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to support national implementation to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.
- 19.160 The subprogramme will strengthen 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, so as to support Governments in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The subprogramme will 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. This work will help member States to make progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3–5, 8, 10 and 17.

- 19.161 The subprogramme will continue to provide support to member States in identifying the population groups that are at the highest risk of being left behind through its newly developed Leave No One Behind methodology, analytical reports, capacity-building and training. In line with the Action Plan to Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific, the subprogramme will consolidate national progress and experiences with regard to extending social protection coverage in periodic progress reports; develop a regional platform for member States to share good practices, capacity development tools and training sessions; and provide new and innovative analytical tools and products and capacity development to Governments. This work will help member States to make progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3, 5, 8, 10 and 17.
- 19.162 The subprogramme will be 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. The subprogramme will conduct research and analysis and provide capacity-building support to member States on building disability-inclusive societies and will support other subprogrammes in mainstreaming disability inclusion. This work will help member States to make progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 4, 8, 10, 11 and 17.
- 19.163 The subprogramme will also 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 (Beijing+25), by supporting Governments in accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The subprogramme will provide technical assistance in developing gender-responsive policies in the context of economic empowerment and entrepreneurship for women and will support other subprogrammes in mainstreaming gender. This work will help member States to make progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 5, 8, 10 and 17.
- 19.164 The subprogramme plans to support member States on issues related to COVID-19, such as mitigating the adverse effects of the pandemic on the economic empowerment of women, including by assisting them in bridging gaps in the legal framework for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and in designing strategies and policy provisions specific to women-led micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to help them to recover from the shocks induced by COVID-19. The subprogramme will deliver this support through knowledge products, seminars and technical advice to the institutions and stakeholders concerned.
- 19.165 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 gender-responsive business development and investment policies and programmes;
 - (e) Improved national policies and programmes in support of disability-inclusive development.
- 19.166 The planned support on issues related to COVID-19 is expected to result in the design and implementation of inclusive strategies by member States to recover from the shocks caused by COVID-19.

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.167 Programme performance in 2020 includes the below result that emerged during 2020, as well as programme performance presented under results 1 and 2 below.

Inclusive national policies in the area of gender equality and empowerment of women

- 19.168 The subprogramme convened an expert group meeting in September 2020 to advance the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment of 2019. In addition, two subregional meetings were convened in order to encourage policy dialogue, capacity-building and networking for stakeholders from relevant key ministries and national women's machineries. The events facilitated the exchange of knowledge, good practices and lessons learned by stakeholders in the progressive implementation of commitments made at the 25-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Key recommendations were formulated to realize the ambitions of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda.
- 19.169 The subprogramme also supported six countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Nepal, Samoa and Viet Nam) in accelerating their efforts towards advancing gender equality and women's economic empowerment through the project entitled Catalyzing Women's Entrepreneurship. The subprogramme assisted policymakers and regulators in developing gender-responsive policies for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises that included special provisions for women entrepreneurs. It provided capacity-building support to establish an interministerial and multi-stakeholder platform to foster an enabling policy and business environment for entrepreneurship by women in the target countries. Furthermore, the subprogramme partnered with several government bodies across the six countries, promoting inclusive entrepreneurship in various strategic areas. Technical assistance and tools tailored to specific country contexts were provided through policy dialogues, expert group meetings and other capacity development initiatives.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.170 The above-mentioned work contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by the implementation in Viet Nam of a national policy to support women-owned micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the establishment in Cambodia of the Women's Entrepreneurship Development Centre, both of which supported the achievement of the aims that emerged from the 25-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (see table 19.22).

Table 19.22

Performance measure

<i>2018 (actual)</i>	<i>2019 (actual)</i>	<i>2020 (actual)</i>
19 countries agreed on key strategies to empower rural women and girls at the Asia-Pacific high-level meeting for the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women	Adoption of a ministerial declaration at the Beijing+25 Review including a call to intensify actions to realize the equal rights of women for an equal future by 2030	Two member States (Cambodia and Viet Nam) took policy action towards the achievement of the aims that emerged from the Beijing+25 Review

Planned results for 2022

- 19.171 The planned results for 2022 include results 1 and 2, which are updates of results presented in the preceding proposed programme plans and therefore show both the programme performance in 2020 and the proposed programme plan for 2022. Result 3 is a new planned result.

Result 1: inclusive national policies to protect and empower vulnerable and marginalized groups¹⁴**Programme performance in 2020**

- 19.172 The subprogramme has focused on the realization of inclusive and equitable societies that empower, protect and leave no one behind. In the area of migration and population ageing, the subprogramme supported the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. As part of preparations for the Review, ESCAP and the Regional United Nations Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific collaborated on the *Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2020*, including the organization of an expert group meeting on how to tailor the report for maximum impact to benefit migrants, especially the most vulnerable. A special chapter is focused on the impact of COVID-19 on migrants and their families. Consultations with relevant stakeholders began on the Review to ensure that the whole-of-society approach was followed in reviewing the implementation of the Global Compact.
- 19.173 In the area of disability, the subprogramme developed policy guidance and organized a regional web-based forum on formulating disability-inclusive responses to COVID-19 at the onset of the pandemic, to provide timely technical support to ESCAP member States in protecting and empowering persons with disabilities during the pandemic. Subsequently, the subprogramme convened the sixth session of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, for representatives of Governments and civil society organizations to provide updates on efforts and share experiences in progress towards disability inclusion, including initiatives to support and empower persons with disabilities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to discuss the preparatory process for the conclusion of the Decade. At the session, three ESCAP member States (Bangladesh, China and Samoa) reported on progress in developing disability-inclusive COVID-19 responses, all of which were in alignment with the ESCAP policy guidance on the topic. A policy paper on promoting employment for persons with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region was prepared and disseminated to ESCAP members and associate members. The ESCAP secretariat also provided technical support for the development of the monitoring and evaluation framework of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- 19.174 The above-mentioned work contributed to the development and implementation of evidence-informed socially inclusive policies by three ESCAP member States (Bangladesh, China and Samoa) to ensure that no one was left behind, in particular in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which met the planned target reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.175 The subprogramme will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will support the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, as well as the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific and the Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.23).

¹⁴ As reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020 (A/74/6 (Sect. 19)).

Table 19.23
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned) ^a	2022 (planned)
ESCAP member States with limited capacity to address inequality and marginalized groups through policies	ESCAP member States identify priority areas for country-specific policies for population groups that are left behind, including by developing solid evidence bases	Three ESCAP member States 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	At least six ESCAP member States adopt and implement policies that realize inclusive and equitable societies that protect, empower and leave no one behind	Three additional ESCAP member States adopt and implement policies that realize inclusive and equitable societies that protect, empower and leave no one behind

^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

Result 2: developing and implementing a modality for strengthening regional cooperation on social protection in Asia and the Pacific¹⁵

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.176 To contribute to the realization of inclusive national policies to protect and empower vulnerable and marginalized groups, the subprogramme provided innovative analytical support on leaving no one behind to the Governments of five member States (Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Thailand and Turkmenistan), primarily through resident coordinator offices and United Nations country teams. The subprogramme's technical input was incorporated into common country assessments and joint programmes developed by United Nations country teams; this ensured that concerted support for the member States was based on the most recent available data and up-to-date and targeted technical expertise on leaving no one behind. The analysis used nationally representative household surveys to identify the groups that were furthest behind in terms of access to various opportunities, including in health, education and nutrition, on the basis of the shared circumstances of these groups, relating, for example, to gender, residence and wealth. The subprogramme has recently incorporated vulnerabilities related to the COVID-19 pandemic in this analysis.
- 19.177 The subprogramme also helped to enhance the skills of policymakers with regard to designing and implementing inclusive social protection policies, convened the second strategic dialogue on social protection and continued to expand and develop the Social Protection Toolbox. Furthermore, in 2020, the theme of the publication *Social Outlook for Asia and the Pacific* was "The Protection We Want"; the publication contains tailored recommendations on ways in which countries with different coverage levels can achieve social protection for all. The subprogramme also launched a regional review of social protection policies and measures introduced to alleviate the impacts of the pandemic on the most vulnerable population groups.
- 19.178 The subprogramme also worked with experts to develop the Action Plan to Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific, which was endorsed by the Committee on Social Development at its sixth session and includes actions for closer regional cooperation in the development and implementation of inclusive social protection systems.

¹⁵ As reflected in the programme budget for 2021 (A/75/6/Add.1).

- 19.179 The above-mentioned work contributed to the adoption of the Action Plan to Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific, which met the planned target of adoption of the regional modality on social protection by Asia-Pacific countries at the sixth session of the Committee on Social Development, reflected in the programme budget for 2021.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.180 The subprogramme will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will provide technical advice and capacity-building support to member States on strengthening their social protection systems, in line with their national priorities and guided by the Action Plan to Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.24).

Table 19.24
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned) ^a	2022 (planned)
Countries request the ESCAP secretariat to explore and develop a regional modality on social protection at the fifth session of the Committee on Social Development	19 Asia-Pacific countries officially nominate representatives to a group of experts to develop a draft regional modality	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	ESCAP member States use the new ESCAP tools and the regional modality to broaden national social protection coverage	Through a regional platform, member States participate in peer learning and sharing of good practices to strengthen regional cooperation in social protection

^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

Result 3: 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

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.181 In 2020, ESCAP compiled data on population ageing and information on existing policies on older persons in Asia and the Pacific. The results from the analysis showed that the populations of countries in the region were ageing rapidly and that older persons, in particular older women, were the most likely to be marginalized and vulnerable. In addition, the analysis showed that data and information with regard to policies on ageing, covering most countries in the region, were not widely available, comparable or timely. In 2020, in response to requests from member States to the secretariat, the subprogramme commenced work to identify indicators, collect data and analyse the situation of the older population in the region, and review current policies and develop new forward-looking policies to address the challenges linked to population ageing. This work will feed into the regional review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in 2022. The review will also provide the basis for future work on population ageing, given that the populations of countries in the region will continue to age rapidly and more countries will be concerned about how to address population ageing in the years to come.

Lessons learned and planned change

- 19.182 The lesson for the subprogramme was that the limited amount of age-disaggregated data was a barrier to designing effective policies for older persons in the context of sustainable development. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will launch a survey on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, with a focus on ageing indicators and data and on policies related to population ageing. The survey analysis will inform the regional review in 2022; engagement with member States on the survey will increase their collaboration in the collection of age-disaggregated data and information on policies for older persons. Using the results from the survey, the subprogramme will further focus its capacity-building programme on addressing the specific concerns of member States, for example, by prioritizing work on data and ageing policies, with an emphasis on the needs of older women, in particular social protection throughout the life cycle, and policies on women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship and on enhancing women's access to finance and ICT. Given that the proportion of persons with disabilities will increase in ageing societies, the subprogramme will focus on supporting member States in designing policies to address the accessibility challenges faced by older persons. In addition, migration can mitigate some of the effects of population ageing on labour markets. Therefore, the subprogramme will provide analytical and technical cooperation to those member States in which ageing leads to increased demand for migrant workers. Specifically, the subprogramme will assess progress in the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing so as to inform member States' deliberations on the priority areas for the further implementation of the Plan.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.183 This work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by member States endorsing 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 (see table 19.25).

Table 19.25
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned)	2022 (planned)
Member States requested regional commissions to continue to facilitate the further implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, on the basis of priorities identified in the outcomes of their regional reviews and appraisal exercises and as a modality for the inclusion of older persons in the implementation and attainment of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals	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 mapping of policies on population ageing and the collection of data to monitor population ageing	ESCAP member States review current policies and the availability of data to address the challenges of population ageing as they relate to the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and 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

Legislative mandates

19.184 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

General Assembly resolutions

49/128	Report of the International Conference on Population and Development	74/128	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
65/234	Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014		
65/312	Outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding	75/131	United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030)
68/4	Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development	75/151	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	75/152	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	75/156	Strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on women and girls
73/326	Format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums		
74/121	Policies and programmes involving youth	75/161	Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls
		75/226	International migration and development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2015/4	Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the post-2015 development agenda	2018/8	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women
		2019/4	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development
2016/25	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development	2020/8	Modalities for the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002
2018/6	Third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002		

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

66/12	Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference	68/7	Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022
67/5	Full and effective implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Asia-Pacific region	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
67/6	Enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities at ESCAP		
67/8	Strengthening social protection systems in Asia and the Pacific	69/14	Implementation of the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
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	70/14	Enhancing participation of youth in sustainable development 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	71/13	Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment

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74/7	Towards disability-inclusive sustainable development: implementation of the Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy	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
74/11	Strengthening regional cooperation to tackle inequality in all its forms in Asia and the Pacific	Decision 75/7	Report of the Midterm Review of the Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development including the Chair's summary

Deliverables

19.185 Table 19.26 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.26

Subprogramme 6: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	6	5	3	7
1. Reports for ESCAP	1	3	3	1
2. Reports for the Committee on Social Development	2	2	–	2
3. Reports for intergovernmental meetings on social development	3	–	–	4
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	34	21	18	32
4. Meetings of the Committee on Social Development	6	4	–	6
5. Intergovernmental meetings on social development	6	–	–	12
6. Meetings of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022	4	2	4	–
7. 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
8. Expert group meetings on gender equality	4	2	–	–
9. Expert group meetings on disability inclusion	–	–	4	4
10. Expert group meetings on social policies	8	8	4	4
11. Expert group meetings on population	4	4	4	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	8	11	9	6
12. Capacity-building projects on gender equality	3	3	4	1
13. Capacity-building projects on population and development	1	3	1	1
14. Capacity-building projects on disability inclusion	3	4	3	3
15. Capacity-building projects on inequality	1	1	1	1
Publications (number of publications)	5	4	1	3
16. Publications on gender equality	1	1	–	–
17. Publications on disability inclusion	–	–	1	1
18. <i>Social Outlook for Asia and the Pacific</i>	1	1	–	1
19. Publications on population and development	1	1	–	1
20. <i>Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Journal</i>	2	1	–	–

Category and subcategory	2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
Technical materials (number of materials)	12	10	11	11
21. Policy papers on gender equality	1	1	1	1
22. Policy papers on disability inclusion	1	1	1	1
23. Policy papers on population	2	2	2	2
24. Policy papers on inequality	3	2	2	2
25. Datasheets on population	1	1	1	1
26. Policy briefs on social development	4	3	4	4

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: support for working groups on issues related to social development, including the Issue-Based Coalition on Inclusion and Empowerment; advisory support for the task forces of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network.

Databases and substantive digital materials: online databases and resource facilities on social development for regional and global access; substantive blog posts for the ESCAP website for regional and global access.

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: observances of United Nations international days, including special events on gender equality, population and disability inclusion; media outreach on special events; websites on social development; press interviews for major publications and events.

External and media relations: press releases and op-ed articles on the work and activities of the subprogramme.

Digital platforms and multimedia content: regular, typically monthly, updating and maintenance of web pages of the subprogramme for the ESCAP website in nine areas, including 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; inputs for ESCAP social media platforms.

Subprogramme 7 Statistics

Objective

- 19.186 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

- 19.187 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme, including the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, will provide technical assistance, training and capacity-building support to strengthen national statistical capacity to produce, disseminate and communicate statistical products and services, with a focus on modernizing national statistical systems and empowering national statistical offices in the region to benefit from the data sources generated by different components of national data ecosystems, including administrative data and big data produced and owned by other governmental agencies and the private sector.
- 19.188 The subprogramme will also 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 and enable assessment of progress in the Asia-Pacific region towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the subprogramme will develop or 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 around official statistics.

- 19.189 The subprogramme will also 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 others, 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 bedrock for enhanced statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific. The subprogramme's work will help member States to make progress towards the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals.
- 19.190 The subprogramme plans to support member States on issues related to COVID-19 by expanding its work to transform national statistical systems so that they are resilient to future shocks similar to the COVID-19 pandemic. To this end, the subprogramme will provide technical assistance, training and capacity-building support and will promote cooperation and consensus-building, in particular through virtual platforms.
- 19.191 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in improved availability, accessibility and use of quality data and official statistics in support of sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.
- 19.192 The planned support on issues related to COVID-19, if required in 2022, is expected to result in national statistical systems being equipped to review progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the face of future shocks similar to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.193 Programme performance in 2020 includes the below result that emerged during 2020, as well as programme performance presented under results 1 and 2 below.

Enhanced resilience of national statistical systems despite COVID-19

- 19.194 The subprogramme initiated the Asia-Pacific Stats Café event series to provide a forum for discussing urgent needs of national statistical systems arising from the unprecedented situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as how to continue data collections under lockdown. The target audience included chief statisticians, staff from national statistical offices and other parts of national statistical systems across the region, United Nations country team staff and development partners. Seven of those Stats Café events were focused directly on COVID-19-related issues, including population estimates, civil registration and vital statistics, and household survey and population census operations. One Stats Café event was dedicated to the sharing of experience regarding COVID-19 data portals. Later, the Stats Café series evolved to cover other topics important to chief statisticians, staff from national statistical offices and other parts of national statistical systems, including the use of new data sources and new data methods for compiling official statistics.
- 19.195 Furthermore, the subprogramme published knowledge products to inform those discussions, on relevant topics such as COVID-19 rapid assessment surveys, uncounted deaths and gender impacts, as well as the importance of civil registration and vital statistics systems in assessing the impact of the pandemic.
- 19.196 The subprogramme also promoted cooperation among member States, experts in multiple statistical areas and relevant agencies in response to questions being raised during the Stats Café interactive components, including the use of Earth observation data and remote sensing data to produce official statistics for COVID-19 responses. In follow-up meetings, further technical advice on the use of remote sensing and administrative data, in particular electricity meter data, to produce official statistics was provided to member States.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.197 The above-mentioned work contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by the fact that the Committee on Statistics expressed appreciation of the use of virtual collaboration spaces, including the Stats Café, and encouraged the continued use of such spaces to promote statistical concepts in different areas, and by the feedback received on the relevance of the Stats Café (see table 19.27).

Table 19.27
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)
—	—	The Committee on Statistics at its seventh session expressed appreciation of the use of virtual collaboration spaces, including the Stats Café, and encouraged the continued use of such spaces to promote statistical concepts in different areas; 85 per cent of participants in the Asia-Pacific Stats Café agreed that the Café was relevant to their work

Planned results for 2022

- 19.198 The planned results for 2022 include results 1 and 2, which are updates of results presented in the preceding proposed programme plans and therefore show both the programme performance in 2020 and the proposed programme plan for 2022. Result 3 is a new planned result.

Result 1: stronger policy-data links for better decision-making¹⁶

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.199 To empower and enable national statistical systems in the region to lead the development of and to deliver innovative, trusted and timely products and services for the urgently needed and evolving statistical requirements of the 2030 Agenda, ESCAP member States in 2019 endorsed the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind. The Declaration contains nine member State commitments, including integrating statistics development with national development plans, strengthening legislative provisions and advocating the expanded use of official statistics for the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policy.
- 19.200 In 2020, to advance towards the fulfilment of the national commitments contained in the Declaration, the subprogramme provided technical assistance, training and capacity-building support to member States. This included the review of the national statistical system of Maldives, support for the modernization of statistics legislation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and support for the establishment of systems for exchanging data and metadata between national statistical systems, as well as the development of platforms for data dissemination and reporting in Cambodia and Thailand. The subprogramme also provided knowledge documents on those initiatives to foster experience-sharing across the region.
- 19.201 Furthermore, the subprogramme provided capacity-building support for improving advocacy for official statistics through the use of the "Every policy is connected" tool, including expansion of the use of the tool in the tourism sector in Samoa. The tool facilitates engagement between national statistical offices and government ministries to strengthen policy-data links for decision-making.
- 19.202 The above-mentioned work contributed to five countries demonstrating strengthened statistical systems in the account of progress prepared for the seventh session of the Committee on Statistics, which met the planned target reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020.

¹⁶ As reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020 (A/74/6 (Sect. 19)).

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.203 The subprogramme will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will be guided by the collective vision and framework for action of the Asia-Pacific statistical community for advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda and the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind, and by a monitoring and evaluation framework for both regional mandates, which was endorsed by the Committee on Statistics at its seventh session. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.28).

Table 19.28
Performance measure

<i>2018 (actual)</i>	<i>2019 (actual)</i>	<i>2020 (actual)</i>	<i>2021 (planned)^a</i>	<i>2022 (planned)</i>
Commitment to the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind, adopted by ESCAP member States in 2018	National implementation of the commitments contained in the Declaration	The Committee on Statistics endorsed the account of progress prepared for its seventh session, in which five countries demonstrated strengthened statistical systems	Further national implementation of the commitments contained in the Declaration	Five countries demonstrate strengthened national statistical systems on the basis of the monitoring and evaluation framework for the collective vision and framework for action of the Asia-Pacific statistical community for advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda and the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind

^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

Result 2: Asia-Pacific countries take steps to transform their statistical systems: the case of Bhutan¹⁷

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.204 To empower national statistical offices in the region to transform their statistical systems, the subprogramme has continued to provide technical assistance, training and capacity-building support to member States, including for the use of administrative data and other non-traditional data sources for official statistics.
- 19.205 In the case of Bhutan, the subprogramme provided technical assistance and capacity-building support for the harmonization of statistical classifications used in administrative data by government entities, to enable the use of these data by the national statistical office for the purpose of producing official statistics. The subprogramme also provided technical assistance and capacity-building support to Bhutan, along with Fiji, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Samoa and Viet Nam, for the use

¹⁷ As reflected in the programme budget for 2021 (A/75/6/Add.1).

of administrative data and geospatial data in the compilation of air emission, land, solid waste and water accounts. Furthermore, the subprogramme hosted, in a virtual mode, the fifteenth Management Seminar for the Heads of National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific, on the theme “National statistical systems: responding to the COVID-19 crisis and building better for the future”, at which participants focused on the use of administrative and other non-traditional data sources for official statistics.

- 19.206 The subprogramme also promoted cooperation and facilitated consensus in the area of transforming statistical systems by hosting eight Asia-Pacific Stats Café events on the theme of non-traditional data sources for official statistics and by contributing to the sixth International Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics hosted by the Republic of Korea in collaboration with the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the ESCAP Statistics Division. The subprogramme facilitated the participation of nine member States from Asia-Pacific as speakers at the Conference, including the chief statistician of the National Bureau of Statistics of Bhutan.
- 19.207 The above-mentioned work contributed to seven countries demonstrating strengthened statistical systems, which exceeded the planned target of at least five countries, including Bhutan, demonstrating strengthened statistical systems in the account of progress on the implementation of the commitments contained in the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind prepared for the seventh session of the Committee on Statistics, reflected in the programme budget for 2021.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.208 The subprogramme will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate and the nine commitments made by member States in the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind. The subprogramme will prepare the baseline report, which will provide an overview of the status of the commitments contained in the Declaration and facilitate the related intergovernmental deliberations. The subprogramme will further tailor its work to the commitments prioritized by individual member States at the eighth session of the Committee on Statistics. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.29).

Table 19.29

Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned) ^a	2022 (planned)
The Government of Bhutan adopts the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind at the sixth session of the Committee on Statistics of ESCAP	The Government endorses the Declaration at the seventy-fifth session of ESCAP	Seven countries, including Bhutan, demonstrated strengthened statistical systems in the account of progress on the implementation of the commitments contained in the Declaration prepared for the seventh session of the Committee on Statistics	Further implementation of the national commitments contained in the Declaration	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

^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

Result 3: Asia-Pacific national statistical systems are better equipped to review progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.209 More than five years into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the data are still not sufficient to monitor progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The COVID-19 pandemic was a shock to the statistical operations of national statistical organizations and presented huge challenges to national statistical systems by imposing further urgent demands relating to data and statistics and restricting statistical operations. The COVID-19 pandemic also shed more light on the importance of empowering and enabling national statistical systems in the region to use innovative methods and modalities for producing timely, quality, disaggregated data and official statistics in support of the 2030 Agenda.

Lessons learned and planned change

- 19.210 The lesson for the subprogramme was that communities of practice provided the possibility for real-time sharing of expert knowledge and experience and complemented conventional means of communication and collaboration among member States. Member States also indicated that they were receptive to communities of practice in statements delivered at the seventh session of the Committee on Statistics. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will build on the experience of the Asia-Pacific Data Integration Community of Practice to further promote cooperation and consensus-building in other statistical areas of interest and high priority to member States, including disaster-related statistics, which also benefit from the use of non-traditional data sources. The subprogramme will expand its work to transform national statistical systems so that they are resilient to future shocks by using administrative and non-traditional data sources, such as geospatial data, and innovative data methods, such as data integration. The subprogramme will provide technical assistance, training and capacity-building support and will promote cooperation and consensus-building, in particular through a data integration community of practice. These efforts will contribute to improving the availability, accessibility and use of the quality data and statistics required for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in the region.

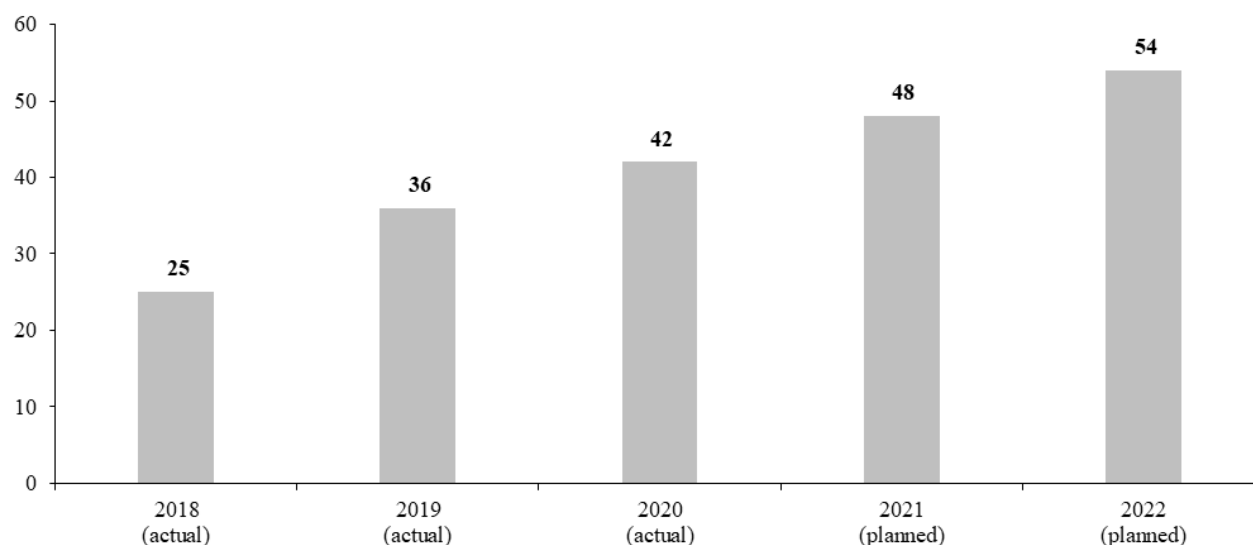
Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.211 This work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by the increased availability of data and official statistics to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals (see figure 19.VI).

Figure 19.VI

Performance measure: Sustainable Development Goal indicators having sufficient data for the Asia-Pacific region

(Percentage)



Legislative mandates

19.212 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

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

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

246 (XLII)	Statistical services 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
65/2	Regional technical cooperation and capacity-building in statistics development in Asia and the Pacific	71/14	Asian and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade, 2015–2024
67/10	A core set of economic statistics to guide the improvement of basic economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific	73/5	Strengthening Asia-Pacific's support for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14
67/11	Strengthening statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific		
67/12	Improvement of civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific	74/6	Advancing disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific
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

75/9 Implementation of the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind

Deliverables

19.213 Table 19.30 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.30

Subprogramme 7: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	4	13	1	2
1. Reports for ESCAP	2	1	1	1
2. Reports for the Committee on Statistics	1	12	–	1
3. Report for the Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	1	–	–	–
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	45	13	15	33
4. Meetings of the Committee on Statistics	6	3	–	6
5. Meetings of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	3	2	3	3
6. Meetings of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Project Working Group on Statistics	6	–	–	–
7. Expert group meetings on the use of non-traditional and complementary data sources in official statistics	6	2	6	6
8. Meetings of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	6	2	6	6
9. Expert group meetings on strengthening national statistical systems for enhanced quality and trust in official statistics	6	1	–	6
10. Meetings of the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	6	3	–	6
11. Meetings of the Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	6	–	–	–
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	5	7	5	5
12. Capacity-building projects on statistics	5	7	5	5
Publications (number of publications)	1	1	1	1
13. <i>Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report</i>	1	1	1	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	2	6	2	2
14. Statistical briefs and working papers	2	6	2	2
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	–	22	–	13
15. Seminars on statistics	–	22	–	13
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory support for networks of statistics such as those of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Pacific Community and the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia in the five action areas of the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind.				

Category and subcategory	2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
<p>Databases and substantive digital materials: ESCAP statistical database accessible at the regional and global levels; database on statistical training materials and resources; substantive blog posts for the ESCAP website for regional and global access.</p>				
<p>D. Communication deliverables</p>				
<p>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: press interviews for major publications and events; multimedia promotional content.</p>				
<p>External and media relations: press releases and op-ed articles on the work and activities of the subprogramme.</p>				
<p>Digital platforms and multimedia content: regular, typically monthly, updating and maintenance of web pages of the subprogramme for the ESCAP website in five areas, including investment and user engagement, skills development, quality assurance and trust in statistics, statistical business process modernization and integrated statistics and analysis; inputs for ESCAP social media platforms.</p>				

Subprogramme 8 Subregional activities for development

Component 1 Subregional activities for development in the Pacific

Objective

- 19.214 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, including building resilience to climate change, sustainable ocean management and reducing inequalities.

Strategy

- 19.215 To contribute to the objective, the component will facilitate subregional dialogues among member States on policy and legal challenges to climate-related migration and displacement, in cooperation with subprogrammes 4 and 6; other United Nations entities in the Pacific, such as United Nations resident coordinator offices, the International Organization for Migration and ILO; subregional organizations of the Pacific, such as the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Pacific Community; and civil society.
- 19.216 In cooperation with subprogramme 7, the component will 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.
- 19.217 The component, in cooperation with subprogramme 6, will continue to provide technical assistance to member States to develop nationally appropriate indicator frameworks and promote women's economic empowerment, social protection and disability policies. The component will also provide opportunities for member States to exchange information and best practices and to engage with civil society to ensure inclusiveness.
- 19.218 The component will strengthen partnerships, guided by the Pacific Road Map for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Pacific Strategy (2018–2022) and in line with the United Nations development system reforms, and will focus particular attention on Sustainable Development Goals 5, 10, 13, 14 and 17.
- 19.219 The component plans to support member States on issues related to COVID-19 by providing technical assistance, in coordination with the rest of the United Nations system, in addressing the socioeconomic impacts of the 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.

- 19.220 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) More effective subregional responses to climate change-related human security issues;
 - (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 most vulnerable groups.
- 19.221 The planned support on issues related to COVID-19 is expected to result in:
- (a) Strengthened capacity of member States to recover from the pandemic through national frameworks for social protection and sustainable development financing;
 - (b) Stronger regional cooperation to address transboundary issues.

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.222 Programme performance in 2020 includes the below result that emerged during 2020, as well as programme performance presented under results 1 and 2 below.

Pacific small island developing States strengthen their capacity for domestication of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

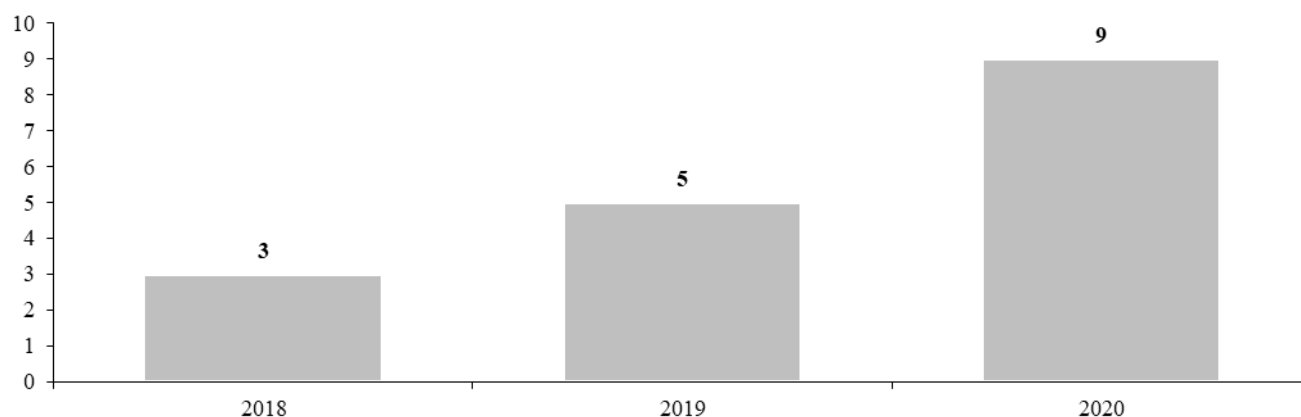
- 19.223 An estimated 15 per cent of the population in the Pacific are living with a disability and are among the poorest and most marginalized in their communities, with limited access to education, employment, basic services and other development opportunities. In 2016, Pacific leaders endorsed the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to support Governments in protecting and fulfilling the rights of persons with disabilities in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. To date, 10 of the 12 Pacific small island member States have ratified the Convention. The component has provided technical assistance to member States in conducting comprehensive State and national legislative reviews to identify areas of disability-based discrimination and provide recommendations for reform towards compliance with the Convention.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.224 The above-mentioned work contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by the number of State and national legislative reviews conducted (see figure 19.VII).

Figure 19.VII

Performance measure: total number of State and national legislative reviews aimed at enhancing compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (cumulative)



Planned results for 2022

- 19.225 The planned results for 2022 include results 1 and 2, which are updates of results presented in the preceding proposed programme plans and therefore show both the programme performance in 2020 and the proposed programme plan for 2022. Result 3 is a new planned result.

Result 1: strong national sustainable development indicator sets for follow-up and review¹⁸

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.226 The component has provided knowledge products and technical assistance to Pacific small island developing States, for example in verifying Sustainable Development Goal indicators and the required data for social inclusion and social protection. In close collaboration with subprogramme 7, the component has also finalized the updated version of the “Every policy is connected” tool, an online application that enables member States to identify policy priorities and corresponding data needs.
- 19.227 The above-mentioned work contributed to the implementation of national sustainable development indicator frameworks supported by the “Every policy is connected” tool and the voluntary national review process by the Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Solomon Islands, which met the planned target of implementation of sustainable development frameworks supported by localized indicators reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.228 The component will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the component will provide technical assistance through training, including newly developed e-learning and advisory services, in applying the “Every policy is connected” tool to the Pacific small island developing States to strengthen their statistical capacity to develop more focused national indicator frameworks for monitoring and reporting, including for voluntary national reviews. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.31).

¹⁸ As reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020 (A/74/6 (Sect. 19)).

Table 19.31
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned) ^a	2022 (planned)
Recognition of the need for integrated monitoring and reporting on sustainable development frameworks by small island developing States	Strengthened statistical capacity through the establishment of national sustainable development indicator sets and technical assistance for integrated monitoring and reporting on sustainable development frameworks	Implementation of national sustainable development indicator frameworks supported by the voluntary national review process by the Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Solomon Islands	Strengthened subregional data ecosystem to produce harmonized and integrated data to guide policy planning, implementation and monitoring	Three member States have used the improved national sustainable indicator frameworks in the planning, implementation and monitoring of national policies

^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

Result 2: Pacific small island developing States advance cooperation for climate change-related displacement and migration¹⁹

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.229 The component has, as part of its capacity-building efforts to enhance the protection and empowerment of migrants and communities affected by climate change and disasters in the Pacific region, organized several subregional meetings, including a series of online policy dialogues, to identify options for establishing a regional process and rights-based framework on climate change-related displacement and migration.
- 19.230 The above-mentioned work contributed to the development of options for establishing a regional process and rights-based framework on climate change-related migration, displacement and planned relocation, which did not meet the planned target of Governments agreeing on the scope of provisions of a declaration on climate change-related migration and displacement to promote climate security in low-lying States, with support from civil society, reflected in the programme budget for 2021. The original plan was to hold an in-person regional policy dialogue in Fiji early in 2020, followed by advocacy and consultations with member States to arrive at an agreement on the scope of provisions of a declaration later in the year. However, the policy dialogue was postponed because of the uncertainties regarding, and later the travel restrictions due to, the COVID-19 pandemic. It was later decided to hold a series of online policy dialogues over three months, from September to November 2020, and the advocacy and consultations planned with Governments were therefore delayed.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.231 The component will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the component will support member States in devising a plan for the implementation of the framework to advance regional cooperation on climate

¹⁹ As reflected in the programme budget for 2021 (A/75/6/Add.1).

change-related migration, displacement and planned relocation. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.32).

Table 19.32
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned) ^a	2022 (planned)
Climate change is recognized by Pacific Islands Forum leaders in the Boe Declaration on Regional Security as the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and well-being of people in the Pacific	In the Boe Declaration Action Plan, climate security and human security are identified as priorities for Pacific island countries	Member States developed options for establishing a regional process and rights-based framework on climate change-related migration, displacement and planned relocation	Governments of Pacific island countries advance cooperation on climate change-related migration, displacement and relocation and agree on guiding principles for national legal and policy responses	Governments of the Pacific island countries endorse and implement a rights-based framework on climate change-related migration, displacement and planned relocation

^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

Result 3: Pacific small island developing States strengthen their capacity for socioeconomic recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.232 Although Pacific small island developing States have recorded a relatively small number of COVID-19 cases, with some recording none at all, major socioeconomic impacts are being felt across the region as a result of economic contractions, job losses and disrupted supply chains, which are expected to cause, at best, a slowdown in national investment and progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The component has been contributing to analytical work and consultations with experts to examine options for improved regional cooperation on the COVID-19 response in the Pacific.

Lessons learned and planned change

- 19.233 The lesson for the component was that it needed to take into account the risks posed by crises such as pandemics or climate-related shocks when assisting member States in the design of social protection systems in order to increase coverage for the most vulnerable and ensure people-centred development. In applying the lesson, the component will assist member States in designing risk-informed social protection systems that are appropriate to small island developing States. The component will provide technical assistance to support Governments in the design of social protection policies and financing strategies for a faster recovery towards sustainable and equitable development. In the context of the limited fiscal space of small island developing States, which has been further strained by the pandemic, the component will support member States in the development of financing strategies and enabling frameworks for Sustainable Development Goal investment.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.234 This work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by new or improved national policies and frameworks for social protection and sustainable development financing by three member States (see table 19.33).

Table 19.33
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned)	2022 (planned)
–	–	Pacific member States strengthen their commitment to expanding and strengthening social protection systems	Two member States in the Pacific have considered proposals on strengthening policies and systems for social protection 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

Legislative mandates

19.235 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the component.

General Assembly resolution

[63/260](#) Development-related activities

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

244 (XLI) The Commission's Activities in the Pacific 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

Deliverables

19.236 Table 19.34 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.34
Component 1: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	1	1	1
1. Reports for ESCAP	1	1	1	1
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	8	2	4	8
2. Expert group meetings on policy and programme options to address emerging sustainable development issues in the Pacific	4	–	–	4
3. Expert group meetings on sustainable development in the Pacific	4	2	4	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	2	5	2	3
4. Capacity-building projects on institutional programmatic priorities of ESCAP in the Pacific	1	1	1	–
5. Capacity-building projects on economic and social development	1	4	1	3

Category and subcategory	2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
Publications (number of publications)	–	–	1	1
6. Publication on sustainable development in the Pacific	–	–	1	1
C. Substantive deliverables				
Databases and substantive digital materials: web pages on economic and social development in the Pacific region for subregional, regional and global access; and substantive blog posts for the ESCAP website for regional and global access.				
D. Communication deliverables				
External and media relations: press releases and op-ed articles on the work and activities of the subprogramme component.				
Digital platforms and multimedia content: regular, typically monthly, updating and maintenance of web pages of the subprogramme component for the ESCAP website in four areas, namely, national planning and policy coherence, social inclusion and equality, climate action and resources management, and the review of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda; and inputs for ESCAP social media platforms.				

Component 2

Subregional activities for development in East and North-East Asia

Objective

- 19.237 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, including sustainable connectivity, environmental sustainability and innovation for inclusive and resilient societies.

Strategy

- 19.238 To contribute to the objective, the component, in cooperation with relevant subprogrammes, will 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. These dialogues will focus on how to make connectivity policies more coherent and integrated across sectors while contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. With regard to regional power interconnection in North-East Asia, the component, in cooperation with subprogramme 9 and building on the regional road map on power system connectivity, will develop a road map for a green power corridor to support increased utilization of renewable sources of energy in North-East Asia.
- 19.239 The component, in cooperation with subprogramme 4, will further strengthen subregional platforms, such as the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation and the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership, by promoting knowledge-sharing on emerging technologies and deployment in priority areas such as the transport, industry and residential sectors.
- 19.240 The component, together with relevant subprogrammes, will facilitate subregional cooperation on science, technology and innovation policies and support stakeholders in developing policies and programmes that are inclusive and leave no one behind. In particular, the subprogramme will support member States in identifying key barriers to gender equality in the workplace in the technology industry and in designing gender-responsive policies. In addition, the subprogramme will provide knowledge products and technical assistance and facilitate peer-to-peer exchanges to enhance the use of science, technology and innovation in ageing societies and for disaster resilience.
- 19.241 The strategy will be delivered by supporting and promoting intergovernmental processes for sustainable connectivity, environmental sustainability and innovation for inclusive and resilient societies in East and North-East Asia, contributing mainly to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 3, 5, 7, 9–

11, 13–15 and 17. The component will further build the capacity of member States to identify subregional challenges and opportunities and to apply best practices for making progress towards achieving the Goals.

- 19.242 The component plans to support member States on issues related to COVID-19 by identifying and promoting innovative approaches to facilitate cross-border connectivity, including contactless cross-border trade and transport, and to enhance the resilience of vulnerable populations, such as women and older persons, through the promotion of inclusive access to science, technology and innovation and support for the integration of these elements into the policy frameworks of member States. The component will also contribute to strengthening subregional environmental cooperation in support of sustainable economic recovery and building back better.
- 19.243 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) Policy coherence and the integration of connectivity initiatives, for example, with regard to trade and transport facilitation;
 - (b) Coordinated actions among stakeholders and Governments to counter common environmental challenges;
 - (c) Enhanced knowledge-sharing on and 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.
- 19.244 The planned support on issues related to COVID-19 is expected to result in:
- (a) Enhanced capacity of member States to apply innovative solutions to build resilience to and recover from COVID-19 and similar infectious diseases;
 - (b) Enhanced cooperation among member States and enhanced capacity through experience-sharing in addressing cross-border environmental challenges, including air pollution and low carbon development, in support of sustainable economic recovery and building back better.

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.245 Programme performance in 2020 includes the below result that emerged during 2020, as well as programme performance presented under results 1 and 2 below.

Strengthened environmental cooperation in East and North-East Asia

- 19.246 North-East Asian countries have been continuously exposed to environmental problems, coupled with resource-intensive economic development and insufficient policy and technical compliance in managing environmental externalities. As a result, progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals related to the environment, including those on climate action, life below water and life on land, has been stagnant or regressing in North-East Asia, while the subregion has made major progress towards achieving various Goals in the socioeconomic sphere. Furthermore, air pollution remains a critical issue of concern in the subregion, owing to the high levels of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), the annual average concentration of which is quadruple the WHO guideline values. The component has worked to support the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation, which has been strengthening joint action of member States on key environmental challenges, including air pollution, biodiversity and nature conservation, low carbon cities, desertification and land degradation, and marine protected areas. The component has built multilateral programmes in key thematic areas, institutionalized platforms related to air pollution, marine protected areas and low carbon cities, and carried out new project activities on biodiversity and nature conservation. The work undertaken by the component inspired member States to draft and adopt ESCAP resolutions [75/4](#), the first regional resolution to address air pollution, and [76/1](#), in which

subregional member States were called upon to take urgent actions for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources through sharing good practices and lessons learned.

- 19.247 The component held intergovernmental consultations and multi-stakeholder dialogues and produced knowledge products in key thematic areas prioritized by member States to strengthen the operation of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation, and developed the strategic plan of the Programme for the period 2021–2025 and the workplan of the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership for the period 2021–2025 for the consideration of member States. In addition, the component coordinated with relevant mechanisms to build synergies and expedite the action taken by member States on air pollution control, biodiversity conservation, low carbon development and halting land degradation for climate mitigation.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.248 The above-mentioned work contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by the adoption by member States of the strategic plan of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation for the period 2021–2025 and the operationalization of the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership through the adoption of its workplan for the period 2021–2025 (see table 19.35).

Table 19.35
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)
Member States enhanced their commitment and support for the work of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation, including the formal launch of the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership and the adoption of its terms of reference	Member States established operational frameworks of the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership by inaugurating the Science and Policy Committee of the Partnership	Member States adopted the strategic plan of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (2021–2025) and operationalized the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership by adopting its workplan (2021–2025)

Planned results for 2022

- 19.249 The planned results for 2022 include results 1 and 2, which are updates of results presented in the preceding proposed programme plans and therefore show both the programme performance in 2020 and the proposed programme plan for 2022. Result 3 is a new planned result.

Result 1: subregional intergovernmental policy dialogue on integrated trade and transport facilitation²⁰

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.250 The component has been implementing activities to enhance the capacity of East and North-East Asian countries for regional connectivity through trade and transport facilitation, guided by knowledge products and subregional dialogues emphasizing the need for policy coordination in these areas. In 2020, the component organized a series of training workshops on economic corridor management, which were designed to raise awareness among officials of the need for cross-sectional policy coordination, in particular in the area of trade and transport facilitation.
- 19.251 The above-mentioned work contributed to the enhanced capacity of member States to implement subregional initiatives on trade and transport facilitation, which did not meet the target of the

²⁰ As reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020 (A/74/6 (Sect. 19)).

establishment of a formal subregional intergovernmental policy dialogue on trade and transport facilitation reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020. The subregional seminars planned to be held in conjunction with official meetings under the Greater Tumen Initiative were postponed to 2021, in accordance with the decision of member countries of the Initiative. Nevertheless, the component has been laying the groundwork for the envisaged intergovernmental policy dialogue, which is expected to gain further support and momentum with the holding of the subregional seminars and other related activities in 2021.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.252 The component will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the component will strengthen the joint policy dialogue between trade and transport officials by ensuring that they focus on cross-border operational connectivity and take into consideration the developments in the subregion in relation to connectivity initiatives, including cooperation with subregional partners. The component will further support member States in bringing their policies and tools into line with the regional and subregional frameworks for effective connectivity. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.36).

Table 19.36

Performance measure

<i>2018 (actual)</i>	<i>2019 (actual)</i>	<i>2020 (actual)</i>	<i>2021 (planned)^a</i>	<i>2022 (planned)</i>
Absence of dialogue between subregional governmental bodies	Lack of a structured subregional intergovernmental body	Member States have enhanced their capacity to implement subregional initiatives on trade and transport facilitation	At least one additional initiative among East and North-East Asian countries on policy coordination between trade and transport facilitation	One additional initiative launched among East and North-East Asian countries on policy coordination between trade and transport facilitation

^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

Result 2: strengthening coordination between trade and transport facilitation in East and North-East Asia²¹

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.253 The component has produced knowledge products, such as an upgraded knowledge portal on North-East Asia trade and transport facilitation and a subregional analytical study on trade and transport facilitation, in which policy coordination for trade and transport facilitation was a major area of focus. In the subregional analytical study, the component made specific and practical recommendations for policy coordination, which may serve as a basis for trade and transport officials to consider how to facilitate coordination between the two sectors. The component also expanded the scope of the study to include challenges and issues related to trade and transport connectivity that emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 19.254 The above-mentioned work contributed to strengthened capacity in facilitating coordination between the trade and transport sectors, which did not meet the target of member States engaging in intergovernmental policy dialogues on trade and transport facilitation in a joint manner reflected in the programme budget for 2021. The recommendations of the subregional study were the key

²¹ As reflected in the programme budget for 2021 ([A/75/6/Add.1](#)).

components for the discussions among and consideration of government officials for the planned subregional seminars. The subregional seminars planned to be held in conjunction with official meetings under the Greater Tumen Initiative were postponed to 2021.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.255 The component will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the component will build on the developments in regional and subregional initiatives to further promote stronger policy coordination between trade and transport facilitation, including in the areas of digitalization, economic and transport corridors, and transit. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.37).

Table 19.37
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned) ^a	2022 (planned)
Member States separately make progress on international and regional agreements for trade and transport facilitation, as evidenced by the accession by a member State to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific	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	Member States implement initiatives reflecting policy coordination on trade and transport facilitation	Member States review and share with other Asia-Pacific subregions good practices from initiatives implemented to promote policy coordination between trade and transport facilitation

^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

Result 3: improving subregional power grid connectivity in East and North-East Asia

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.256 The member States in East and North-East Asia have significant potential for harnessing complementarities in energy resource endowments. In addition, subregional power interconnection offers opportunities to increase the share of renewable energy in the power mix and to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. To contribute to enhancing cooperation towards subregional power grid connectivity in East and North-East Asia, the component worked with subprogramme 9 to build on the regional road map on power system connectivity by carrying out technical and scenario analyses on pathways to developing a green power corridor in North-East Asia and by building trust and political consensus for a road map on subregional power grid connectivity.

Lessons learned and planned change

- 19.257 The lesson for the component was that the component needs to make more effort to strengthen subregional cooperation on power grid connectivity, with a common vision of interconnected power systems. In applying the lesson and in accordance with the regional road map on power system connectivity, the component will focus on building a common understanding and vision in the subregion of power grid connectivity by providing technical and scenario analyses on the development of interconnectors and capacity-building on the concept of a green power corridor that promotes increased use of the subregion's abundant renewable sources of energy.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.258 This work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by member States supporting the implementation of a road map informing the development of an interconnected subregional power grid system (see table 19.38).

Table 19.38
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned)	2022 (planned)
Member States launched the North-East Asia Regional Power Interconnection and Cooperation Forum as a regular platform for dialogue	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 enhance 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	Member States support the implementation of a North-East Asia road map on power system connectivity at a high-level subregional forum

Legislative mandates

- 19.259 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the component.

General Assembly resolution

63/260 Development-related activities

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution

75/4 Strengthening regional cooperation to tackle air pollution challenges in Asia and the Pacific

Deliverables

- 19.260 Table 19.39 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.39

Component 2: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	1	1	1
1. Reports for ESCAP	1	1	1	1
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	11	12	11	11
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	4
3. Senior Officials Meetings of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation	3	3	3	3
4. Expert group meetings on sustainable development in East and North-East Asia	4	5	4	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	2	7	2	4
5. Capacity-building projects on institutional programmatic priorities of ESCAP in East and North-East Asia	1	6	1	3
6. Capacity-building projects of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation	1	1	1	1
Publications (number of publications)	1	1	–	–
7. Publications on sustainable development of North-East Asia	1	1	–	–
C. Substantive deliverables				
Databases and substantive digital materials: web page on economic and social development in East and North-East Asia for subregional, regional and global access; management and updating of the website of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation; management and updating of the website of the Asia Carbon Footprint Network for subregional, regional and global access; and substantive blog posts for the ESCAP website for regional and global access.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: press interviews for major publications and events.				
External and media relations: press releases and op-ed articles on the work and activities of the subprogramme component.				
Digital platforms and multimedia content: regular, typically monthly, updating and maintenance of web pages of the subprogramme component for the ESCAP website in three areas, namely, environmental sustainability, strengthening intraregional connectivity, and innovation for resilient and inclusive societies; and inputs for ESCAP social media platforms.				

Component 3

Subregional activities for development in North and Central Asia

Objective

- 19.261 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

- 19.262 To contribute to the objective, the component, in cooperation with the relevant subprogrammes, will encourage subregional dialogue by providing secretariat support to the thematic working groups²² of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.
- 19.263 The component will coordinate with all the thematic working groups to ensure that priorities emanating from the Governing Council and the Economic Forum of the Special Programme regarding trade and transport facilitation, environmental sustainability, and energy and digital connectivity are incorporated into their workplans and discussions. In the same vein, the component will ensure that the outcomes of the work of the thematic working groups feed into the deliberations of the Governing Council and the Economic Forum. This work will promote a collaborative approach to addressing the development challenges in the subregion among Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations and other international organizations.
- 19.264 The component, in cooperation with the Countries in Special Situations Section of ESCAP, will conduct analytical studies and propose policy recommendations to support economic transformation in the subregion as a driver to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Structural economic transformation is a priority for action in the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024. However, there has been limited progress in that regard, as indicated in the outcomes of the midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action, and efforts must therefore be accelerated. A more integrated approach to structural economic transformation is needed to build back better with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The component will provide support in that regard by promoting a holistic approach to structural transformation. This work will help member States to make progress towards achieving Goal 8.
- 19.265 The component will further mainstream social and environmental dimensions into its analytical work on the Sustainable Development Goals acceleration framework for North and Central Asia to address the Goals related to gender issues, such as Goals 5 and 10. The component, in collaboration with relevant subprogrammes and other partners, will provide knowledge products for policy advice and technical assistance to support women's economic empowerment.
- 19.266 Lastly, the component will organize annual expert group meetings on sustainable development and the subregional preparatory meeting for the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development. These meetings will facilitate dialogue among government officials, civil society, experts and other stakeholders on the themes of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2022 and 2023 and the sharing of information on subregional implementation efforts. The component will also support voluntary national review processes at the request of member States. This work will help member States to make progress towards achieving Goal 17.
- 19.267 The component plans to support member States on issues related to COVID-19 by providing further support in strengthening human and institutional capacity for a sustainable and resilient recovery, as outlined in the ESCAP framework for the socioeconomic response to COVID-19, which is in line with the 2030 Agenda.
- 19.268 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

²² There are currently six thematic working groups under the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, namely, the working group on water, energy and environment, the working group on sustainable transport, transit and connectivity, the working group on trade, the working group on statistics, the working group on innovation and technology for sustainable development and the working group on gender and the Sustainable Development Goals. Uzbekistan has proposed the establishment of a working group on investment and financial cooperation. This proposal will be further considered at the 2021 session of the Governing Council of the Special Programme.

- (a) Enhanced ownership by member States of, evidence-based solutions for, and strengthened regional cooperation on, programmes to improve trade and transport facilitation as well as energy and ICT connectivity;
 - (b) Increased evidence-based knowledge that feeds into 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.
- 19.269 The planned support on issues related to COVID-19 is expected to result in increased digital connectivity and digital transformation in the region to support inclusive and sustainable recovery.

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.270 Programme performance in 2020 includes the below result that emerged during 2020, as well as programme performance presented under results 1 and 2 below.

Member States advance commitments for digitalization and the adoption of digital technologies for sustainable transformation and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic

- 19.271 Structural economic transformation is priority 5 of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and is essential for realizing the trade potential of landlocked developing countries as they continue to introduce market-oriented policies. Ensuring that recovery packages are in line with the principles of sustainable development will help countries to deal with the COVID-19 crisis more effectively and prepare the subregion to handle other unforeseen crises more efficiently. With the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of structural transformation has gained further importance and momentum.
- 19.272 In 2020, the component organized an expert group meeting with three thematic sessions that highlighted entry points for economic transformation relevant to the countries of the subregion, such as digitalization and agricultural transformation. The working papers on the themes of the sessions informed the deliberations of member States at the 2020 Economic Forum of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on opportunities for enhanced regional cooperation to support sustainable and inclusive economic recovery in the wake of COVID-19. At the Forum, the sharing of knowledge, experiences and lessons learned was encouraged among government officials from countries participating in the Special Programme and relevant stakeholders with regard to policies, strategies and initiatives. The Forum participants also called for regional cooperation in trade, transport and digital connectivity to be strengthened, for the network of the thematic working groups of the Special Programme to be enhanced and for further synergies to be built with resident coordinators and United Nations country teams to support the Special Programme.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.273 The above-mentioned work contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by the adoption by the countries participating in the Special Programme, at the Economic Forum held on 18 and 19 November 2020, of the Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Support Socioeconomic Recovery in the Wake of COVID-19, in which the participating countries reaffirmed their commitment to regional cooperation and stressed the importance of accepting digitalization as a key factor for economic transformation and a driver of sustainable development and of adopting digital technologies for sustainable transformation strategies to ensure that no one is left behind in the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis (see table 19.40).

Table 19.40
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)
Recognition of the need to accelerate structural economic transformation by member States	A holistic framework linking structural economic transformation and sustainable development elaborated by member States	Member States reaffirmed their commitment to regional cooperation and stressed the importance of accepting digitalization as a key factor for economic transformation and a driver of sustainable development and of adopting digital technologies for sustainable transformation strategies to ensure that no one is left behind in the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis

Planned results for 2022

- 19.274 The planned results for 2022 include results 1 and 2, which are updates of results presented in the preceding proposed programme plans and therefore show both the programme performance in 2020 and the proposed programme plan for 2022. Result 3 is a new planned result.

Result 1: enhanced structural economic transformation through policy advice and dialogue²³

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.275 The component produced technical materials on structural transformation, including digital inclusion and sustainable agricultural transformation. The component also facilitated exchanges among experts and member States through a dedicated expert group meeting and the 2020 Economic Forum of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.
- 19.276 The above-mentioned work contributed to member States recognizing, in the Declaration adopted at end of the 2020 Economic Forum, that a more integrated approach to structural economic transformation is needed for efficient socioeconomic development with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which met the planned target reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.277 The component will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the component will provide knowledge products on how structural economic transformation can support countries in recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and will propose tangible policy options in line with the priorities expressed by member States in intergovernmental meetings and the new aspects of economic transformation identified in the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, including the development of a structural transformation strategy aimed at improving science, technology and innovation, export diversification, productivity, efficiency and competitiveness in the agriculture, manufacturing and services sectors, including tourism. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.41).

²³ As reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020 (A/74/6 (Sect. 19)).

Table 19.41
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned) ^a	2022 (planned)
Recognition of the need to accelerate structural economic transformation by member States	A holistic framework linking structural economic transformation and sustainable development elaborated by member States	Member States recognized, at the 2020 Economic Forum of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, that a more integrated approach to structural economic transformation is needed for efficient socioeconomic development with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals	Member States in the subregion recognize structural economic transformation as one of the key drivers to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals	Two member States implement structural transformation policies as part of their strategy to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic

^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

Result 2: accelerate action and generate solutions to address gaps in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in North and Central Asia²⁴

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.278 The component organized the North and Central Asian Multi-stakeholder Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2020. Participants in the Forum shared their experiences in preparing voluntary national review reports, including through multi-stakeholder consultations, and discussed how to address the challenges of policy alignment and financing gaps and how to stay on track to achieve the Goals in accordance with national policies in the period between voluntary national reviews. The Forum provided an opportunity for building capacity and identifying additional needs, including for training materials, tools and operational frameworks to enable strengthened and accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda during the crisis. The Forum's outcomes and recommendations will feed into regional and global processes, in particular the 2021 Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and the high-level political forum on sustainable development. As a follow-up to the Forum, the component conducted a workshop in December 2020 on the implementation of solutions to address the gaps identified by countries in their voluntary national reports.
- 19.279 Furthermore, the component prepared a working paper on a framework for identifying drivers of sustainable development in North and Central Asia, in which a step-by-step approach is detailed and qualitative and quantitative methods are used to identify drivers of sustainable development at the country level. The working paper will help decision makers to formulate specific and coherent public policies. In addition, an outcome mapping tool helped to reveal areas of the Goals in which progress was lacking and areas for which a strategic framework was already in place to support interventions.

²⁴ As reflected in the programme budget for 2021 (A/75/6/Add.1).

- 19.280 The above-mentioned work contributed to references to a more integrated approach to economic transformation being made by Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in their national strategic documents, which met the planned target reflected in the programme budget for 2021.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.281 The component will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the component will support member States in developing policies for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through expert group meetings, analytical studies and advisory services, with a focus on identifying gaps in the achievement of the Goals using the framework for identifying drivers of sustainable development in North and Central Asia. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.42).

Table 19.42
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned) ^a	2022 (planned)
Increased number of member States in the subregion are prepared to submit voluntary national review reports at the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2019	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 agree on a set of key drivers to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals	Two member States develop policies or measures towards a more integrated approach to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

Result 3: strengthened sustainable subregional connectivity

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.282 For landlocked countries in North and Central Asia, located at the crossroads of large economies such as Europe, South Asia and China, connectivity plays an important role in trade and transport, power generation and ICT. In the Vienna Programme of Action, infrastructure development and maintenance in the areas of transport, energy and ICT are emphasized as a priority for landlocked developing countries. With contributions from the United Nations Development Account, the component has begun to design capacity-building support for Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in the development of sustainable and inclusive policies on transboundary infrastructure connectivity, and the same approach could be applied to other countries of the subregion. The component organized expert group meetings of the working groups of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on sustainable transport, transit and connectivity; water, energy and environment; trade; technology for sustainable development; and gender and the Sustainable Development Goals. The component also studied challenges in freight transport, trade and digital connectivity triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, owing in particular to uncoordinated border closures.

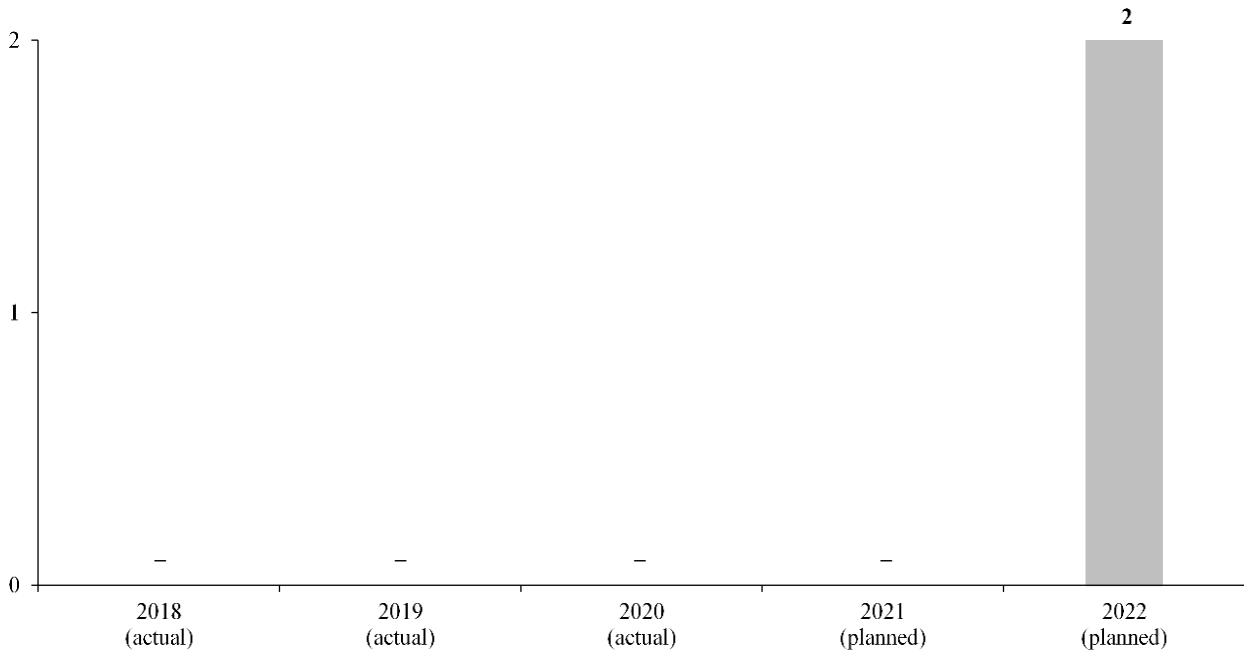
Lessons learned and planned change

19.283 The lesson for the component was that its technical assistance needed to be more focused on the use of digital technology to enhance the sustainability of subregional connectivity. In applying the lesson, the component will incorporate strategies for leveraging digital transformation and new technologies in its technical assistance and policy advice to countries to enhance the competitiveness of trade and transport modalities while contributing to a significant reduction in adverse environmental effects. The component will conduct expert group meetings and analytical studies as part of the existing project on regional economic cooperation and integration and a new project on rail digitalization and intermodal transport connectivity. The component will also continue to collaborate and engage with other United Nations entities and programmes, including the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, and with intergovernmental and subregional platforms to enhance sustainable subregional connectivity.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

19.284 This work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by the development by member States in the subregion of two policies and measures that promote digital technologies to enhance the sustainability of connectivity (see figure 19.VIII).

Figure 19.VIII
Performance measure: total number of policies and measures that promote digital technologies to enhance the sustainability of connectivity (cumulative)



Legislative mandates

19.285 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the component.

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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Deliverables

- 19.286 Table 19.43 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.43

Component 3: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	1	1	1
1. Reports for ESCAP	1	1	1	1
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	12	14	12	12
2. Meetings of the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia	1	1	1	1
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	3	4	4
5. Expert group meetings on sustainable development in North and Central Asia	4	6	4	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	1	1	–	1
6. Capacity-building projects on regional cooperation and integration for the landlocked and transit developing countries	1	1	–	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	1	1	1	1
7. Technical materials on regional cooperation and integration for the landlocked and transit developing countries	1	1	1	1
C. Substantive deliverables				
Databases and substantive digital materials: web page on economic and social development in North and Central Asia for subregional, regional and global access; fact sheets on North and Central Asia for subregional, regional and global access; and substantive blog posts for the ESCAP website for regional and global access.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: press interviews for major publications and events.				
External and media relations: press releases and op-ed articles on the work and activities of the subprogramme component.				
Digital platforms and multimedia content: regular, typically monthly, updating and maintenance of web pages of the subprogramme component for the ESCAP website in five areas, namely, 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; and inputs for ESCAP social media platforms.				

Component 4

Subregional activities for development in South and South-West Asia

Objective

- 19.287 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

- 19.288 To contribute to the objective, the component will collaborate with other subprogrammes, relevant agencies, think tanks and subregional organizations in the area of sustainable connectivity, with a focus on transport connectivity and trade and investment facilitation. The component will prepare analytical papers and provide capacity-building support to advance transboundary connectivity among the countries in the subregion, for example, among Bangladesh, India and Nepal, and between the subregion and South-East Asia and Central Asia. The component's work on transport connectivity will also be supported by the road safety project of the United Nations Development Account. The component's work on trade and investment facilitation will be incorporated into its support for graduating least developed countries to prepare them for post-graduation challenges.
- 19.289 The component will collaborate with other subprogrammes, networks of women entrepreneurs, subregional organizations and other stakeholders working on women's economic empowerment to enhance the capacity of women-owned micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to leverage e-commerce and digital marketing tools. In particular, the component will provide access to information and digital tools for women entrepreneurs through a dedicated portal and advanced training on e-commerce. The component will continue to deliver demand-driven assistance to women entrepreneurs on e-commerce and digital marketing tools to enhance the capacity to use these tools and expand their micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises.
- 19.290 The component will also collaborate with other subprogrammes, planning and statistical agencies of member States, United Nations country teams and subregional organizations to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the sustainable graduation of the least developed countries. The component will provide tailored capacity-building for member States and other stakeholders to ensure that challenges such as economic contraction due to the COVID-19 pandemic and disruptions to preferential market access and concessional financing can be met in a coherent manner. The component will continue to deliver demand-driven assistance to Afghanistan and Bhutan as part of strengthening and building the analytical capacity of their think tanks to conduct integrated analysis of the Goals through evidence-based policy analysis. The component will convene subregional consultations on the Goals to facilitate the sharing of good practices and bring out subregional perspectives to feed into 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, and to support country-level processes, for example, the development and implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, including through contributions to the common country analysis. The component will also leverage the establishment and institutionalization of the South Asia network on the Sustainable Development Goals to ensure regional cooperation and the sharing of good practices on sustainable development. The component's work will help member States to make progress towards achieving the relevant targets of Goals 1, 5, 7–10, 12, 13 and 17.
- 19.291 The component plans to support member States on issues related to COVID-19 by providing analytical support, policy advice and technical assistance on priorities that were identified during the Fourth South Asia Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals, including sustainable global supply chains and the creation of economic opportunities for women to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19 and build back better.
- 19.292 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) Enhanced capacities of least developed countries in South Asia to accelerate progress towards the transition to sustainable graduation by 2024;
 - (b) Enhanced knowledge and capacity of women entrepreneurs in South Asia to apply e-commerce platforms to expand their business opportunities and participate 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.

- 19.293 The planned support on issues related to COVID-19 is expected to result in increased capacity of member States for more informed policymaking in formulating national and subregional strategies to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19.

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.294 Programme performance in 2020 includes the below result that emerged during 2020, as well as programme performance presented under results 1 and 2 below.

Member States assessed their socioeconomic responses to the COVID-19 pandemic

- 19.295 The COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented challenges to the subregion in achieving the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goals 1 and 5. The component reorganized its work in line with the ESCAP framework for the socioeconomic response to COVID-19. The component produced a policy paper on the socioeconomic challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic to the South Asian countries, in which it provided guidance on how to achieve the Goals and recommended national policy action and subregional cooperation to recover from the pandemic.
- 19.296 The component provided a subregional platform for initiating a high-level policy dialogue between the planning and/or economy ministers of South Asian countries and their subregional organizations, such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, to exchange experiences in addressing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and make proposals for subregional cooperation. This was followed by a policy dialogue of the heads of South Asian think tanks to discuss the key areas of subregional cooperation to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, and the ESCAP policy paper provided a background for these discussions.
- 19.297 The component also collaborated with subprogramme 5, subregional organizations of South Asian countries and other international organizations, such as WHO, to organize three webinars on risks from cascading disasters faced by South Asian countries, including the COVID-19 pandemic, cyclones, floods and locust attacks. These discussions allowed the experts and senior officials to identify policy strategies to address the challenges.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.298 The above-mentioned work contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by Bangladesh, India and Pakistan having taken policy action on economic relief and social protection to support a smooth recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic (see table 19.44).

Table 19.44
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)
—	—	India, Bangladesh and Pakistan have taken policy action on economic relief and social protection to support a smooth recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic

Planned results for 2022

- 19.299 The planned results for 2022 include results 1 and 2, which are updates of results presented in the preceding proposed programme plans and therefore show both the programme performance in 2020 and the proposed programme plan for 2022. Result 3 is a new planned result.

Result 1: regional cooperation for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in South Asia²⁵**Programme performance in 2020**

- 19.300 The component conducted analytical work to assess progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, key gaps, challenges and opportunities, including for regional cooperation, providing insights for inclusive, resilient and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. This analytical work informed the discussions at the Fourth South Asia Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals, held in December 2020, at which member States called for transformational changes to address inequalities, in particular gender disparities, to accelerate progress towards achieving the Goals in South Asia.
- 19.301 The component has also developed the South Asia network on the Sustainable Development Goals and launched a web portal for the network to foster subregional cooperation by sharing good practices and distilling evidence-based research findings and recommendations towards the achievement of the Goals, including those relating to challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, for uptake and use by policymakers. The portal is open to government agencies, think tanks, civil society organizations and other stakeholders in South Asia.
- 19.302 The above-mentioned work contributed to the establishment of a subregional mechanism for sharing good practices and distilling evidence-based research findings and recommendations for uptake and use by policymakers, which met the planned target reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.303 The component will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the component will conduct analysis of issues relating to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the subregion and organize expert group meetings to facilitate exchanges of good practices among countries. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.45).

Table 19.45

Performance measure

<i>2018 (actual)</i>	<i>2019 (actual)</i>	<i>2020 (actual)</i>	<i>2021 (planned)^a</i>	<i>2022 (planned)</i>
Interest expressed by South Asian stakeholders in developing a cooperation mechanism for supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals	Specific areas identified for subregional cooperation in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals	A subregional mechanism established for sharing good practices and distilling evidence-based research findings and recommendations for uptake and use by policymakers	Member States in the subregion implement their national development frameworks with the evidence-based research findings and recommendations of ESCAP	Three member States exchange good practices and learning on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals using the South Asia network on the Sustainable Development Goals as a platform

^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

²⁵ As reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020 (A/74/6 (Sect. 19)).

Result 2: least developed countries in South Asia are well equipped to mitigate graduation challenges²⁶

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.304 The component has provided technical assistance and analytical studies to support the three graduating South Asian least developed countries in their sustainable graduation process. The component conducted tailored training to enhance the capacity of South Asian least developed countries to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and sustainable graduation. The component organized a webinar to enhance the capacity of Bangladesh, together with Bhutan and Nepal, to achieve the Goals and address sustainable graduation challenges. Furthermore, the component published a report highlighting the challenges faced by the three graduating South Asian least developed countries in their sustainable graduation in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. This report served as an input for the Governments and the United Nations country teams in the three countries to guide their preparations for the session of the Committee for Development Policy in February 2021 and follow-up action in 2021 and 2022. The report was submitted to the Committee for Development Policy as the ESCAP input for the 2021 session and is available on the United Nations least developed countries portal.
- 19.305 The above-mentioned work contributed to enhancing the capacity of Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal for sustainable graduation through tailor-made technical assistance and policy advice from ESCAP, which met the planned target reflected in the programme budget for 2021.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.306 The component will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the component will provide specific and tailored policy advice, including workshops, training, webinars and technical materials, relating to the impact of COVID-19 on the graduation of the least developed countries to assist the South Asian least developed countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and addressing challenges related to graduation. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.46).

Table 19.46

Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned) ^a	2022 (planned)
Bhutan and Nepal qualify for the second time for graduation, while Bangladesh meets all three criteria for graduation for the first time, in the triennial review of 2018	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 meets 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

^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

²⁶ As reflected in the programme budget for 2021 (A/75/6/Add.1).

Result 3: 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

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.307 For accelerated efforts towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in South Asia to take effect, analytical capacity must be built, especially in least developed countries such as Afghanistan and Bhutan, to enable the countries to identify and harness the links among the Goals and targets. This analytical capacity is also essential to integrating least developed country graduation strategies with strategies for accelerating the achievement of the Goals and building back better in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, which threatens to reverse the hard-won development gains of reducing extreme poverty and hunger, with millions of people losing their jobs. Furthermore, the landlocked status of Afghanistan and Bhutan brings additional challenges, such as limited infrastructure connectivity and high transaction costs, to achieving sustainable development and recovering from the pandemic.
- 19.308 In response to the requests made by the Governments of Afghanistan and Bhutan, the component has been providing assistance, since 2019, in strengthening the capacity of existing and emerging national think tanks for evidence-based policy analysis to support policymaking to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Lessons learned and planned change

- 19.309 The lesson for the component was that, in order to support the sustainability and growth of the capacity of think tanks, the component should focus on enhancing the visibility of their work and securing demand from government agencies. In applying the lesson, the component will facilitate the sharing of the work of think tanks through the South Asia network on the Sustainable Development Goals. The component will build on the work done during 2019–2021 to further support capacity development by providing training, facilitating peer-to-peer learning and contributing to the policy advice provided by the think tanks to their Governments through their research and analysis. The work of the component will also be supplemented by the regular programme of technical cooperation.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.310 This work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by the think tanks in Afghanistan and Bhutan providing input to, and holding informed debates on, strategies for accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and building back better, and by their contributing to forums and debates of subregional think tanks (see table 19.47).

Table 19.47

Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned)	2022 (planned)
Recognition of the need to strengthen analytical capacity for formulating development policy in South Asian least developed countries, especially Afghanistan and Bhutan, at the second South Asia Forum on	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	The think tanks in Afghanistan and Bhutan advance their use of analytical tools in research and analysis to accelerate 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

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned)	2022 (planned)
the Sustainable Development Goals, among other forums		arising from the COVID-19 pandemic to accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals		better, and contribute to forums and debates of subregional think tanks

Legislative mandates

19.311 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the component.

General Assembly resolutions

63/260 Development-related activities

Deliverables

19.312 Table 19.48 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.48

Component 4: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	1	1	1
1. Reports for ESCAP	1	1	1	1
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	8	4	6	6
2. Expert group meetings on policy and programme options to address emerging sustainable development issues in South and South-West Asia	4	2	2	2
3. Expert group meetings on sustainable development in South and South-West Asia	4	2	4	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	–	1	1	1
4. Capacity-building projects on institutional programmatic priorities of ESCAP in South and South-West Asia	–	1	1	1
Publications (number of publications)	1	1	–	–
5. Publications on sustainable development in South and South-West Asia	1	1	–	–
Technical materials (number of materials)	3	3	4	5
6. Development paper series on economic and social development	3	3	4	5
C. Substantive deliverables				
Databases and substantive digital materials: web page on economic and social development in South and South-West Asia for subregional, regional and global access; substantive blog posts for the ESCAP website for regional and global access; and web portal of the South Asia network on the Sustainable Development Goals for subregional, regional and global access.				

Category and subcategory	2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
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D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: sessions at the South Asia Economic Summit, the sustainable development conference organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan, and other subregional events; a newsletter with updates related to the Sustainable Development Goals in South Asia for subregional, regional and global access; and press interviews for major publications and events.

External and media relations: press releases and op-ed articles on the work and activities of the subprogramme component.

Digital platforms and multimedia content: regular, typically monthly, updating and maintenance of web pages of the subprogramme component for the ESCAP website in four areas, namely, 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; and inputs for ESCAP social media platforms.

Component 5 Subregional activities for development in South-East Asia

Objective

- 19.313 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

- 19.314 The scope of the component is framed by the partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations to a significant extent. To contribute to the objective, the component will 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. The component will ensure that strategic and substantive matters are discussed in a timely manner by coordinating high-level dialogues and working-level meetings to ensure the relevance and effectiveness of the analytical work of ESCAP and its technical assistance to the subregion. These subregional processes represent opportunities to address the current challenges and priorities of ASEAN and the United Nations, and to enhance effective coordination among the various agencies and sectoral bodies while ensuring synergy in the implementation of the processes. The component will focus on sustainable connectivity, inclusive and equitable societies, the efficient management of natural resources and resilient development, which are identified in the complementarities road map as priority areas in which ESCAP can add value.
- 19.315 The component, in collaboration with the relevant subprogrammes of ESCAP, will deliver knowledge products on the regional and subregional perspectives on global issues for the member States in South-East Asia; provide a regional forum for the member States in South-East Asia to share their knowledge with other countries, both as a group and bilaterally; and support the implementation of subregional and regional frameworks. The component will also strengthen cooperation with ASEAN through increased engagement with the ASEAN secretariat and relevant sectoral bodies and committees, and through the ASEAN dialogue and partnerships with external stakeholders on initiatives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and subregional goals. The component will support member States in their progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 3, 9, 10, 13 and 17.
- 19.316 The component plans to support member States on issues related to COVID-19 by contributing 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. The component

will contribute to four of the five broad strategies outlined in the Framework, in cooperation with subprogrammes 2 to 6. The component will coordinate joint substantive programming and dialogues between ESCAP and the ASEAN secretariat in the areas of inclusive business, freight transport connectivity, digital connectivity, social protection and women's economic empowerment.

- 19.317 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) Enhanced dialogue on opportunities for fair and equitable access to social protection, especially for various vulnerable groups, and for improving disability statistics, ageing and disability policies and social protection costing;
 - (c) Enhanced policy dialogue and capacity for the sustainable use and management of water and marine resources; the monitoring and prevention of land degradation; and the monitoring of fine particulate matter in air pollution (PM2.5 and PM10) and air quality management;
 - (d) Enhanced policy dialogue on sustainable finance.
- 19.318 The planned support on issues related to COVID-19 is expected to result in improved coordination and coherence of policy proposals and technical assistance provided under the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework in the subregion.

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.319 Programme performance in 2020 includes the below result that emerged during 2020, as well as programme performance presented under results 1 and 2 below.

ASEAN COVID-19 recovery plans are aligned with regional cooperation for sustainable development

- 19.320 In 2020, prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the component, in conjunction with other subprogrammes, reviewed and repurposed many of its deliverables in order to assess the impact of the pandemic, devise an immediate socioeconomic response and develop plans for recovery. In the case of South-East Asia, given that ESCAP is the coordinator of the economic and sociocultural pillars and the cross-sectoral cooperation under the ASEAN-United Nations Plan of Action, the component focused its efforts on ensuring that COVID-19 response and recovery efforts would not be made at the expense of progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. This was especially important, given the scale of the short-term economic impact of the pandemic and the predictions that the subregion's gross domestic product would contract by 4 per cent in 2020. The component therefore worked towards facilitating dialogue and providing strategic and substantive input for the development of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework in line with the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda.
- 19.321 More specifically, the component helped to organize the ASEAN-ESCAP high-level policy dialogue on building a resilient ASEAN economic community in the aftermath of COVID-19. The component assisted in the organization of a high-level dialogue on enhancing complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda, and of the Fourth South-East Asia Multi-stakeholder Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The component also prepared strategic input for the high-level dialogue on ASEAN post-pandemic recovery and the meetings on women's empowerment and disability inclusion. The organization of these dialogues has resulted in the development of joint work between ESCAP and ASEAN.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.322 The above-mentioned work contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by the alignment of the broad strategies of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, adopted at the thirty-seventh ASEAN Summit, with the 2030 Agenda (see table 19.49).

Table 19.49
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)
–	–	The ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, aligned with the 2030 Agenda, is adopted at the thirty-seventh ASEAN Summit

Planned results for 2022

- 19.323 The planned results for 2022 include results 1 and 2, which are updates of results presented in the preceding proposed programme plans and therefore show both the programme performance in 2020 and the proposed programme plan for 2022. Result 3 is a new planned result.

Result 1: enhanced subregional energy connectivity and accessibility²⁷

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.324 The component, in collaboration with subprogramme 9, built on earlier analytical work, including the publication entitled *Statistical Perspectives: Energy and Development in the ASEAN Region*, which provided an overview of energy sectors in the region to inform possible energy connectivity initiatives among ASEAN countries. The component, in collaboration with subprogramme 9 and the ASEAN Centre for Energy, also prepared, as planned, a publication on tracking Goal 7 in the ASEAN region, in which it reported on the status of implementation of Goal 7 by the countries. This publication was acknowledged by the renewable energy subsector network, a working group under the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Energy, and presented at a special session of the ASEAN Energy Business Forum on the margins of the thirty-eighth ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting in November 2020.
- 19.325 The above-mentioned work contributed to further deliberations among member States on the achievement of Goal 7, which did not meet the planned target of ASEAN member States agreeing on solutions to Goal 7-related challenges that can be implemented through subregional cooperation reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020. The three-way partnership among ESCAP, the ASEAN Centre for Energy and the ASEAN secretariat is still being developed to include substantive and intergovernmental collaboration on energy. In the light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the region at large, the component, in coordination with relevant subprogrammes, has focused efforts on supporting the development of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework in 2020. In the process, the component has provided recommendations for priority initiatives to address the socioeconomic aspects of the recovery, including sustainable energy.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.326 The component will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective and in response to recent developments, the component will work to enhance collaboration and partnerships with ASEAN, including its secretariat, through support for ASEAN utilities and regulators in aligning regional power system integration with the Sustainable Development Goals. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.50).

²⁷ As reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020 (A/74/6 (Sect. 19)).

Table 19.50
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned) ^a	2022 (planned)
ASEAN member States and the United Nations identify the strategic priorities and measures to be undertaken by both sides to enhance regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development	ASEAN member States agree on the challenges impeding the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7	Further deliberations among ASEAN member States on the implementation of Goal 7	ASEAN member States identify strategies to further advance power grid connectivity and energy access	ASEAN utilities and regulators enhance the alignment of regional power system integration with the Sustainable Development Goals

^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

Result 2: strengthened cooperation and relations between ASEAN and ESCAP²⁸

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.327 The component has established a focus on activities that will assist and support countries at the subregional and national levels in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. The component organized several high-level meetings with ASEAN and coordinated substantive discussions in collaboration with other subprogrammes. The component has coordinated with other subprogrammes and provided input to the joint report on the Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations, which was submitted to the ASEAN secretariat and the United Nations Secretariat in September 2020, and to the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, which was adopted at the thirty-seventh ASEAN Summit, in November 2020. At the Summit, member States also noted the further strengthening of the Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations and said that they looked forward to enhancing cooperation under 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).
- 19.328 The component, in collaboration with subprogramme 4, provided policy-relevant and scientific assessments, made recommendations on the sustainable management of natural resources in the ASEAN region through analytical products and organized a dedicated expert group meeting to discuss the formation of the ASEAN Resources Panel. This work facilitated the establishment of the Panel at the thirty-first meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment.
- 19.329 The component also coordinated the contributions from countries to the third Asia-Pacific Forum for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, which focused on responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 19.330 The above-mentioned work contributed to the implementation of the complementarities road map for the period 2020–2025, including the establishment of the ASEAN Resources Panel, to enhanced cooperation between ASEAN and other subregions and to the 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), which met the planned targets reflected in the programme budget for 2021.

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.331 The component will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the component will continue to coordinate the work of subprogrammes in the implementation of the ASEAN-United Nations Plan of Action (2021–

²⁸ As reflected in the programme budget for 2021 (A/75/6/Add.1).

2025), the complementarities road map and the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.51).

Table 19.51
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned) ^a	2022 (planned)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conceptualization of the draft complementarities road map for the period 2020–2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noting of the complementarities road map 2020–2025 by ASEAN leaders • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the road map, including the establishment of the ASEAN Resources Panel • Enhanced cooperation between ASEAN and other subregions, e.g., ASEAN event at the regional South-South cooperation meeting • Noting of the Plan of Action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Plan of Action with an increased number of joint ASEAN-United Nations initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Plan of Action with one additional joint ASEAN-United Nations initiative

^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

Result 3: empowering women entrepreneurs in ASEAN to overcome the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.332 The component proposed collaborations with ASEAN at the tenth meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, held in December 2020. Member States expressed specific interest in innovative policies for addressing the barriers faced by women-owned micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in ASEAN.

Lessons learned and planned change

- 19.333 The lesson for the component was that the previous practice of presenting fully developed projects led to less-than-expected involvement of beneficiaries and that conceptualizing projects together with beneficiaries was key for their successful implementation. In applying this lesson, the component will involve the member States at the development stage to ensure the successful delivery and enhance the ownership of projects. In 2022, the component, in collaboration with subprogramme 6, will work on developing a partnership with the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to develop policy guidelines for addressing the specific needs of women entrepreneurs in policies and regulations on micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in the ASEAN region. This activity is in line with the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Development (2016–2025) and the ASEAN-United Nations Plan of Action (2021–2025).

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.334 This work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by the commitment of the ASEAN member States to implementing the project on enhancing access, inclusion and liquidity for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and women entrepreneurs (see table 19.52).

Table 19.52
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (planned)	2022 (planned)
–	–	Member States expressed interest in initiatives to address barriers faced by women entrepreneurs	Member States have 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 ASEAN region	Two ASEAN member States implement projects with a focus on enhancing the financial access and inclusion of women entrepreneurs

Legislative mandates

19.335 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the component.

General Assembly resolutions

63/260 Development-related activities

Deliverables

19.336 Table 19.53 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.53
Component 5: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	1	1	1
1. Reports for ESCAP	1	1	1	1
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	4	8	8	7
2. Expert group meetings on policy and programme options to address emerging sustainable development issues in South-East Asia	–	–	4	–
3. Expert group meetings on sustainable development in South-East Asia	4	4	4	4
4. Meetings on strengthening partnerships with ASEAN for sustainable development in South-East Asia	–	4	–	3
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	–	–	1	1
5. Capacity-building project on institutional programmatic priorities of ESCAP in South-East Asia	–	–	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	–	2	–	1
6. Seminars 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

Category and subcategory	2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
Technical materials (number of materials)	1	1	1	1
7. Working papers 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
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: consultations and advisory services to the subregion member States in priority areas of regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development.				
Databases and substantive digital materials: web page on economic and social development in South-East Asia for subregional, regional and global access; and substantive blog posts for the ESCAP website for regional and global access.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: press interviews for major publications and events.				
External and media relations: press releases and op-ed articles on the work and activities of the subprogramme component.				
Digital platforms and multimedia content: regular, typically monthly, updating and maintenance of web pages of the subprogramme component for the ESCAP website in four areas, namely, climate action, environment, social development, and trade and financial integration; and inputs for ESCAP social media platforms.				

Subprogramme 9 Energy

Objective

- 19.337 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 renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy access and energy connectivity.

Strategy

- 19.338 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will continue to support member States in achieving the sustainable energy targets set out in Sustainable Development Goal 7. It will do so by improving 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 energy to deliver on the targets of Goal 7 and the emission reduction goals under the Paris Agreement.
- 19.339 The subprogramme will also disseminate information on global and regional trends and new developments related to increasing access to energy, increasing the share of renewable energy and improving energy efficiency; and on policy tools and approaches to promote the attainment of the targets of Goal 7, in partnership with international development agencies and development banks. Through its work, the subprogramme will continue to produce evidence-based policy guidance on the benefits of access to electricity, which enables the use of appliances for productive work and improves the functioning of schools, hospitals and other facilities, and on the benefits of access to clean cooking, which reduces the adverse health effects of cooking among women and children and the burden of unpaid fuel collection work, in particular for women and children in rural communities. The subprogramme will 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. The subprogramme will produce policy guidelines at the national level to increase access for poor households to clean cooking fuels. The Asia Pacific Energy Portal will offer up-to-date data and indicators, policy information and energy infrastructure mapping to help to enhance the evidence base for the achievement and monitoring of Goal 7 and interlinked Goals. The work of the subprogramme will contribute towards achieving Goals 5, 7 and 9.

- 19.340 The subprogramme will also work with member States and subnational authorities to improve energy efficiency, increase the uptake of renewable energy and enhance local capacity to develop and implement sustainable energy in urban areas. The work of the subprogramme in this area will comprise data collection and analysis, including methodology design and recommendations on policy and technology solutions tailored to the local context, and capacity-building for decision makers and planners at the local authority level. Furthermore, the subprogramme will facilitate peer-to-peer exchanges and partnerships in the areas of energy efficiency and renewable energy. This work will culminate in the development of strategies by member States for a transition towards lower carbon emissions.
- 19.341 The subprogramme will also facilitate international cooperation on energy connectivity in support of achieving Goals 7 and 17. Energy connectivity is a critical tool for supporting the energy transition, given that it provides an opportunity to reduce energy costs, improve energy security and increase the integration of renewable energy. The subprogramme will produce and contribute to the development of knowledge products on the benefits and implications of energy connectivity for energy security and resiliency, affordability and sustainability. Capacity-building activities will focus on developing a broader understanding of the benefits of energy connectivity and how to achieve them, with a view to encouraging the development of energy connectivity efforts, in particular increased power system integration. The subprogramme will also facilitate intergovernmental dialogue and provide recommendations on policies, legislation and mechanisms needed for connectivity to enable and enhance the transition to sustainable energy systems. The draft regional road map on power system connectivity, which will be submitted to the Committee on Energy for endorsement at its third session, will strengthen partnerships among agencies and member States by providing a clear set of strategies for increasing connectivity, including the sharing of policy and investment information and data related to energy connectivity.
- 19.342 One of the most affected economic sectors during the COVID-19 crisis has been the energy sector, which has seen the highest drop in energy demand of the past 70 years. The crisis has also highlighted the vulnerabilities of the energy sector to pandemics and other crises, as well as the vulnerability of other critical infrastructure that depends on energy to function. While in the short term the pandemic has affected the demand for fossil fuel energy more than for renewables, the consequences of the pandemic have affected the long-term investment outlook for energy, including sustainable energy projects.
- 19.343 The subprogramme plans to support member States on issues related to COVID-19 by offering 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, while ensuring continued progress towards the achievement of Goal 7 and the objectives of the Paris Agreement on climate change.
- 19.344 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) Enhanced capacity among member States to develop evidence-based policies to enable energy transition, in particular the capacity to plan for and realize nationally appropriate targets to advance nationally determined contributions to the Paris Agreement;
 - (b) Increased acceptance of evidence-based policies, strategies and investment plans to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy at the city level for a transition towards low-carbon economies;
 - (c) Greater capacity of member States to successfully advance energy access and enable ensuing socioeconomic benefits;
 - (d) Greater energy connectivity in the region.
- 19.345 The planned support on issues related to COVID-19 is expected to result in member States incorporating options and measures to enhance the resilience of the energy sector into national and local strategies.

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.346 Programme performance in 2020 includes the below result that emerged during 2020, as well as programme performance presented under results 1 and 2 below.

Increased awareness of the potential benefits of power system connectivity in four subregions of the Asia-Pacific region

- 19.347 The subprogramme, in collaboration with the subregional offices of South-East Asia, East and North-East Asia, North and Central Asia and South and South-West Asia, developed a set of reports examining subregional perspectives on cross-border power connectivity in order to broaden the understanding of policymakers of the benefits of power system integration in each subregion. In the subregional analyses, which took into account each subregion's unique context, a range of challenges and opportunities were identified, and policy recommendations were provided to improve power connectivity as an enabler of energy access and energy transition.
- 19.348 The subprogramme held consultative meetings with government officials and experts from each subregion to review and discuss technical issues related to the development of policy recommendations. The subprogramme ensured that clear linkages were established in each report to the achievement of Goal 7, in particular increasing the share of renewable energy in the energy mix and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In East and North-East Asia, the subprogramme and component 2 have begun to collaborate to convert political commitments within the framework of the North-East Asia Regional Power Interconnection and Cooperation Forum into a subregional intergovernmental agreement.
- 19.349 These reports and consultative meetings also provided the basis for the publication entitled *Electricity Connectivity Road Map for Asia and the Pacific: Strategies towards Interconnecting the Region's Grids*. This work has also supported the revision of the draft regional road map on power system connectivity. Furthermore, the secretariat published *Regional Power Grid Connectivity for Sustainable Development in North-East Asia: Policies and Strategies*, which provided an analysis of 130 studies and gave policymakers and other stakeholders an overview of the potential benefits of regional power grid interconnection in the subregion and a set of recommendations designed to guide and facilitate increased cooperation on connectivity among the Governments of North-East Asia.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.350 The above-mentioned work contributed to the objective, as demonstrated by the agreement of member States to submit the draft regional road map on power system connectivity, thereby promoting cross-border electricity connectivity for sustainable development, for endorsement by the Committee on Energy at its third session (see table 19.54).

Table 19.54
Performance measure

2018 (actual)	2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)
Political willingness to initiate a process to develop a regional road map on energy connectivity demonstrated through the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Energy Transition towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies in Asia and the Pacific at the second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum	Member States provided inputs to a draft regional road map to inform policy dialogue on the regional approach to power connectivity	Member States reviewed the draft road map at an informal consultative meeting and recommended its submission to the Committee on Energy for consideration at its third session

Planned results for 2022

- 19.351 The planned results for 2022 include results 1 and 2, which are updates of results presented in the preceding proposed programme plans and therefore show both the programme performance in 2020 and the proposed programme plan for 2022. Result 3 is a new planned result.

Result 1: changing course: Goal 7 national road maps to set Asia and the Pacific on track for sustainable energy by 2030²⁹

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.352 The subprogramme provided capacity-building support to member States, including toolkits to support the development of enabling policies and strategies to attain each target of Goal 7 and conducted training for the development of Goal 7 road maps. Furthermore, the subprogramme incorporated into the toolkits issues related to interlinkages among the targets of Goal 7 and between Goal 7 and other Goals, such as Goals 1 and 13.
- 19.353 The above-mentioned work contributed to three finalized Goal 7 national road maps, without a further increase in 2020, which did not meet the planned target of nine Goal 7 national road maps in the Asia-Pacific region reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020. The scope of the national road maps has been expanded to include an assessment of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on energy scenarios, and policy recommendations have been adjusted to include pandemic response measures alongside the Goal 7-focused actions. Data collection has proved to be complex in many countries, with more time taken than expected to assemble the datasets necessary to conduct the analysis. The subprogramme will respond to the request of the South Pacific Community to train its staff on the use of the tool with a view to developing national road maps in the Pacific.

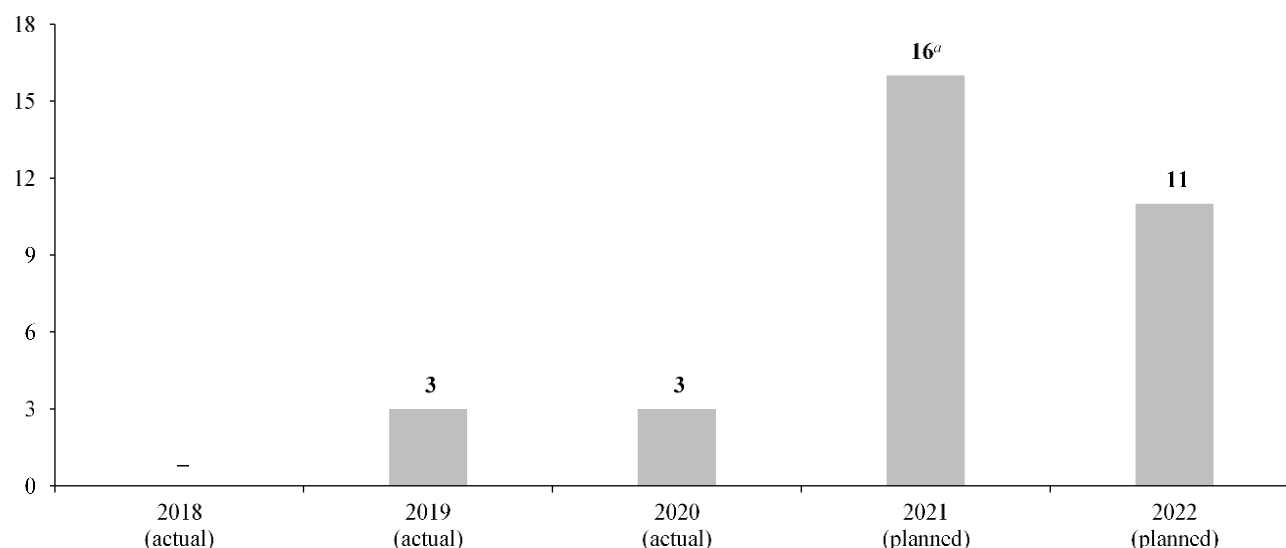
Proposed programme plan for 2022

- 19.354 The subprogramme will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will provide tailored technical assistance to member States, upon request, in developing national strategies to address the gap between the existing energy policies and the targets of Goal 7, including ensuring access to electricity and clean cooking fuels and technologies, enhancing energy efficiency and increasing the uptake of renewable energy, which are linked to the implementation of nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement. This work will include technical support for the development of Goal 7 national road maps and capacity-building on modelling, energy financing and the implementation of clean energy strategies. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.IX).

²⁹ As reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2020 (A/74/6 (Sect. 19)).

Figure 19.IX

Performance measure: total number of Goal 7 national road maps in the Asia-Pacific region (cumulative)



^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

Result 2: evidence-based and people-focused planning for sustainable energy³⁰

Programme performance in 2020

- 19.355 The subprogramme has developed knowledge products on access to electricity and cleaner fuel, especially in rural areas, and has initiated a series of national workshops to support countries in assessing the strategies and policies necessary to address universal access to clean fuels and technologies. In 2020, the subprogramme conducted a systematic review of clean cooking and quantified the impact of clean cooking programmes and policies on health impacts and the adoption of clean cooking practices across 46,115 households globally. As part of the review, the subprogramme identified the technologies and programmes that work, as well as the key barriers to reducing adverse health impacts and increasing the adoption of clean cooking practices. Its findings may be used to inform future programmes and policies. The subprogramme then analysed various policies and strategies on clean cooking fuel and technologies in South-East Asian countries to identify their effectiveness in creating an enabling environment for the promotion of clean cooking. The subprogramme also conducted data-collection and stakeholder mapping exercises in multiple countries with a view to identifying existing evidence-based policies for attaining universal access. The subprogramme and its partners identified key challenges and opportunities, as well as appropriate stakeholders across health, energy and environment portfolios at the national and regional levels to exchange views and experiences and to communicate the urgency of clean cooking to energy policymakers.
- 19.356 The above-mentioned work contributed to three Goal 7 national road maps in the Asia-Pacific region, which did not meet the planned target of nine Goal 7 national road maps in the Asia-Pacific region reflected in the programme budget for 2021. Not all countries have the capacity to obtain access to clean cooking, and national studies on clean cooking have proved necessary to contribute to the development of Goal 7 national road maps for countries with special needs. These reports included strategies for attaining universal access to clean cooking fuel and technologies.

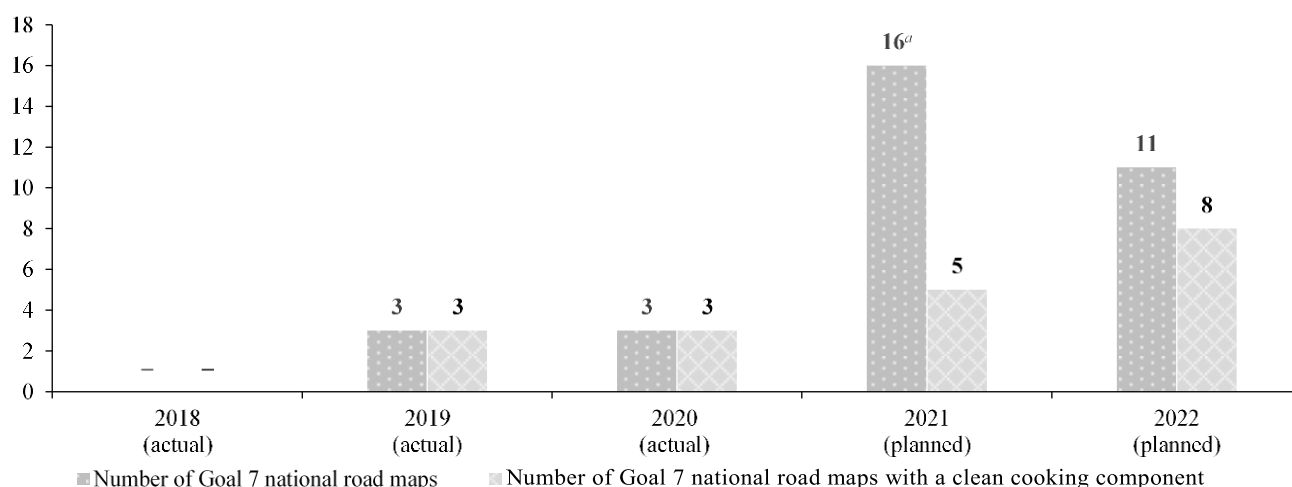
³⁰ As reflected in the programme budget for 2021 (A/75/6/Add.1).

Proposed programme plan for 2022

19.357 The subprogramme will continue the work related to the planned result, in line with its mandate. To contribute to further progress towards the objective, the subprogramme will conduct studies on clean cooking in two additional countries in 2021. In 2022, three additional countries will be analysed, with priority given to countries with special needs in the Asia-Pacific region. Furthermore, the subprogramme will provide policy analysis on clean cooking and recommendations to accelerate efforts to reach the target by 2030. The expected progress is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.X).

Figure 19.X

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



^a To maintain accountability for initial programme plans, the 2021 target is carried forward from the programme budget for 2021 and reflects best estimates at that point in time before the COVID-19 pandemic. Programme performance for 2021 will be reported in the proposed programme budget for 2023.

Result 3: localization of Goal 7: evidence-based energy efficiency and renewable strategies for urban areas

Proposed programme plan for 2022

19.358 Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals is key to making the goals relevant and real for communities, households and individuals, including those who are most at risk of being left behind. Localization is the process of taking into account subnational contexts in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, from setting goals and targets, to determining the means of implementation and using indicators to measure and monitor progress. Effective policy development at the national and subnational levels is therefore crucial for achieving the Goals and meeting their underlying targets. The subprogramme, in partnership with UNEP, developed an analytical framework for establishing a baseline and tracking progress in cities under each target of Goal 7. In 2020, 19 South-East Asian cities were chosen, on the basis of a survey administered by the subprogramme, to prepare fact sheets on Goal 7 localization, known as “snapshots”, addressing the interlinkages of this Goal with other Goals. The 19 snapshots were used to select five cities to conduct detailed studies, which are expected to be completed in 2021.

Lessons learned and planned change

19.359 The lesson for the subprogramme was that there is a high demand for support on local strategies to complement the Goal 7 national road maps, as cities differ significantly in their progress and efforts towards the localization of Goal 7. The subprogramme identified that there is demand for capacity-

building and access to financial resources to support the implementation of and mechanisms to complement coordination efforts among the national, subnational and local levels of governance and robust energy data-collection and monitoring systems.

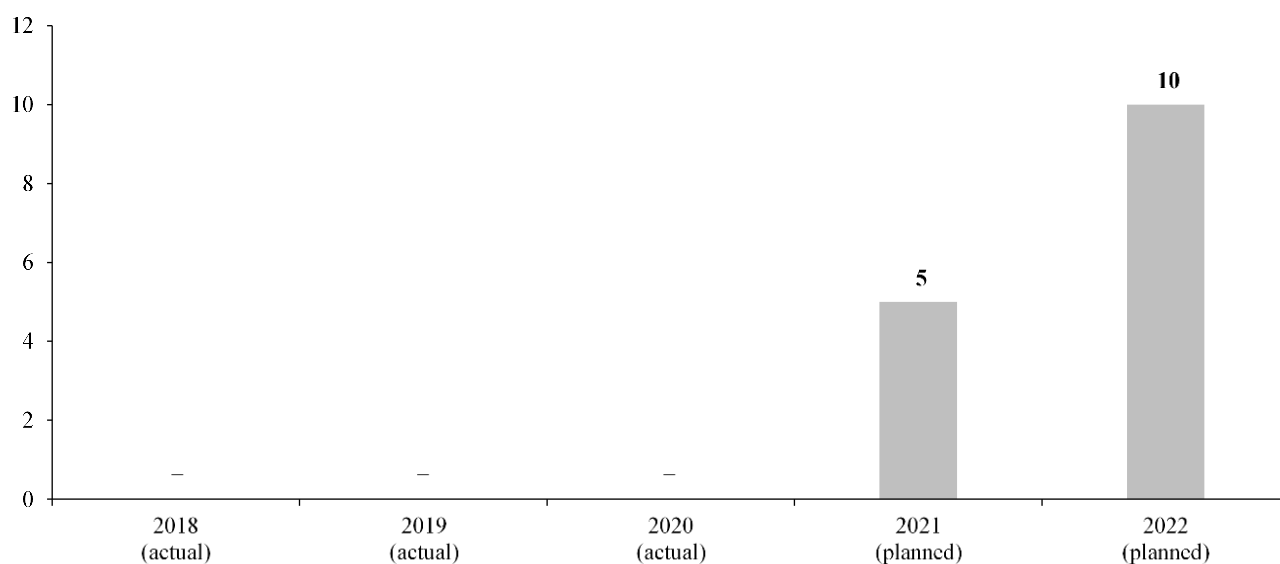
- 19.360 In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will develop comprehensive city road maps on Goal 7. The subprogramme will also publish the results of the analysis of the localization of Goal 7 in the participating cities and will organize a regional meeting to share the experience of South-East Asia in developing strategies to support the attainment of Goal 7. In 2022, the subprogramme will further support the cities in identifying areas for action to accelerate their progress towards achieving the targets of Goal 7. In order to provide robust recommendations on such areas, tailored to the local context of each city under analysis, the subprogramme will conduct detailed studies with the application of integrated modelling of the Goals using the national expert Sustainable Development Goal tool for energy planning. The subprogramme will also support the enhancement of capacity of subnational and local governments and other relevant stakeholders for the localization of Goal 7 through e-learning modules, which will be available for any city in the world and will enable the engagement of more cities in the region. In this way, the subprogramme will also be able to offer capacity-building support to cities that may still be affected by travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.361 This work is expected to contribute to the objective, as demonstrated by the uptake by selected cities of 10 Goal 7 city road maps that provide detailed analysis and development strategies for transiting to a low carbon future (see figure 19.XI).

Figure 19.XI

Performance measure: total number of localized Goal 7 city road maps taken up by Asia-Pacific cities (cumulative)



Legislative mandates

- 19.362 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the subprogramme.

General Assembly resolutions

65/151	International Year of Sustainable Energy for All	75/221	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	2013/19	Conclusion of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development
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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	70/9	Implementation of the outcomes of the first 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
68/11	Connectivity for energy security	74/9	Implementation of the outcomes of the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum

Deliverables

- 19.363 Table 19.55 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2020–2022 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.55

Subprogramme 9: deliverables for the period 2020–2022, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2020 planned	2020 actual	2021 planned	2022 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	1	2	1
1. Reports for ESCAP	1	1	1	1
2. Reports for the Committee on Energy	–	–	1	–
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	10	6	16	10
3. Meetings of the Committee on Energy	–	–	6	–
4. Expert working group meetings to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7	4	1	4	4
5. Expert working group meetings on energy connectivity and regional cooperation	4	4	4	4
6. Meetings of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment (energy-related issues)	2	1	2	2
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	3	5	2	2
7. Capacity-building projects on the implementation of Goal 7	3	5	2	2
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	1	1	1	1
8. Policy dialogues on energy	1	1	1	1
Publications (number of publications)	1	1	1	4
9. Publications on energy	1	1	1	4
Technical materials (number of materials)	1	2	1	2
10. Technical materials on energy	1	2	1	2
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: policy advice to all member States, upon request, on the implementation of Goal 7.				
Databases and substantive digital materials: regular, typically monthly, updates of the Asia Pacific Energy Portal, including policy information, data and infrastructure maps for regional and global access; substantive blog posts for the ESCAP website for regional and global access.				

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2020 actual</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>
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D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: information materials on subregional statistical perspectives on sustainable energy targeted at government officials and technical experts in the region; and press interviews for major publications and events.

External and media relations: press releases and op-ed articles on the work and activities of the subprogramme.

Digital platforms and multimedia content: regular, typically monthly, updating and maintenance of web pages of the subprogramme for the ESCAP website in six areas, namely, renewable energy, energy efficiency, cleaner use of fossil fuels, access to electricity, access to clean cooking, and energy connectivity and regional cooperation; and inputs for ESCAP social media platforms.

B. Proposed post and non-post resource requirements for 2022

Overview

19.364 The proposed regular budget resources for 2022, including the breakdown of resource changes, as applicable, are reflected in tables 19.56 to 19.58.

Table 19.56

Overall: evolution of financial resources by object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	2020 expenditure	2021 appropriation	Changes					2022 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Post	47 062.1	52 113.1	—	—	—	—	—	52 113.1
Other staff costs	464.8	824.4	—	—	(38.8)	(38.8)	(4.7)	785.6
Hospitality	0.6	5.5	—	—	—	—	—	5.5
Consultants	472.1	279.6	—	—	18.0	18.0	6.4	297.6
Experts	12.2	372.3	—	—	34.1	34.1	9.2	406.4
Travel of staff	51.7	441.1	—	—	(40.8)	(40.8)	(9.2)	400.3
Contractual services	1 111.3	1 063.2	—	—	4.7	4.7	0.4	1 067.9
General operating expenses	2 553.6	2 063.4	—	—	(51.9)	(51.9)	(2.5)	2 011.5
Supplies and materials	108.2	223.1	—	—	32.9	32.9	14.7	256.0
Furniture and equipment	1 753.9	572.1	—	—	(112.9)	(112.9)	(19.7)	459.2
Improvement of premises	109.5	30.1	—	—	14.9	14.9	49.5	45.0
Grants and contributions	909.7	1 083.8	(1 083.8)	—	—	(1 083.8)	(100.0)	—
Other	5.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	54 615.5	59 071.7	(1 083.8)	—	(139.8)	(1 223.6)	(2.1)	57 848.1

Table 19.57

Overall: proposed posts and post changes for 2022

(Number of posts)

	Number	Details
Approved for 2021	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
Post changes	—	
Proposed 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

Note: The following abbreviations are used in tables and figures: LL, Local level; NPO, National Professional Officer; USG, Under-Secretary-General.

Table 19.58

Overall: proposed posts by category and grade^a

(Number of posts)

Category and grade	2021 approved	Changes				2022 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

^a Includes four temporary posts (three P-4 and one P-3) that were approved pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/272.

19.365 Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2022 are reflected in tables 19.59 to 19.61 and figure 19.XII.

19.366 As reflected in tables 19.59 (1) and 19.60 (1), the overall resources proposed for 2022 amount to \$57,848,100 before recosting, reflecting a net decrease of \$1,223,600 (or 2.1 per cent) compared with the appropriation for 2021. 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 19.59

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

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Component/subprogramme	Changes							2022 estimate (before recosting)
	2020 expenditure	2021 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
A. Policymaking organs	219.0	460.9	—	—	(11.0)	(11.0)	(2.4)	449.9
B. Executive direction and management	3 412.2	4 142.6	—	—	(6.7)	(6.7)	(0.2)	4 135.9
C. Programme of work								
1. Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development	3 954.0	3 190.3	—	—	(12.0)	(12.0)	(0.4)	3 178.3
2. Trade, investment and innovation	3 209.0	3 461.5	—	—	(6.0)	(6.0)	(0.2)	3 455.5

Section 19 Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

Component/subprogramme	2020 expenditure	2021 appropriation	Technical adjustments	Changes				2022 estimate (before recosting)
				New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
3. Transport	3 076.5	3 536.6	—	—	25.6	25.6	0.7	3 562.2
4. Environment and development	3 051.5	3 102.1	—	—	(9.7)	(9.7)	(0.3)	3 092.4
5. Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management	2 618.2	2 961.7	—	—	3.3	3.3	0.1	2 965.0
6. Social development	3 522.5	4 200.8	—	—	(6.8)	(6.8)	(0.2)	4 194.0
7. Statistics	2 908.6	3 221.9	—	—	(3.7)	(3.7)	(0.1)	3 218.2
8. Subregional activities for development	3 840.5	4 528.8	—	—	(18.0)	(18.0)	(0.4)	4 510.8
9. Energy	1 670.2	1 898.3	—	—	(3.4)	(3.4)	(0.2)	1 894.9
Subtotal, C	27 851.1	30 102.0	—	—	(30.7)	(30.7)	(0.1)	30 071.3
D. Programme support	23 133.3	24 366.2	(1 083.8)	—	(91.4)	(1 175.2)	(4.8)	23 191.0
Subtotal, 1	54 615.5	59 071.7	(1 083.8)	—	(139.8)	(1 223.6)	(2.1)	57 848.1

(2) Extrabudgetary

Component/subprogramme	2020 expenditure	2021 estimate	Change	Percentage	2022 estimate
A. Policymaking organs	—	—	—	—	—
B. Executive direction and management	101.3	187.7	49.6	26.4	237.3
C. Programme of work					
1. Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development	161.6	519.5	(276.2)	(53.2)	243.3
2. Trade, investment and innovation	2 229.5	2 981.2	(1 079.9)	(36.2)	1 901.3
3. Transport	462.6	452.3	263.2	58.2	715.5
4. Environment and development	2 137.5	5 434.0	(498.5)	(9.2)	4 935.5
5. Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management	2 225.8	4 046.7	281.1	6.9	4 327.8
6. Social development	869.9	1 367.2	(231.4)	(16.9)	1 135.8
7. Statistics	2 169.2	2 974.2	78.4	2.6	3 052.6
8. Subregional activities for development	1 446.4	2 791.2	(268.9)	(9.6)	2 522.3
9. Energy	805.2	514.0	572.6	111.4	1 086.6
Subtotal, C	12 507.6	21 080.3	(1 159.6)	(5.5)	19 310.6
D. Programme support	4 242.7	5 090.5	(19.9)	(0.4)	5 070.6
Subtotal, 2	16 851.7	26 358.5	(1 129.9)	(4.3)	25 228.6
Total	71 467.2	85 430.2	(2 363.5)	(3.3)	83 076.7

Table 19.60

Overall: proposed posts for 2022 by source of funding, component and subprogramme

(Number of posts)

(1) *Regular budget*

Component/subprogramme	2021 approved	Changes				2022 proposed
		Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	
A. Policymaking organs	—	—	—	—	—	—
B. Executive direction and management	24	—	—	—	—	24
C. Programme of work						
1. Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development	23	—	—	—	—	23
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
Subtotal, C	207	—	—	—	—	207
D. Programme support	187	—	—	—	—	187
Subtotal, 1	418	—	—	—	—	418

(2) *Extrabudgetary*

Component/subprogramme	2021 estimate	Change	2022 estimate
A. Policymaking organs	—	—	—
B. Executive direction and management	1	—	1
C. Programme of work			
1. Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development	2	(2)	—
2. Trade, investment and innovation	9	—	9
3. Transport	2	—	2
4. Environment and development	11	(1)	10
5. Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management	18	2	20
6. Social development	3	—	3
7. Statistics	10	—	10
8. Subregional activities for development	21	—	21
9. Energy	—	—	—
Subtotal, C	76	(1)	75
D. Programme support	34	—	34
Subtotal, 2	111	(1)	110
Total	529	(1)	528

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

Table 19.61

Overall: evolution of financial and post resources

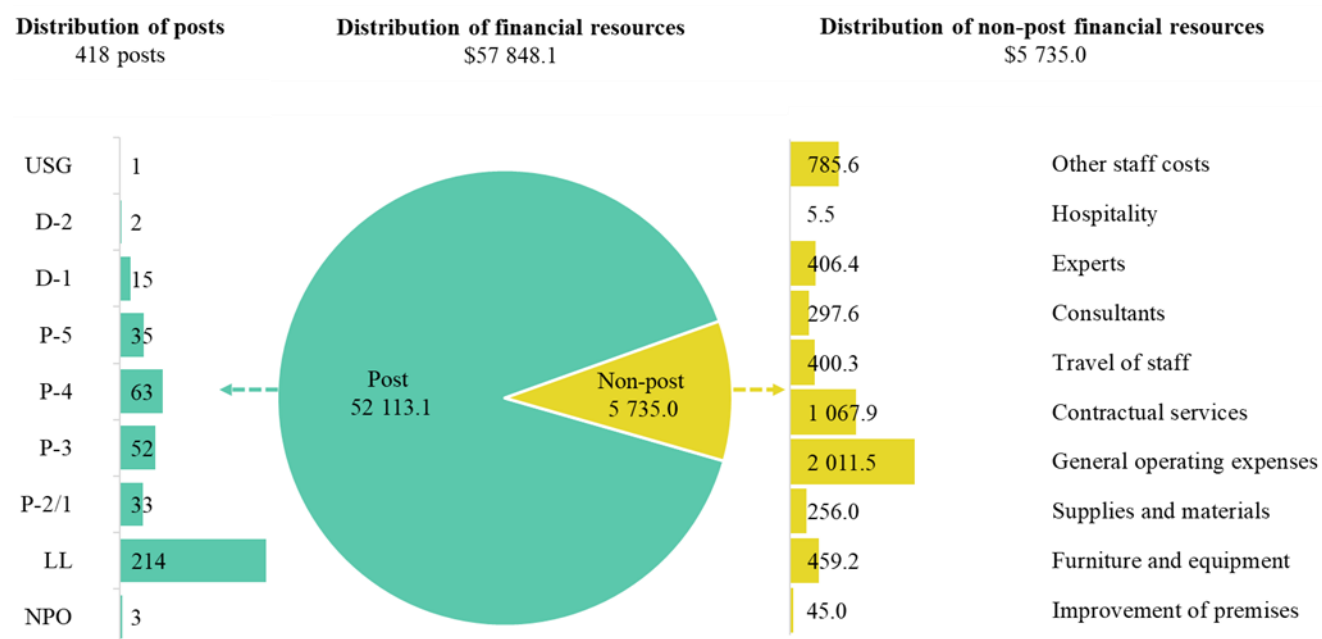
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	Changes							2022 estimate (before recosting)
	2020 expenditure	2021 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	47 062.1	52 113.1	—	—	—	—	—	52 113.1
Non-post	7 553.5	6 958.6	(1 083.8)	—	(139.8)	(1 223.6)	(17.6)	5 735.0
Total	54 615.5	59 071.7	(1 083.8)	—	(139.8)	(1 223.6)	(2.1)	57 848.1
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		201	—	—	—	—	—	201
General Service and related		217	—	—	—	—	—	217
Total		418	—	—	—	—	—	418

Figure 19.XII

Distribution of proposed resources for 2022 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)


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

- 19.367 As reflected in table 19.59 (1), resource changes reflect a decrease of \$1,083,800, under programme support related to the removal of non-recurrent requirements approved by the General Assembly for

2021 in its resolution [75/253](#) 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 Assembly in the report of the Secretary-General on progress in the seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project at ESCAP premises in Bangkok during the seventy-sixth session.

Other changes

19.368 As reflected in table 19.59 (1), resource changes reflect a net decrease of \$139,800, as follows:

- (a) **Policymaking organs.** The decrease of \$11,000 under non-post resources reflects mainly the increased usage of virtual interactions, leading to decreased requirements for support for in-person meetings, as part of the continued implementation of “build back better” practices under other staff costs (\$3,300) and supplies and materials (\$1,800); and a reduction in requirements for in-house editing of prioritized publications under contractual services (\$5,000);
- (b) **Executive direction and management.** The net decrease of \$6,700 in non-post resources reflects mainly a reduction in the number of expert group meetings under experts (\$31,900); a reduced requirement for theme study substantive editing under consultants (\$5,400); a reduced requirement under supplies and materials (\$4,000) owing to a lower volume for seasonal influenza vaccines and other medical supplies reflecting current levels of stock in hand; and a reduced requirement under furniture and equipment (\$5,900) owing to the change in the modality for procuring software through centralized contractual services instead of local procurement of licences under furniture and equipment; offset in part by increased requirements under general operating expenses (\$25,200) reflecting additional miscellaneous services related to emergency preparedness and response in business continuity-related events; increased requirements under contractual services (\$9,400), mainly on account of the change in the modality for procuring software through centralized contractual services instead of local procurement of licences under furniture and equipment; and increased requirements under official travel (\$5,900) related to additional travel for the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development;
- (c) **Subprogramme 1, Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development.** The net decrease of \$12,000 under non-post resources reflects mainly decreased requirements for official travel of staff (\$4,200) owing to the reduced volume of travel resulting from the increased usage of virtual interactions in line with the implementation of build back better practices; reduced requirements under contractual services (\$13,100) owing to the net effect of a decrease in external printing services due to a reduction in the number of printed documents, which more than offsets an increase in data-processing services resulting from the change in the modality for procuring software through centralized contractual services instead of local procurement of licences under furniture and equipment; and a reduction in requirements for furniture and equipment (\$17,500). The decrease is offset in part by increased requirements for consultants (\$10,700) and experts (\$12,100) owing to an increase in the number of expert group meetings and associated consultancy services;
- (d) **Subprogramme 2, Trade, investment and innovation.** The net decrease of \$6,000 under non-post resources reflects mainly decreased requirements under official travel of staff (\$4,200) owing to the reduced volume of travel on account of the increased usage of virtual interactions in line with the implementation of build back better practices; decreased requirements under contractual services (\$7,600) owing mainly to the net effect of a decrease in the number of hard copy publications more than offsetting an increase in data-processing services owing to the change in the modality for procuring software through centralized contractual services instead of local procurement of licences under furniture and equipment, and a reduction in requirements for furniture and equipment (\$10,000) on account of the change in the modality for procuring software through centralized contractual services instead of local procurement of licences under furniture and equipment. The decrease is offset in part by

increased requirements under consultants (\$3,700) and experts (\$12,100) owing to an increase in the number of expert group meetings and associated consultancy services;

- (e) **Subprogramme 3, Transport.** The increase of \$25,600 under non-post resources reflects mainly increased requirements under consultants (\$8,300) and experts (\$24,100) owing to a higher number of expert group meetings and associated consultancy services; and increased requirements for contractual services (\$5,600) owing to the change in the modality for procuring software through centralized contractual services instead of local procurement of licences under furniture and equipment. The increase is offset in part by decreased requirements under official travel of staff (\$4,300) owing to the reduced volume of travel reflecting an increased usage of virtual interactions in line with the implementation of build back better practices; and decreased requirements for furniture and equipment (\$8,000) owing to the change in the modality for procuring software through centralized contractual services instead of local procurement of licences under furniture and equipment;
- (f) **Subprogramme 4, Environment and development.** The net decrease of \$9,700 under non-post resources reflects mainly decreased requirements under official travel of staff (\$5,000) owing to the reduced volume of travel resulting from increased usage of virtual interactions in line with the implementation of build back better practices and under furniture and equipment (\$7,100) owing to the change in the modality for procuring software through centralized contractual services instead of local procurement of licences under furniture and equipment. The decrease is offset in part by increased requirements under consultants (\$2,200) reflecting lower expected requirements for consultants to prepare background documents;
- (g) **Subprogramme 5, Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management.** The net increase of \$3,300 under non-post resources reflects mainly increased requirements under consultants (\$3,700) and experts (\$12,100) owing to the increased number of expert group meetings and the associated consultancy services, which is offset in part by decreased requirements under travel of staff (\$4,200) owing to the reduced volume of travel reflecting an increased usage of virtual interactions in line with the build back better practices; and decreased requirements under furniture and equipment (\$7,100) owing to the change in the modality for procuring software through centralized contractual services instead of local procurement of licences under furniture and equipment;
- (h) **Subprogramme 6, Social development.** The net decrease of \$6,800 under non-post resources reflects mainly decreased requirements under consultants (\$2,100), based on projected requirements; decreased requirements under official travel of staff (\$18,300), mainly on account of the reduced volume of travel reflecting increased usage of virtual interactions in line with the build back better practices; and decreased requirements under furniture and equipment (\$13,300) owing to a change in the modality for procuring software through centralized contractual services instead of local procurement of licences under furniture and equipment. The decrease is offset in part by increased requirements under contractual services (\$26,300) owing to an increase in data-processing services in line with the increased usage of virtual and hybrid interactions and the change in the modality for procuring software through centralized contractual services instead of local procurement of licences under furniture and equipment;
- (i) **Subprogramme 7, Statistics.** The net decrease of \$3,700 under non-post resources reflects mainly decreased requirements under official travel of staff (\$12,500), owing mainly to the reduced volume of travel on account of an increased usage of virtual interactions in line with the build back better practices, and under furniture and equipment (\$9,900) owing to the change in modality for procuring software through centralized contractual services instead of local procurement of licences under furniture and equipment. The decrease is offset in part by increased requirements under contractual services (\$19,000) owing to the increase in the amount of advocacy materials required for publications and the change in the modality for procuring software through centralized contractual services instead of local procurement of licences under furniture and equipment;

- (j) **Subprogramme 8, component 1, Subregional activities for development in the Pacific.** The increase of \$13,600 under non-post resources reflects mainly increased requirements under consultants (\$2,900) and experts (\$12,900) owing to a higher number of expert group meetings and the associated consultancy services; increased requirements under contractual services (\$13,200) owing to a change in the modality for procuring software through centralized contractual services instead of local procurement of licences under furniture and equipment; and increased requirements for general operating expenses (\$6,700) owing to increased communication service requirements for additional online meetings. The increase is offset in part by decreased requirements under furniture and equipment (\$24,200) owing to the change in the modality for procuring software through centralized contractual services instead of local procurement of licences under furniture and equipment;
- (k) **Subprogramme 8, component 2, Subregional activities for development in East and North-East Asia.** The net decrease of \$1,000 under non-post resources reflects mainly decreased requirements under general operating expenses (\$9,800) owing to a reduction in communication, utilities and maintenance requirements in line with the implementation of build back better practices; and decreased requirements under furniture and equipment (\$14,000) owing to a change in the modality for procuring software through centralized contractual services instead of local procurement of licences under furniture and equipment. The decrease is offset in part by increased requirements under experts (\$5,100) owing to an expected increase in requirements for expert group meetings; an increase under official travel of staff (\$3,100) reflecting the requirements for additional post-COVID-19 pandemic travel in the subregion; and increased requirements under contractual services (\$13,700) owing to the change in the modality for procuring software through centralized contractual services instead of local procurement of licences under furniture and equipment;
- (l) **Subprogramme 8, component 3, Subregional activities for development in North and Central Asia.** The net decrease of \$16,600 under non-post resources reflects mainly decreased requirements under experts (\$10,800) owing to a reduction in requirements for organizing expert group meetings; a decrease in official travel of staff (\$2,800) owing to a reduced volume of travel reflecting an increased usage of virtual interactions in line with the build back better practices; a decrease under general operating expenses (\$6,600) owing to the reduced requirement for maintenance of furniture and equipment; and a decrease under furniture and equipment (\$15,700) owing to the change in the modality for procuring software through centralized contractual services instead of local procurement of licences. The decrease is offset in part by increased requirements under contractual services (\$18,400) owing to the change in the modality for procuring software through centralized contractual services instead of local procurement of licences under furniture and equipment;
- (m) **Subprogramme 8, component 4, Subregional activities for development in South and South-West Asia.** The decrease of \$4,300 in non-post resources reflects mainly decreased requirements owing to lower anticipated requirements for mobile phone costs, maintenance of equipment, and miscellaneous freight and stationery and office supplies under general operating expenses (\$11,100) and supplies and materials (\$4,600); and decreased requirements under furniture and equipment (\$10,800) owing to the change in the modality for procuring software through centralized contractual services instead of local procurement of licences under furniture and equipment. The decrease is offset in part by increased requirements under experts (\$6,000), reflecting additional requirements to support expert group meetings, and contractual services (\$14,200) owing to the change in the modality for procuring software through centralized contractual services instead of local procurement of licences under furniture and equipment;
- (n) **Subprogramme 8, component 5, Subregional activities for development in South-East Asia.** The decrease of \$9,700 in non-post resources reflects mainly decreased requirements under consultants (\$6,500) and experts (\$4,500) owing to decreased requirements to support expert group meetings and associated consultancy services, offset in part by increased

requirements for official travel of staff (\$1,300) on account of an increase in the volume of travel in the subregion following the lifting of restrictions related to the pandemic;

- (o) **Subprogramme 9, Energy.** The decrease of \$3,400 in non-post resources relates mainly to decreased requirements under experts (\$3,600) reflecting an expected decrease in support for expert group meetings; a decrease under furniture and equipment (\$3,900) owing to the change in the modality for procuring software through centralized contractual services instead of local procurement of licences under furniture and equipment, offset in part by increased requirements in contractual services (\$4,900) owing to the change in the modality for procuring software through centralized contractual services instead of local procurement of licences under furniture and equipment;
- (p) **Programme support.** The net decrease of \$91,400 in non-post resources reflects mainly the build back better practices, notably in the printing and communication area under general operating expenses. The reduced requirements also reflect ESCAP digitalization efforts and flexible working arrangements. The implementation of these practices, which emerged in 2020 during the pandemic, is expected to be extended into 2022 and beyond. The changes relating to the build back better practices have been reflected in the proposed budget for 2022, as follows: decreased requirements under other staff costs (\$35,500) owing to a reduction in overtime requirements in on-site support functions outside normal operating hours; a decrease in contractual services (\$93,900), mainly on account of reduced requirements for outsourcing of data-processing, maintenance and support services; and a reduction in general operating expenses (\$55,000), due mainly to reduced requirements for printing services in line with digitization efforts and flexible working arrangements and maintenance and support contracts for servers and spare parts. The decrease is offset in part by increased requirements under supplies and materials (\$42,600), owing mainly to additional requirements for operational equipment supplies, including medical supplies and maintenance supplies and materials; increased requirements under furniture and equipment (\$35,300), owing mainly to the acquisition of replacement equipment for obsolete information technology equipment and network components and software licence acquisition; and additional requirements under construction, alteration and maintenance (\$14,900), owing to an increase in minor repair and maintenance provision.

Extrabudgetary resources

- 19.369 As reflected in tables 19.59 (2) and 19.60 (2), ESCAP expects to continue to receive both cash and in-kind contributions, which would complement regular budget resources. In 2022, extrabudgetary resources are estimated at \$25,228,600 and would provide for 110 posts, as presented in tables 19.59 (2) and 19.60 (2). Total in-kind contributions, valued at \$3.94 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 \$1.2 million), as well as experts on non-reimbursable loan (valued at \$1.4 million). The resources will be used mainly to carry out technical cooperation projects, at the request of member States. Examples of such projects include technical cooperation to promote effective public-private partnerships under subprogramme 1. Support for women's entrepreneurship, the strengthening of capacities for trade facilitation and the use of science, technology and innovation policies to accelerate progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is envisioned under subprogramme 2. Under subprogramme 3, technical cooperation projects focusing on sustainable transport connectivity and logistics and sustainable transport mobility in the Asia-Pacific region are foreseen. Support for regional cooperation, networking, research and analysis, and capacity-building for sustainable urban development and sustainable agricultural mechanization in the Asia-Pacific region is anticipated under subprogramme 4. For subprogramme 5, projects are foreseen to meet increased demand for capacity-building, and for research and analysis for enhancing member States' capacity to strengthen ICT, space technology applications and disaster risk reduction and management in support of resilient and sustainable development. Under subprogramme 6, provision is made for technical cooperation projects to address

the needs of those left furthest behind, enhancing social protection and 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. Extrabudgetary funding under subprogramme 7 is expected to support statistical capacity-building activities to enhance data and statistics for the 2030 Agenda and improve national monitoring systems by strengthening policy-data links. The subregional offices, under subprogramme 8, expect projects to enhance capacities to promote and strengthen policy coordination on connectivity and environmental sustainability, the protection and empowerment of migrants affected by climate change, financing for the 2030 Agenda and the capacities of women entrepreneurs to expand micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises. Subprogramme 9 expects technical cooperation projects to support capacity-building, and research and analysis to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Asia and the Pacific by enhancing member States' capacity for renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy access and energy connectivity. Extrabudgetary resources represent 30.4 per cent of the total resources for this section.

- 19.370 The extrabudgetary resources under this section are subject to the oversight of the secretariat of ESCAP, which has delegated authority from the Secretary-General.

Polymaking organs

- 19.371 The resources proposed under this component would provide for requirements relating to standing intergovernmental meetings, the servicing of which is the responsibility of 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 2022 are in accordance with Commission resolution 73/1, which set out the conference structure of the Commission. It comprises the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and nine committees. In 2022, in addition to the annual session of the Commission and the Forum, the biennial sessions of the following five committees will be held: the Committee on Environment and Development; the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation; the Committee on Social Development; the Committee on Statistics; and the Committee on Transport. In addition, in accordance with Commission resolution 73/1, no more than eight ad hoc ministerial conferences or other intergovernmental meetings shall be held in addition to the regular calendar of intergovernmental meetings during each biennium. In 2022, the Fourth Asia-Pacific Review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons With Disabilities, 2013–2022, will be organized as ad hoc meetings in accordance with General Assembly resolution [75/152](#) and Economic and Social Council resolution [2020/8](#), and Commission resolution 75/6 and decision 75/4, and Commission resolutions 69/13 and 74/7, respectively.
- 19.372 Table 19.62 provides information on the standing intergovernmental organs and related resource requirements under the regular budget.

Table 19.62
Policymaking organs

(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Policymaking organ</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Additional information</i>	<i>2021 appropriation</i>	<i>2022 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 for Sustainable Development.	Mandate: Economic and Social Council resolutions 37 (IV), 1895 (LVII) and 2015/30 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2022: 1 (seventy-eighth session)	228.2	215.3
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 2015/30 and Commission resolutions 71/1 and 73/1 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2022: 1 (ninth session)	25.2	24.6
Committee on Transport	A subsidiary organ of the Commission that addresses transport issues.	Mandate: Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/30 and decision 2017/269 and Commission resolution 71/1 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2022: 1 (seventh session)	—	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 2015/30 and Commission resolution 71/1 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2022: 1 (seventh session)	—	24.6
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 2015/30 and Commission resolution 71/1 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2022: 1 (fourth session)	—	24.6
Committee on Social Development	A subsidiary organ of the Commission that addresses social development issues.	Mandate: Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/30 and Commission resolution 71/1 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2022: 1 (seventh session)	—	24.6

Part V Regional cooperation for development

<i>Policymaking organ</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Additional information</i>	<i>2021 appropriation</i>	<i>2022 estimate (before recosting)</i>
Committee on Statistics	A subsidiary organ of the Commission that addresses statistical issues.	Mandate: Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/30 and Commission resolution 71/1 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2022: 1 (eighth session)	—	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 2015/30 and Commission resolution 71/1 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2022: None	25.2	—
Committee on Trade and Investment	A subsidiary organ of the Commission that addresses trade and investment issues.	Mandate: Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/30 and Commission resolution 71/1 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2022: None	25.2	—
Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction	A subsidiary organ of the Commission that addresses disaster risk reduction issues.	Mandate: Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/30 and Commission resolution 71/1 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2022: None	25.2	—
Committee on Energy	A subsidiary organ of the Commission that addresses energy issues	Mandate: Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/30 and Commission resolution 71/1 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2022: None	25.2	—
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 2022: None	106.7	—
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 2022: None	Included in the cost of organizing the seventy-seventh session of the Commission	—
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 75/152 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2020/8 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2022: 1 (fourth session)	—	31.2

Section 19 Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

<i>Policymaking organ</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Additional information</i>	<i>2021 appropriation</i>	<i>2022 estimate (before recosting)</i>
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 2022: 1 (final session)	—	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 2022: 1 (fourth session)	—	24.6
Total			460.9	449.9

19.373 The proposed regular budget resources for 2022 amount to \$449,900 and reflect a net decrease of \$11,000 compared with the appropriation for 2021. The proposed decrease of \$11,000 is explained in paragraph 19.368 (a) above. Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2022 are reflected in table 19.63 and figure 19.XIII.

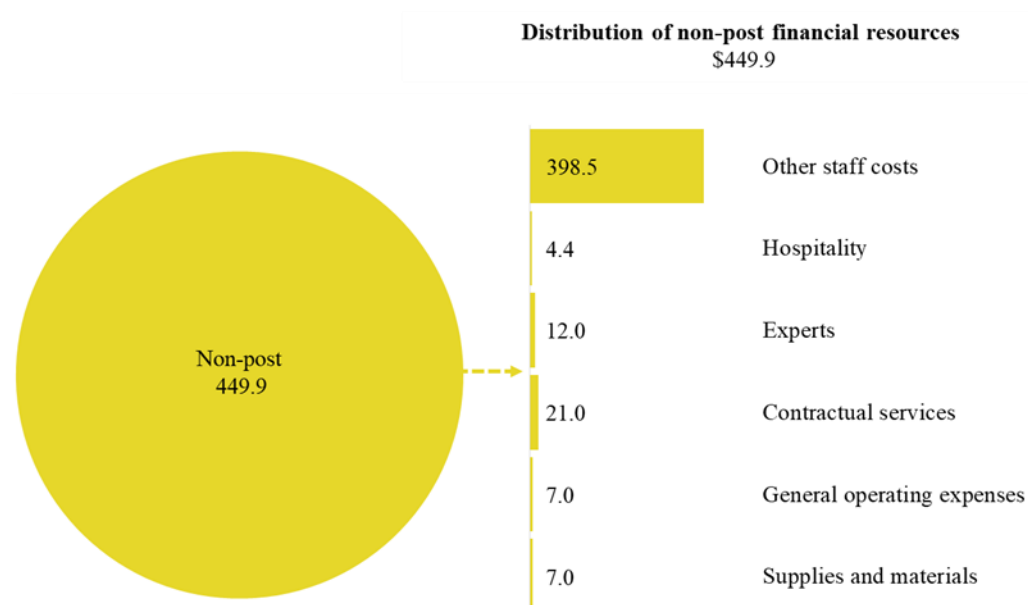
Table 19.63

Policymaking organs: evolution of financial resources

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	<i>Changes</i>						<i>2022 estimate (before recosting)</i>
	<i>2020 expenditure</i>	<i>2021 appropriation</i>	<i>Technical adjustments</i>	<i>New/ expanded mandates</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Non-post	219.0	460.9	—	—	(11.0)	(11.0)	(2.4)
Total	219.0	460.9	—	—	(11.0)	(11.0)	(2.4)

Figure 19.XIII
Policymaking organs: distribution of proposed resources for 2022 (before recosting)
 (Thousands of United States dollars)



Executive direction and management

- 19.374 Executive direction and management is led by the Office of the Executive Secretary and supported by the Countries in Special Situations Section. The Office provides overall policy direction to and is responsible for the management of the ESCAP secretariat in its efforts to support member States, in collaboration with other parts of the United Nations system, with sound strategic analysis, policy options and capacity-building activities to address key development challenges and to implement innovative solutions for region-wide, equitable and inclusive economic prosperity, social progress and environmental sustainability. Emerging issues relevant to the regional development agenda will be identified and addressed, and regional concerns and priorities will be articulated at the global level.
- 19.375 In this context, the Office provides all divisions, subregional offices and regional institutions with direction and guidance for coordinating the implementation of and ensuring accountability for the ESCAP programme of work, which will continue to focus on the promotion of inclusive, equitable, resilient and sustainable development, including through regional economic cooperation and integration, and regional connectivity in the support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Office also provides overall direction in mainstreaming policies and strategies on gender equality and the empowerment of women, and disability inclusion across the programme of work in the context of supporting member States in promoting inclusive, equitable, resilient and sustainable development.
- 19.376 ESCAP, through the Secretary-General, shall be accountable to States Members of the United Nations for all decisions made and taken by it and for the achievement of results, in line with General Assembly resolution [64/259](#), entitled “Towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat”. The Office will continue to strengthen policy consistency and coherence both within ESCAP and among United Nations entities and development partners involved in addressing regional development issues, among others, through the regional collaborative platform, in line with Economic and Social Council resolutions [2019/15](#) and [2020/23](#).

- 19.377 The Office 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 as the most inclusive intergovernmental regional platform for building regional cooperation. The Office also guides the organization of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development as the multi-stakeholder platform to discuss, review and follow up on regional priorities and needs for achieving sustainable development. The Office also provides guidance on and is responsible for the overall management of 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.
- 19.378 The Office provides overall direction to programme support units in ensuring gender-responsive programme planning and financial and human resources management, as well as accountability systems. Every effort will be made to advance towards the goal of equal representation of women and men in posts at all levels.
- 19.379 The Countries in Special Situations Section supports the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. It does so by monitoring the implementation of the relevant programmes of action for those countries, reporting on the progress that has been achieved and undertaking sound strategic analyses and capacity-building activities that address key development challenges in the implementation of the programme priorities. The section also mainstreams issues faced by these groups of countries in the ESCAP programme of work. This more concerted and focused approach increases the impact of the Commission's activities in these countries, thereby accelerating their progress towards sustainable development.
- 19.380 In accordance with the 2030 Agenda, in particular target 12.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in which organizations are encouraged to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycles, and in compliance with the cross-cutting mandate set out in paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 72/219, and the environmental policy for the United Nations Secretariat (ST/SGB/2019/7), the Office is integrating environmental management practices into its operations. In 2020, ESCAP continued the energy efficiency efforts through its daily Earth Hour campaign, in which office lights are automatically switched off during the lunch break, and improvements and adjustments to facilities management systems. ESCAP achieved an energy efficiency improvement of 30 per cent compared with 2016 – its reference environmental baseline year – and 18 per cent compared with 2019. The energy efficiency savings are equivalent to 4,095 tons of carbon dioxide over the four years since the launch of the ESCAP Environmental Management System. In 2020, 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's 2030 targets already in 2020. In the same year, ESCAP continued its waste prevention and management efforts and achieved a rate of 70 per cent for waste recycling (an increase of 45 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 boosts recycling (centralized recycling bins, a new waste-sorting area and organic waste composting). The trend in the reduction of printing had already started in 2019 (a 15 per cent decrease). In 2020, a 70 per cent reduction in printing was achieved thanks to the digitalization of the work of ESCAP and an extended "work from home" modality. In 2020, ESCAP meetings were organized online or in hybrid formats, which significantly reduced the organizational air travel footprint by more than 90 per cent. This experience will be taken into account for future air travel. Lastly, ESCAP will have achieved climate neutrality in its 2020 operations by procuring certified carbon emission reduction credits by June 2021. In 2021, 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 to address staff awareness as a cross-cutting issue for all the identified environmental issues.
- 19.381 Information on compliance with the timely submission of documentation and advance booking for air travel is reflected in table 19.64. As part of the continued efforts to improve the timely submission

of documentation, the compliance rate increased from 81 per cent in 2019 to 93 per cent in 2020 owing to the enhanced communication and inclusion of the relevant compliance goal and indicators in the performance evaluation of senior managers. ESCAP had implemented several measures since 2018 that contributed to the increase in its advance purchase compliance rate from 44 per cent in 2018 to 61 per cent in 2019. However, in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic drastically reduced international air travel. In order to contain the growing pandemic, there was a temporary ban on all international flights coming in and out of Thailand on 4 April 2020, and the ban was extended further until 30 June 2020. As a result, the number of travel requests plummeted from 204 in the first quarter to 2, 12 and 38 travel requests in the second, third and fourth quarters, respectively. This was coupled with increased travel restrictions and a requirement for additional travel documentation across the globe. Therefore, all subsequent official travel for staff in 2020 was either considerably delayed or cancelled, which led to a drop in the advance purchase rate from 54 per cent in the first quarter to 24 per cent in the fourth quarter. Notwithstanding that trend, ESCAP is optimistic that, once the situation becomes normal and travel resumes, the measures implemented by ESCAP since 2018 will continue to make an impact on the increase in its compliance rate.

Table 19.64
Compliance rate
(Percentage)

	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Planned 2021	Planned 2022
Timely submission of documentation	81	93	100	100
Air tickets purchased at least 2 weeks before the commencement of travel	61	49	100	100

- 19.382 The proposed regular budget resources for 2022 amount to \$4,135,900 and reflect a net decrease of \$6,700 in the resource level compared with the appropriation for 2021. The proposed decrease is explained in paragraph 19.368 (b) above. Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2022 are reflected in table 19.65 and figure 19.XIV.

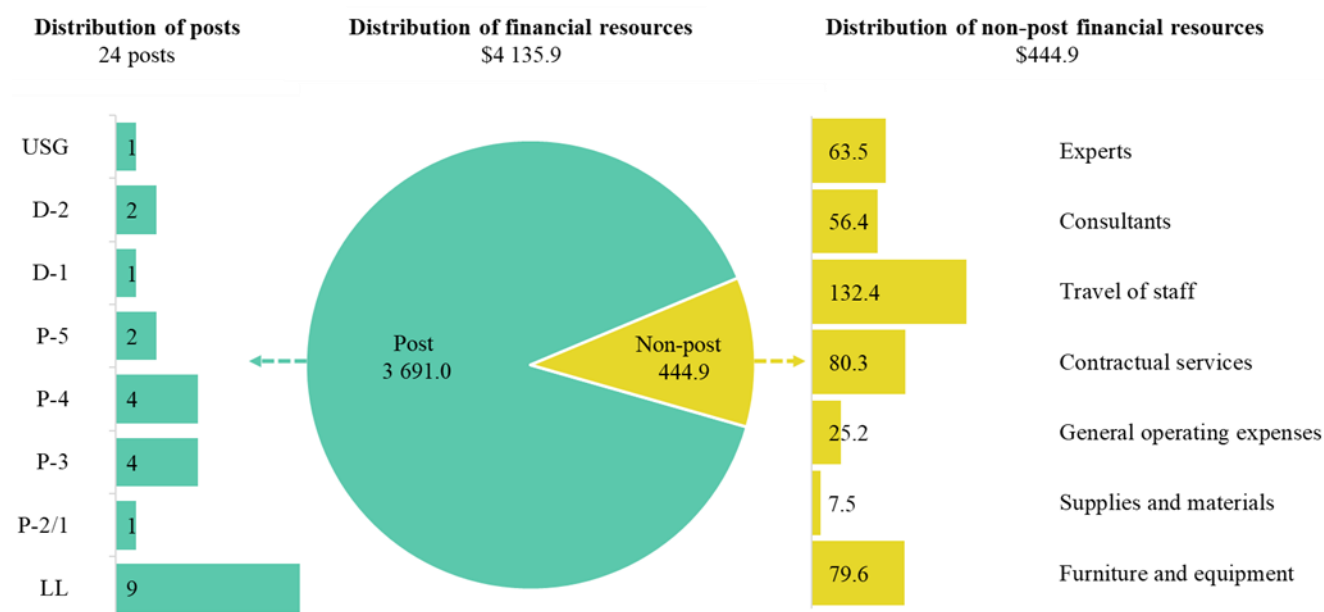
Table 19.65
Executive direction and management: evolution of financial and post resources
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2020 expenditure	2021 appropriation	Changes					2022 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	3 086.3	3 691.0	—	—	—	—	—	3 691.0
Non-post	325.9	451.6	—	—	(6.7)	(6.7)	(1.5)	444.9
Total	3 412.2	4 142.6	—	—	(6.7)	(6.7)	(0.2)	4 135.9
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		15	—	—	—	—	—	15
General Service and related		9	—	—	—	—	—	9
Total		24	—	—	—	—	—	24

Figure 19.XIV

Executive direction and management: distribution of proposed resources for 2022 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)

**Extrabudgetary resources**

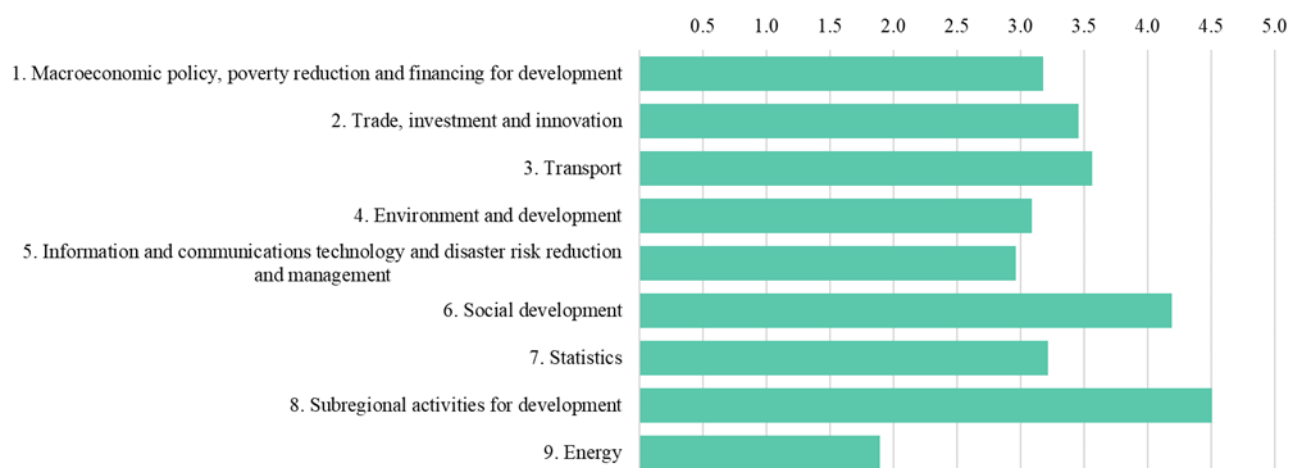
- 19.383 Extrabudgetary resources are estimated at \$237,300 under executive direction and management and will provide for one Local level post, along with non-post resources. The resources would support: (a) facilitation of enhanced high-level regional cooperation to address key development opportunities and challenges; (b) a technical cooperation project with the Asian Development Bank and UNDP on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; and (c) research and capacity-building activities for least developed countries. The expected increase of \$49,600 is due mainly to the anticipated continuation of the activities on implementing the 2030 Agenda and to support for the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

Programme of work

- 19.384 The proposed regular budget resources for 2022 amount to \$30,071,300 and reflect a net decrease of \$30,700 compared with the appropriation for 2021. The proposed decrease is explained in paragraph 19.368 (c) to (o) above. The distribution of resources by subprogramme in 2022 is reflected in figure 19.XV.

Figure 19.XV
Distribution of proposed resources for 2022 by subprogramme

(Millions of United States dollars)



Subprogramme 1 Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development

19.385 The proposed regular budget resources for 2022 amount to \$3,178,300 and reflect a decrease of \$12,000 compared with the appropriation for 2021. Additional details on the distribution of resources in 2022 are reflected in table 19.66 and figure 19.XVI.

Table 19.66
Subprogramme 1: evolution of financial and post resources

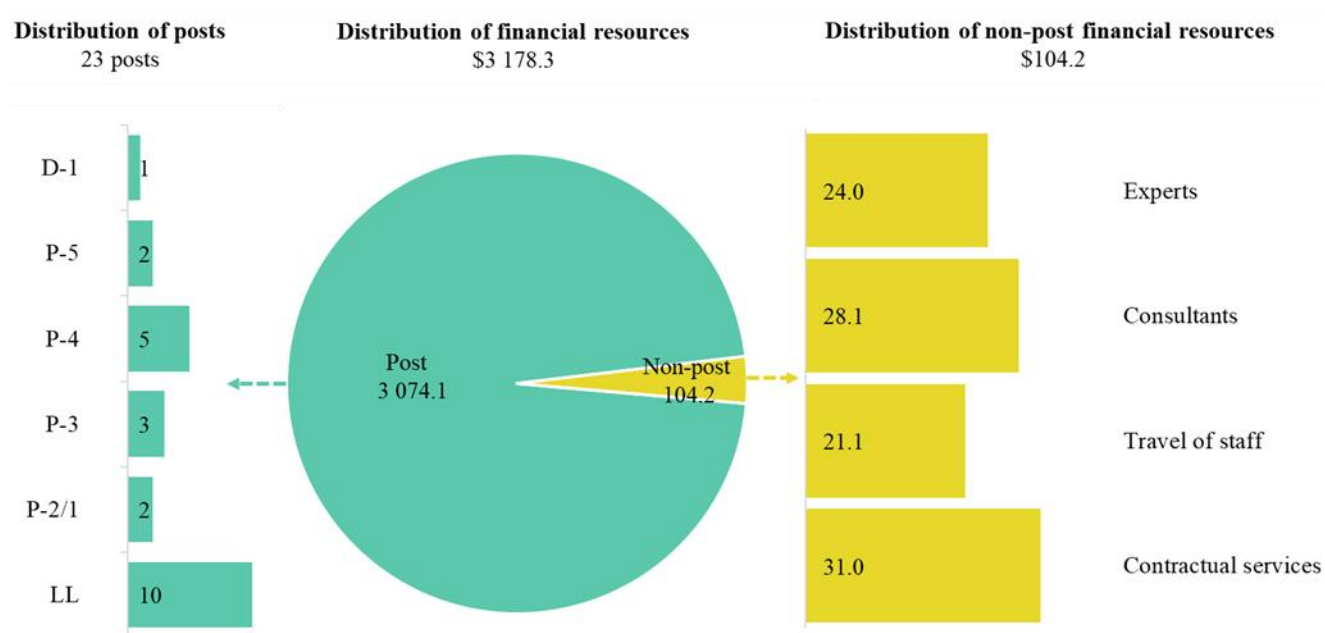
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	Changes							2022 estimate (before recosting)
	2020 expenditure	2021 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	3 858.1	3 074.1	—	—	—	—	—	3 074.1
Non-post	95.9	116.2	—	—	(12.0)	(12.0)	(10.3)	104.2
Total	3 954.0	3 190.3	—	—	(12.0)	(12.0)	(0.4)	3 178.3
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		13	—	—	—	—	—	13
General Service and related		10	—	—	—	—	—	10
Total		23	—	—	—	—	—	23

Figure 19.XVI

Subprogramme 1: distribution of proposed resources for 2022 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)


Extrabudgetary resources

- 19.386 Extrabudgetary resources for the subprogramme are estimated at \$243,300 and would provide for non-post resources. The resources would contribute to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 17 by supporting technical cooperation projects that encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships in Asia and the Pacific through network meetings, thematic workshops and a public-private partnership web portal, and to the strengthening of partnerships for building a national platform for the Goals in Kazakhstan. The expected decrease of \$276,200 is due mainly to the completion of technical cooperation projects in 2021.

**Subprogramme 2
Trade, investment and innovation**

- 19.387 The proposed regular budget resources for 2022 amount to \$3,455,500 and reflect a decrease of \$6,000 in the resource level compared with the appropriation for 2021. Additional details on the distribution of resources in 2022 are reflected in table 19.67 and figure 19.XVII.

Table 19.67

Subprogramme 2: evolution of financial and post resources

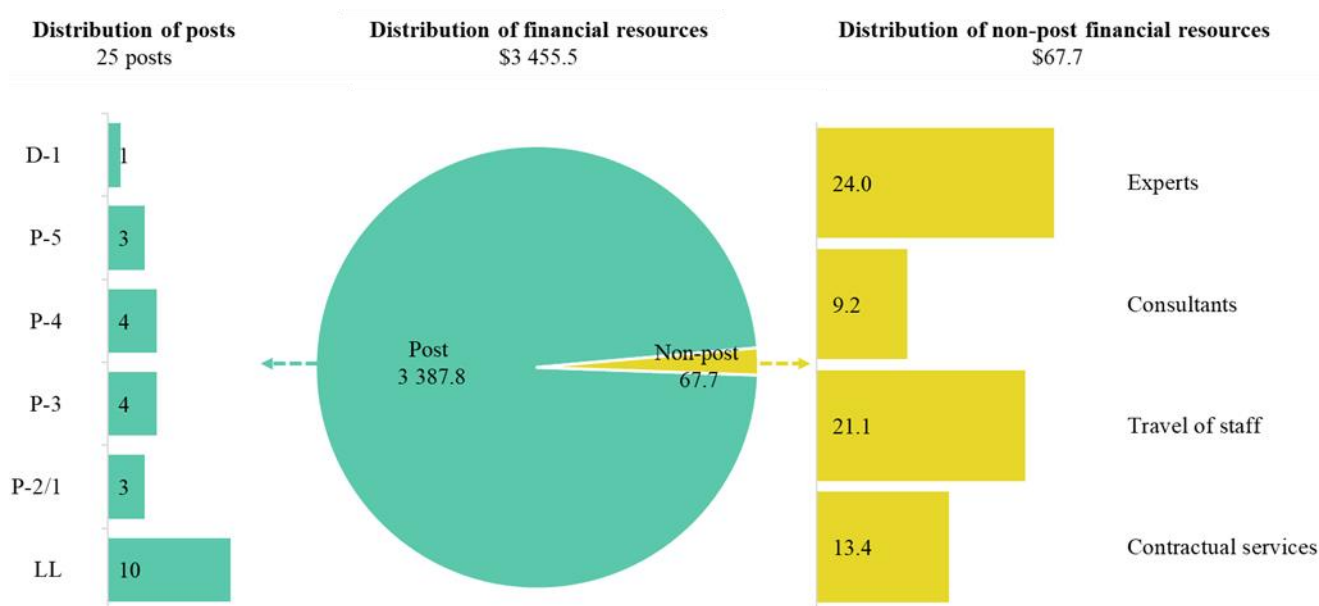
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	Changes							2022 estimate (before recosting)
	2020 expenditure	2021 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	3 196.5	3 387.8	—	—	—	—	—	3 387.8
Non-post	12.5	73.7	—	—	(6.0)	(6.0)	(8.1)	67.7
Total	3 209.0	3 461.5	—	—	(6.0)	(6.0)	(0.2)	3 455.5
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 2022 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)


Extrabudgetary resources

- 19.388 Extrabudgetary resources for the subprogramme are estimated at \$1,901,300 and would provide for nine posts (1 P-5, 2 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 National Professional Officer and 4 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 expected decrease \$1,079,900 is due mainly to lower expected expenses of the project on women's entrepreneurship, which is expected to conclude in 2023.

Subprogramme 3 Transport

19.389 The proposed regular budget resources for 2022 amount to \$3,562,200 and reflect an increase of \$25,600 compared with the appropriation for 2021. Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources in 2022 are reflected in table 19.68 and figure 19.XVIII.

Table 19.68

Subprogramme 3: evolution of financial and post resources

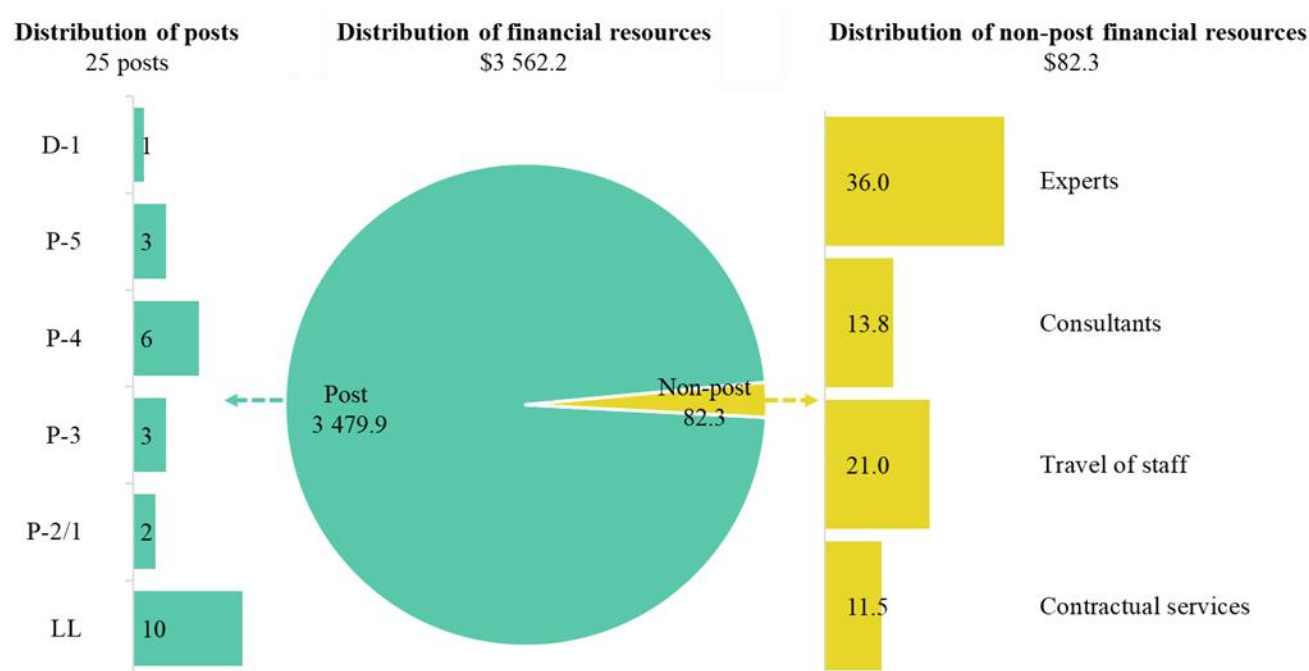
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2020 expenditure	2021 appropriation	Changes					2022 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	3 027.6	3 479.9	—	—	—	—	—	3 479.9
Non-post	48.9	56.7	—	—	25.6	25.6	45.1	82.3
Total	3 076.5	3 536.6	—	—	25.6	25.6	0.7	3 562.2
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 2021 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Extrabudgetary resources

- 19.390 Extrabudgetary resources for the subprogramme are estimated at \$715,500 and would provide for two P-4 posts as well as non-post resources. The resources would contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 3, 9 and 11 by supporting technical cooperation projects focusing on sustainable transport connectivity and logistics and sustainable transport mobility in the Asia-Pacific region. The expected increase of \$263,200 is due mainly to the expected recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic disruptions, which will allow for more in-person meetings and travel activities to meet the demand for capacity-building, field support and research and analysis.

Subprogramme 4 Environment and development

- 19.391 The proposed regular budget resources for 2022 amount to \$3,092,400 and reflect a decrease of \$9,700 compared with the appropriation for 2021. Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources in 2022 are reflected in table 19.69 and figure 19.XIX.

Table 19.69

Subprogramme 4: evolution of financial and post resources

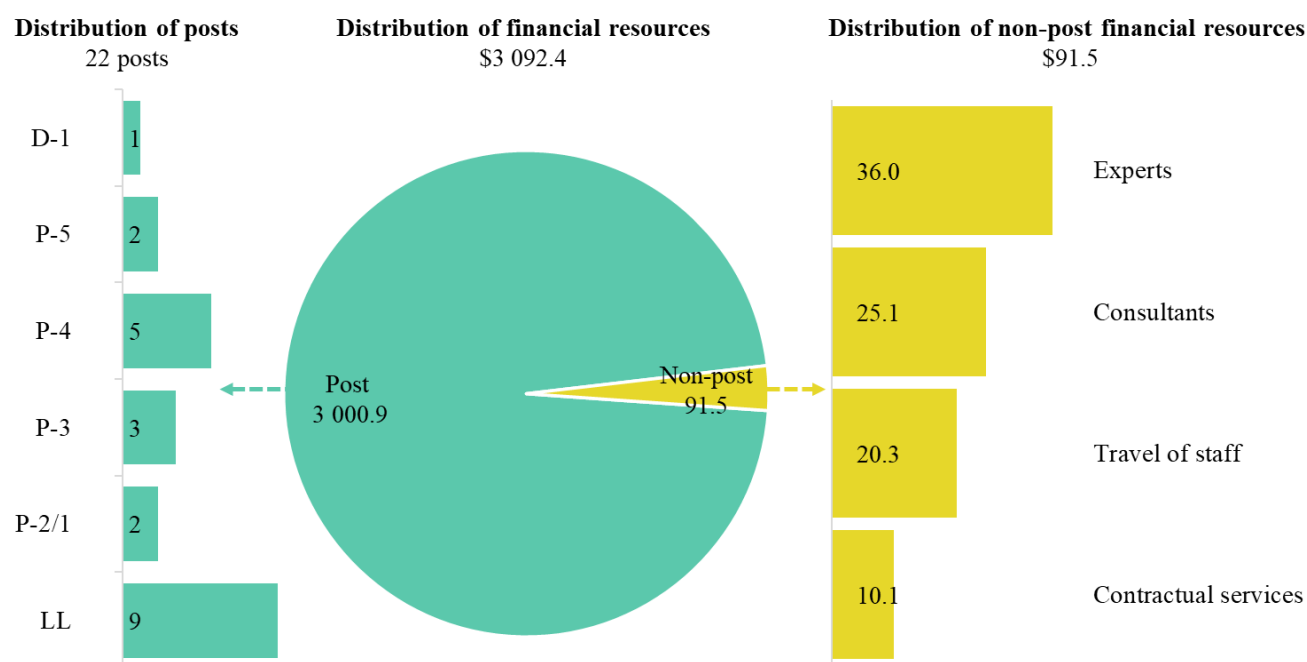
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2020 expenditure	2021 appropriation	Changes					2022 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	2 959.3	3 000.9	—	—	—	—	—	3 000.9
Non-post	92.2	101.2	—	—	(9.7)	(9.7)	(9.6)	91.5
Total	3 051.5	3 102.1	—	—	(9.7)	(9.7)	(0.3)	3 092.4
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 2022 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)


Extrabudgetary resources

- 19.392 Extrabudgetary resources for the subprogramme are estimated at \$4,935,500 and would provide for 10 posts (1 P-5, 2 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 National Professional Officer and 5 Local level) as well as non-post resources. The resources would support technical cooperation projects on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 6, 11–15 and 17, in particular for promoting 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 \$498,500 compared with 2021 reflects the completion of technical cooperation projects in 2021.

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

- 19.393 The proposed regular budget resources for 2022 amount to \$2,965,000 and reflect an increase of \$3,300 compared with the appropriation for 2021. Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources in 2022 are reflected in table 19.70 and figure 19.XX.

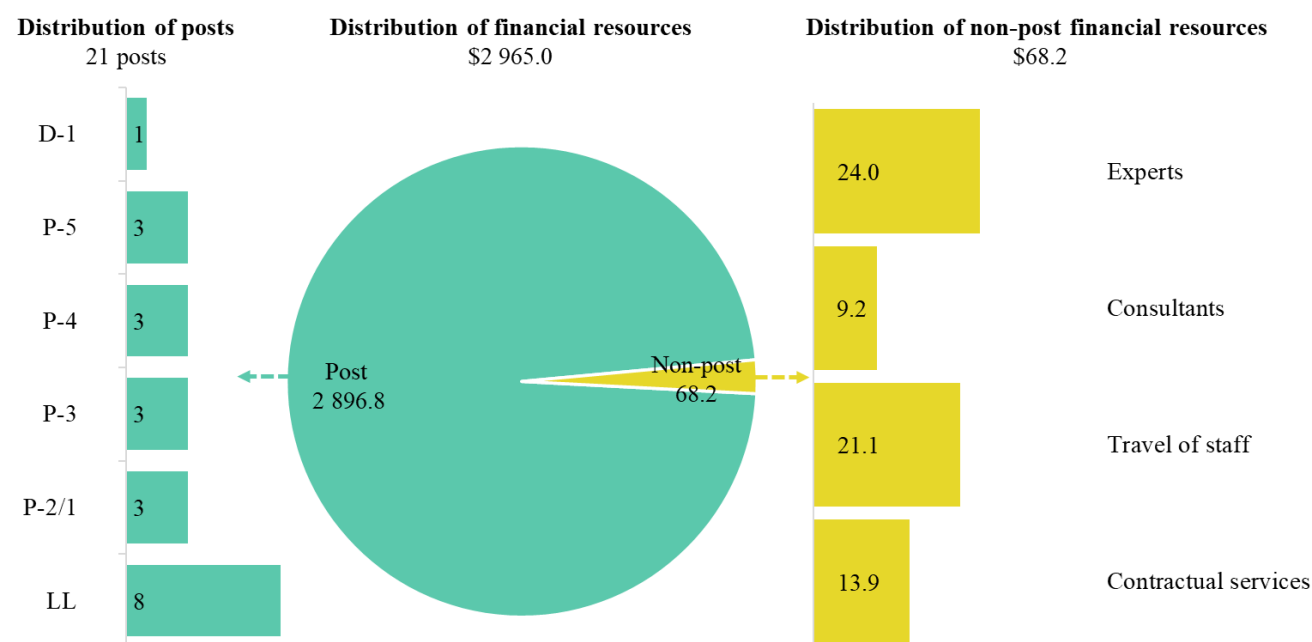
Table 19.70
Subprogramme 5: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2020 expenditure	2021 appropriation	Changes					2022 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	2 579.3	2 896.8	—	—	—	—	—	2 896.8
Non-post	38.9	64.9	—	—	3.3	3.3	5.1	68.2
Total	2 618.2	2 961.7	—	—	3.3	3.3	0.1	2 965.0
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		13	—	—	—	—	—	13
General Service and related		8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Total		21	—	—	—	—	—	21

Figure 19.XX
Subprogramme 5: distribution of proposed resources for 2022 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Extrabudgetary resources

- 19.394 Extrabudgetary resources for the subprogramme are estimated at \$4,327,800 and would provide for 20 posts (2 D-1, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 5 P-3, 3 National Professional Officer and 7 Local level) as well as non-post resources. The resources would support technical cooperation projects on the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals and especially 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 general in the region, considering social, economic and environmental aspects. The expected increase of \$281,100

is mainly a response to an increased demand for capacity-building, and for research and analysis by enhancing member States' capacity to strengthen ICT, space technology applications and disaster risk reduction and management in support of resilient and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.

Subprogramme 6 Social development

- 19.395 The proposed regular budget resources for 2022 amount to \$4,194,000 and reflect a decrease of \$6,800 compared with the appropriation for 2021. Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources in 2022 are reflected in table 19.71 and figure 19.XXI.

Table 19.71

Subprogramme 6: evolution of financial and post resources

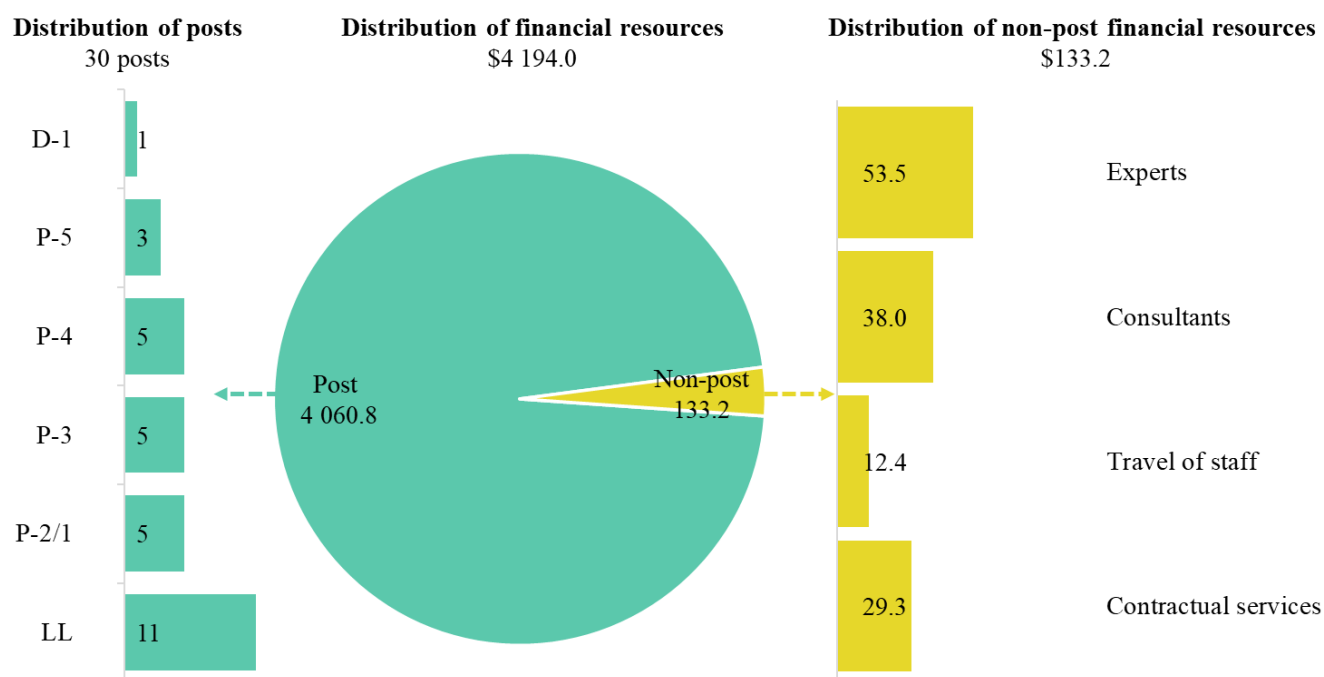
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2020 expenditure	2021 appropriation	Changes					2022 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	3 392.8	4 060.8	—	—	—	—	—	4 060.8
Non-post	129.7	140.0	—	—	(6.8)	(6.8)	(4.9)	133.2
Total	3 522.5	4 200.8	—	—	(6.8)	(6.8)	(0.2)	4 194.0
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 2022 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)


Extrabudgetary resources

- 19.396 Extrabudgetary resources for the subprogramme are estimated at \$1,135,800 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 Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3–5, 8, 10 and 17 and 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 \$231,400 compared with 2021 reflects the completion of technical cooperation projects in 2021.

**Subprogramme 7
Statistics**

- 19.397 The proposed regular budget resources for 2022 amount to \$3,218,200 and reflect a decrease of \$3,700 compared with the appropriation for 2021. Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources in 2022 are reflected in table 19.72 and figure 19.XXII.

Table 19.72

Subprogramme 7: evolution of financial and post resources

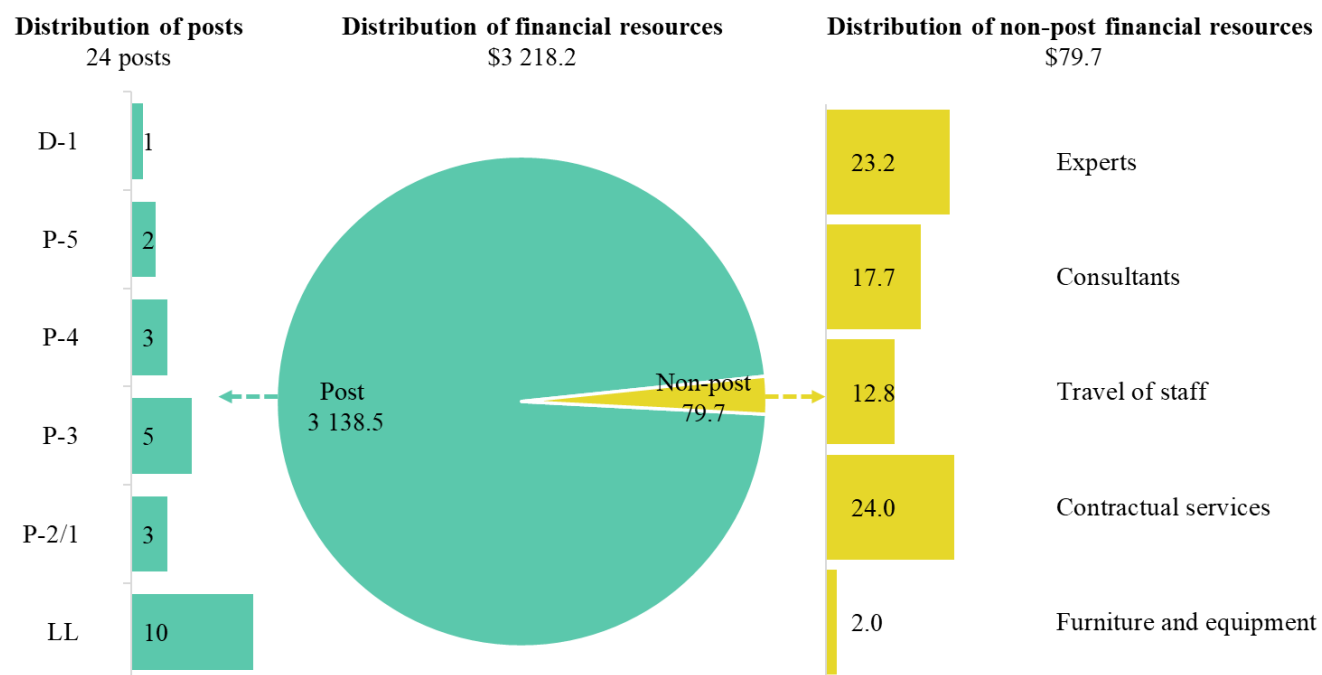
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2020 expenditure	2021 appropriation	Changes					2022 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	2 819.9	3 138.5	—	—	—	—	—	3 138.5
Non-post	88.7	83.4	—	—	(3.7)	(3.7)	(4.4)	79.7
Total	2 908.6	3 221.9	—	—	(3.7)	(3.7)	(0.1)	3 218.2
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 2022 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)


Extrabudgetary resources

- 19.398 Extrabudgetary resources for the subprogramme are estimated at \$3,052,600 and would provide for 10 posts (1 D-1, 1 P-5, 4 P-3 and 4 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 improve national monitoring systems by strengthening policy-data links. The expected increase of \$78,400 is due mainly to additional demand from countries to strengthen statistical capacity.

Subprogramme 8 Subregional activities for development

19.399 The proposed regular budget resources for 2022 amount to \$4,510,800 and reflect a decrease of \$18,000 compared with the appropriation for 2021. The proposed regular budget resources for 2022 of the different components of the subprogramme are presented below.

Component 1 Subregional activities for development in the Pacific

19.400 The proposed regular budget resources for 2022 amount to \$1,445,100 and reflect an increase of \$13,600 compared with the appropriation for 2021. Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources in 2022 are reflected in table 19.73 and figure 19.XXIII.

Table 19.73

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

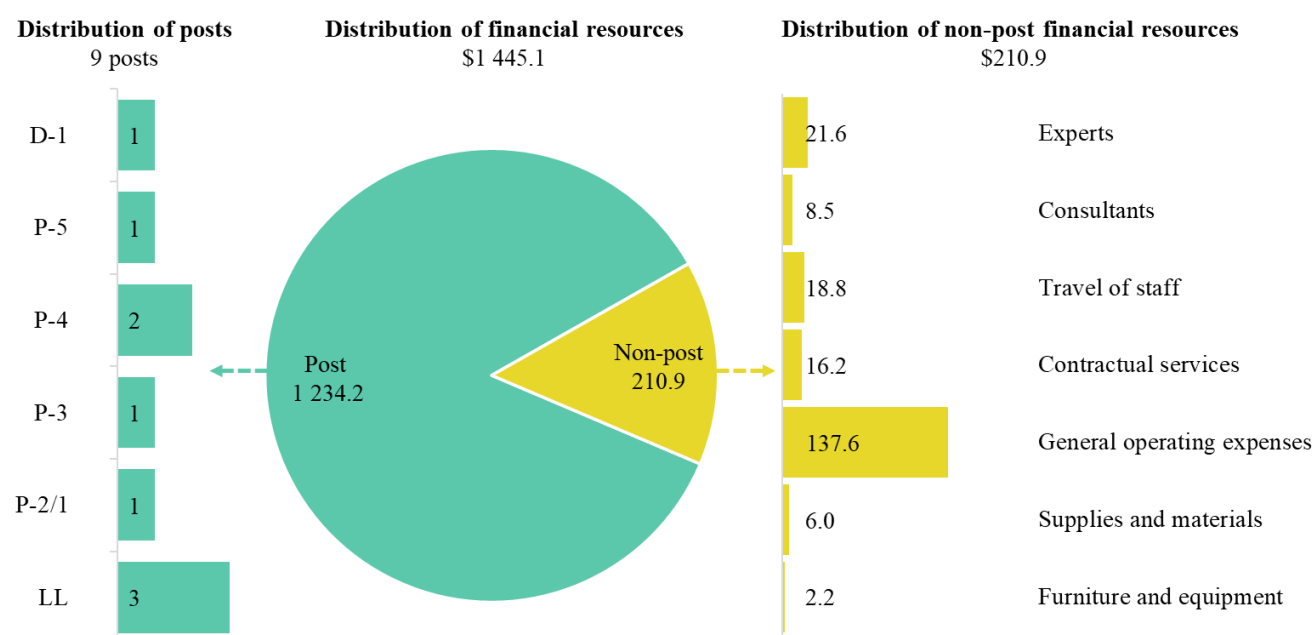
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2020 expenditure	2021 appropriation	Changes					2022 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	1 084.2	1 234.2	—	—	—	—	—	1 234.2
Non-post	170.5	197.3	—	—	13.6	13.6	6.9	210.9
Total	1 254.7	1 431.5	—	—	13.6	13.6	1.0	1 445.1
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 2022 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)


Extrabudgetary resources

- 19.401 Extrabudgetary resources for the component are estimated at \$276,000 and would provide for non-post resources. The resources would support technical cooperation projects on achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 10, 14 and 17 for enhancing the protection and empowerment of migrants affected by climate change, social protection for resilience, financing the Goals and sustainable financing for the 2030 Agenda. The expected decrease of \$102,100 compared with 2021 reflects the completion of technical cooperation projects in 2021.

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

- 19.402 The proposed regular budget resources for 2022 amount to \$1,033,300 and reflect a decrease of \$1,000 compared with the appropriation for 2021. Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources in 2022 are reflected in table 19.74 and figure 19.XXIV.

Table 19.74

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

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

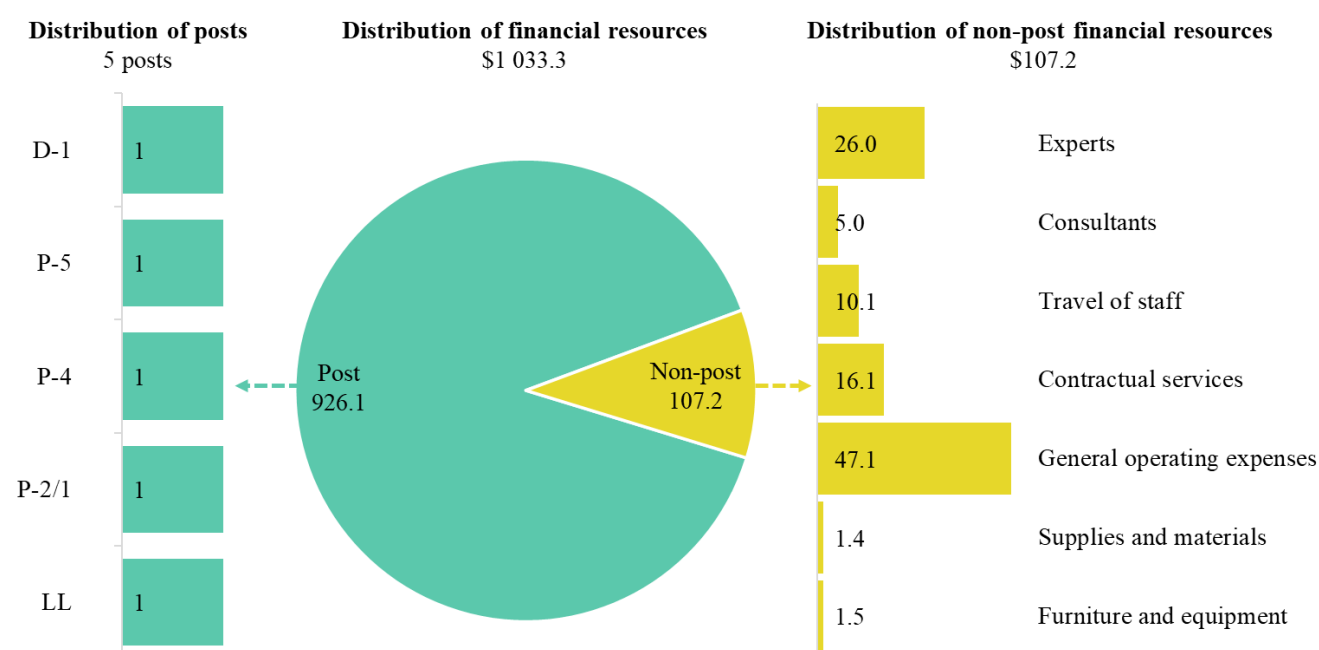
	2020 expenditure	2021 appropriation	Changes					2022 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	905.9	926.1	—	—	—	—	—	926.1
Non-post	66.2	108.2	—	—	(1.0)	(1.0)	(0.9)	107.2
Total	972.2	1 034.3	—	—	(1.0)	(1.0)	(0.1)	1 033.3

	2020 expenditure	2021 appropriation	Changes					2022 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
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 2022 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Extrabudgetary resources

- 19.403 Extrabudgetary resources for the component are estimated at \$1,639,400 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 on sustainable connectivity, environmental sustainability and innovation for inclusive and resilient societies in East and North-East Asia, contributing mainly to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 3, 5, 7, 9–11, 13–15 and 17. The estimated decrease of \$235,200 compared with 2021 reflects the completion of technical cooperation projects in 2021.

Component 3

Subregional activities for development in North and Central Asia

- 19.404 The proposed regular budget resources for 2022 amount to \$612,100 and reflect a decrease of \$16,600 compared with the appropriation for 2021. Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources in 2022 are reflected in table 19.75 and figure 19.XXV.

Table 19.75

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

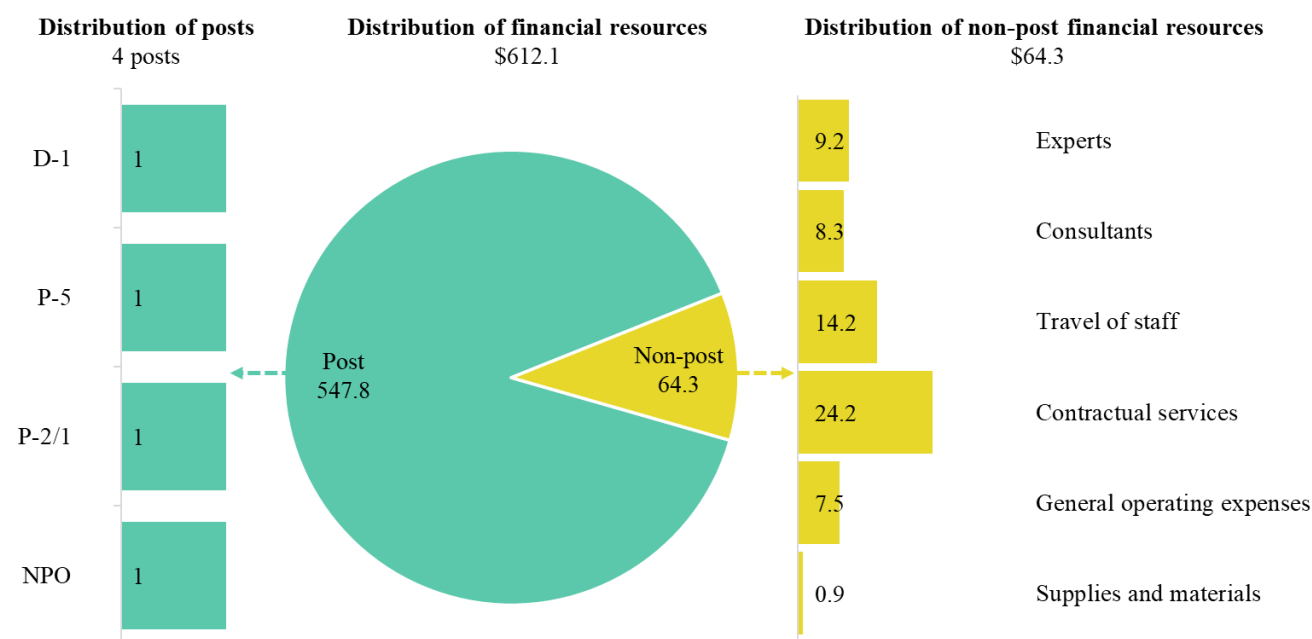
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2020 expenditure	2021 appropriation	Changes					2022 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	383.7	547.8	—	—	—	—	—	547.8
Non-post	68.5	80.9	—	—	(16.6)	(16.6)	(20.5)	64.3
Total	452.2	628.7	—	—	(16.6)	(16.6)	(2.6)	612.1
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 2022 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)

**Extrabudgetary resources**

- 19.405 Extrabudgetary resources for the component are estimated at \$292,700 and would provide for four Local level posts as well as non-post resources. The resources would contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development 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 integration of participating countries into the world economy and provides a platform for cross-border cooperation for the achievement of the Goals. The expected increase of \$28,300 reflects

anticipated capacity-building activities on regional cooperation and integration to enhance connectivity in North and Central Asia.

Component 4 Subregional activities for development in South and South West Asia

- 19.406 The proposed regular budget resources for 2022 amount to \$1,185,100 and reflect a decrease of \$4,300 compared with the appropriation for 2021. Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources in 2022 are reflected in table 19.76 and figure 19.XXVI.

Table 19.76

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

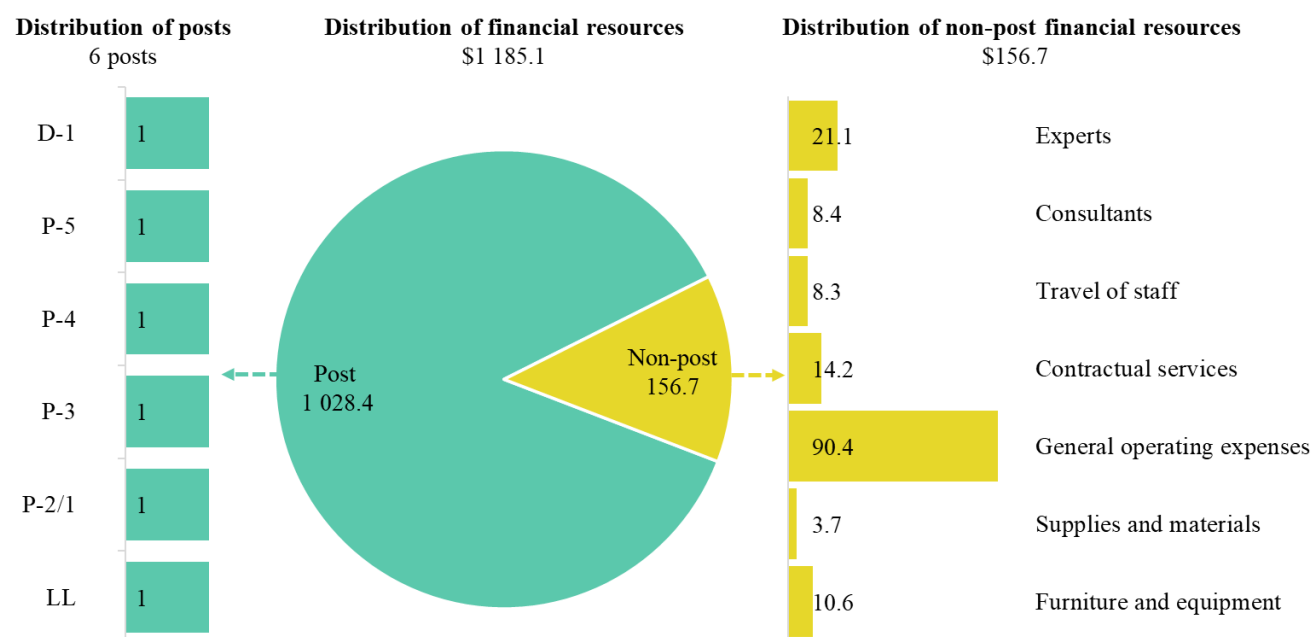
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2020 expenditure	2021 appropriation	Changes					2022 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	845.0	1 028.4	—	—	—	—	—	1 028.4
Non-post	107.2	161.0	—	—	(4.3)	(4.3)	(2.7)	156.7
Total	952.3	1 189.4	—	—	(4.3)	(4.3)	(0.4)	1 185.1
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 2022 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)


Extrabudgetary resources

- 19.407 Extrabudgetary resources for the component are estimated at \$314,200 and would provide for five posts (1 National Professional Officer and 4 Local level) as well as non-post resources. The resources would contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 5, 8, 10, 12 and 17 by supporting technical cooperation projects to enhance the capacities of women entrepreneurs in using e-commerce and digital marketing tools that can expand micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in South Asia. The expected increase of \$40,100 is due mainly to the rescheduling of capacity-building workshops from 2021 to 2022 owing to the easing of COVID-19 travel restrictions in 2022.

Component 5
Subregional activities for development in South-East Asia

- 19.408 The proposed regular budget resources for 2022 amount to \$235,200 and reflect a decrease of \$9,700 compared with the appropriation for 2021. Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources in 2022 are reflected in table 19.77 and figure 19.XXVII.

Table 19.77

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

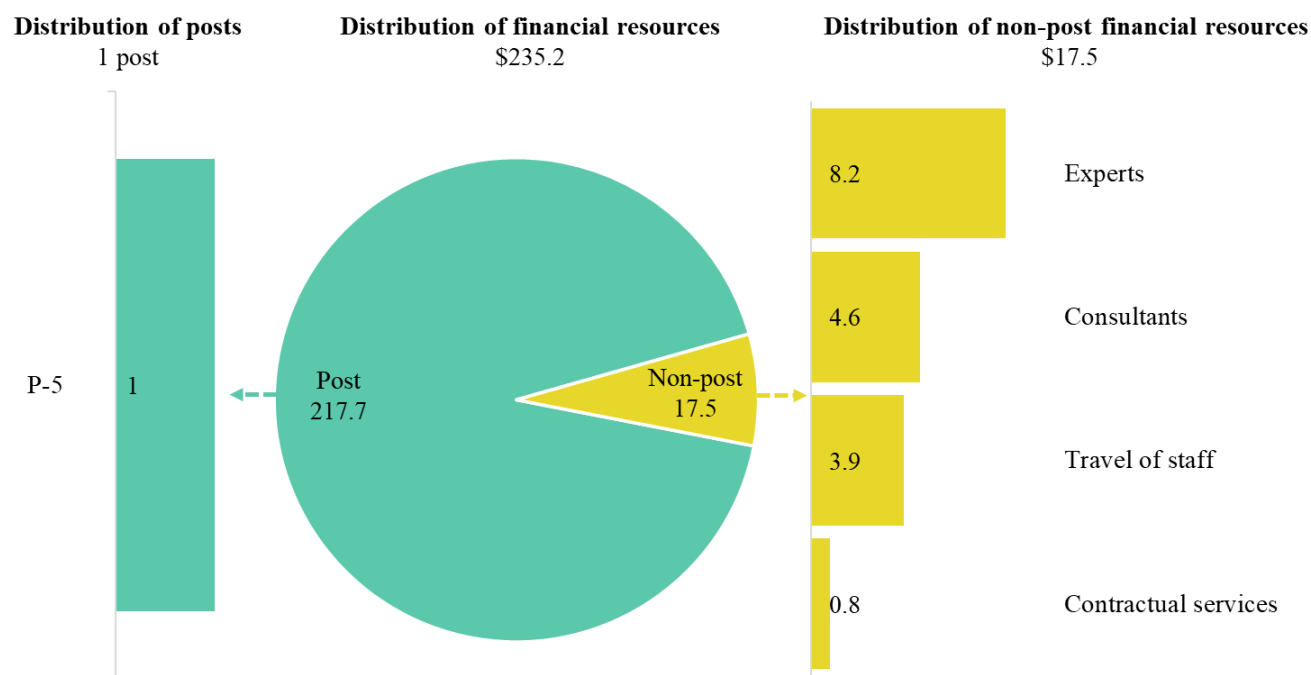
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2020 expenditure	2021 appropriation	Changes					2022 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	206.6	217.7	—	—	—	—	—	217.7
Non-post	2.5	27.2	—	—	(9.7)	(9.7)	(35.7)	17.5
Total	209.1	244.9	—	—	(9.7)	(9.7)	(4.0)	235.2
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		1	—	—	—	—	—	1
General Service and related		—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		1	—	—	—	—	—	1

Figure 19.XXVII

Subprogramme 8, component 5: distribution of proposed resources for 2022 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Subprogramme 9
Energy

19.409 The proposed regular budget resources for 2022 amount to \$1,894,900 and reflect a decrease of \$3,400 compared with the appropriation for 2021. Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources in 2022 are reflected in table 19.78 and figure 19.XXVIII.

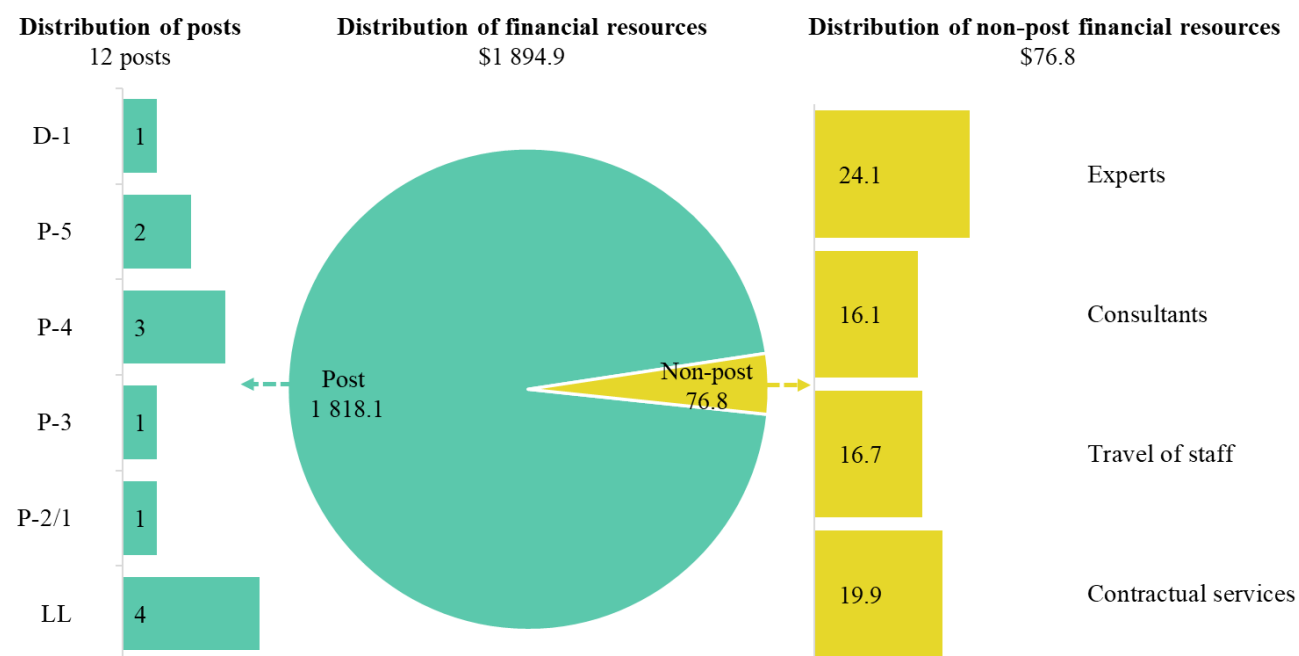
Table 19.78
Subprogramme 9: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2020 expenditure	2021 appropriation	Changes					2022 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	1 652.6	1 818.1	—	—	—	—	—	1 818.1
Non-post	17.6	80.2	—	—	(3.4)	(3.4)	(4.2)	76.8
Total	1 670.2	1 898.3	—	—	(3.4)	(3.4)	(0.2)	1 894.9
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 2022 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Extrabudgetary resources

- 19.410 Extrabudgetary resources for the subprogramme are estimated at \$1,086,600 and would provide for non-post resources. The resources would support technical cooperation projects on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 7 and 17 through the development of Goal 7 national road maps and of city road maps to localize the targets of the Goals. The expected increase of \$572,600 is due mainly to demand for capacity-building, as well as research and analysis to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Asia and the Pacific by enhancing member States' capacity for renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy access and energy connectivity.

Programme support

- 19.411 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, communications and 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.
- 19.412 The Strategy and Programme Management Division, under the overall supervision of the Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme Support, 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.
- 19.413 The Division of Administration, under the overall supervision of the Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme Support, will continue to focus on improving support for the work of the Commission in implementing its programmes through its operational arms. In 2020 and amid the pandemic, the Division swiftly changed and/or upgraded its operations in many areas, notably in the areas of information technology, to enable staff to switch seamlessly from an in-person to a virtual working modality, to enable virtual or hybrid meetings to be held and to partner with WHO 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 of ESCAP. Many of the initiatives and measures will continue to be mainstreamed into the Division's operational support in 2022.
- 19.414 The Office of the Chief is responsible for: (a) spearheading the directives of the Secretary-General on: data innovation and analytics through broad implementation of business intelligence tools and dashboards; partnerships through 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 the International Labour Organization on improving occupational safety and health standards for the Bangkok shared premises; and working side by side with WHO in 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 measures such as the removal of split level, internal ramps or steps, installation of a new ramp from the accessible parking area to the building entrances and the addition of handrails to existing staircases; (d) procurement and supply chain services; and (e) ongoing management and execution of the seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project.
- 19.415 The Human Resources Management Section is responsible for providing support for achieving human resources indicators and 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 efficient and streamlined administration of human capital, and providing occupational health services, including leadership in promoting and maintaining organizational responses to potential pandemics.

- 19.416 The Financial Resources Management Section is responsible for: (a) providing strategic advice on the effective utilization of resources within financial rules and regulations; (b) 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) 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.
- 19.417 The Information Management, Communications and Technology Section is responsible for strengthening efficiency in the management of ICT resources and further upgrading technological tools and applications to support development and management reform initiatives, and upgrade information technologies infrastructure to support and facilitate the new working modalities adopted on account of COVID-19.
- 19.418 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.
- 19.419 The Communications and Knowledge Management Section is responsible for providing communications, knowledge management and information/library services. This will include 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 exploring the development of 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 promote the visibility of the Commission as the most comprehensive platform for inclusive, equitable and sustainable development in the region.
- 19.420 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 and reproduction services, leveraging 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 Sustainable Development Goals in the Asia-Pacific region.
- 19.421 The proposed regular budget resources for 2022 amount to \$23,191,000 and reflect a decrease of \$1,175,200 compared with the appropriation for 2021. The proposed decrease is explained in paragraph 19.368 (p) above. Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources in 2022 are reflected in table 19.79 and figure 19.XXIX.

Table 19.79

Programme support: evolution of financial and post resources

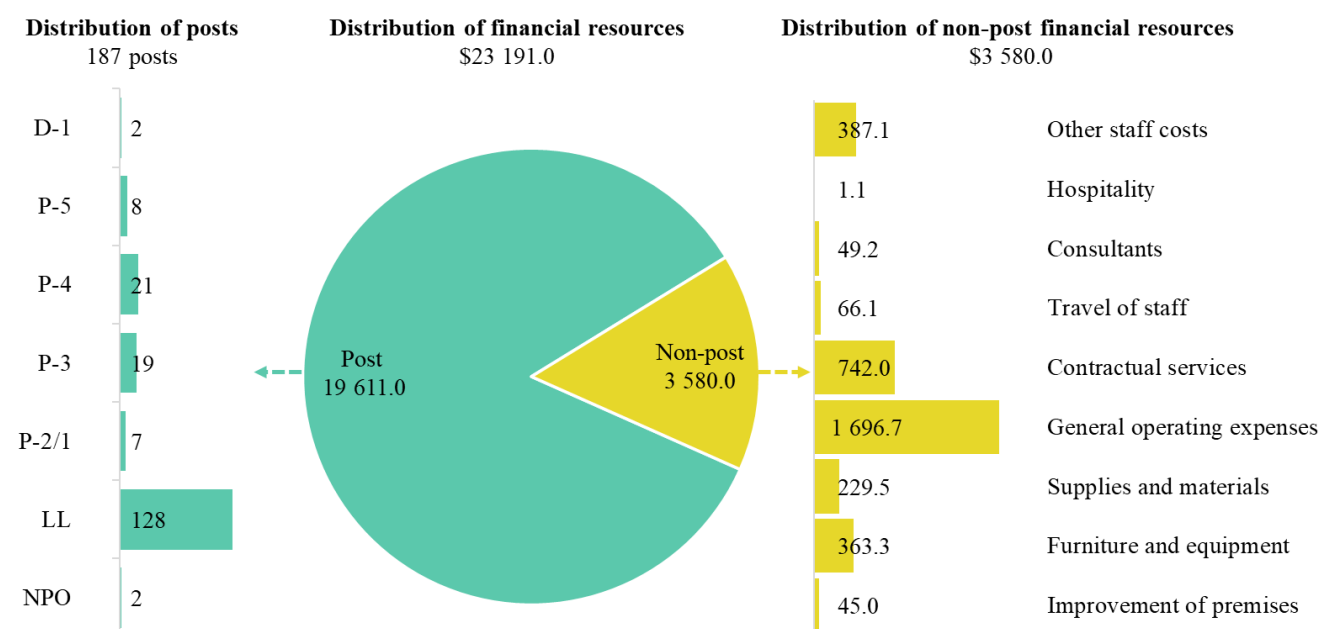
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2020 expenditure	2021 appropriation	Changes					2022 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	17 064.1	19 611.0	—	—	—	—	—	19 611.0
Non-post	6 069.2	4 755.2	(1 083.8)	—	(91.4)	(1 175.2)	(24.7)	3 580.0
Total	23 133.3	24 366.2	(1 083.8)	—	(91.4)	(1 175.2)	(4.8)	23 191.0
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 2022 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)

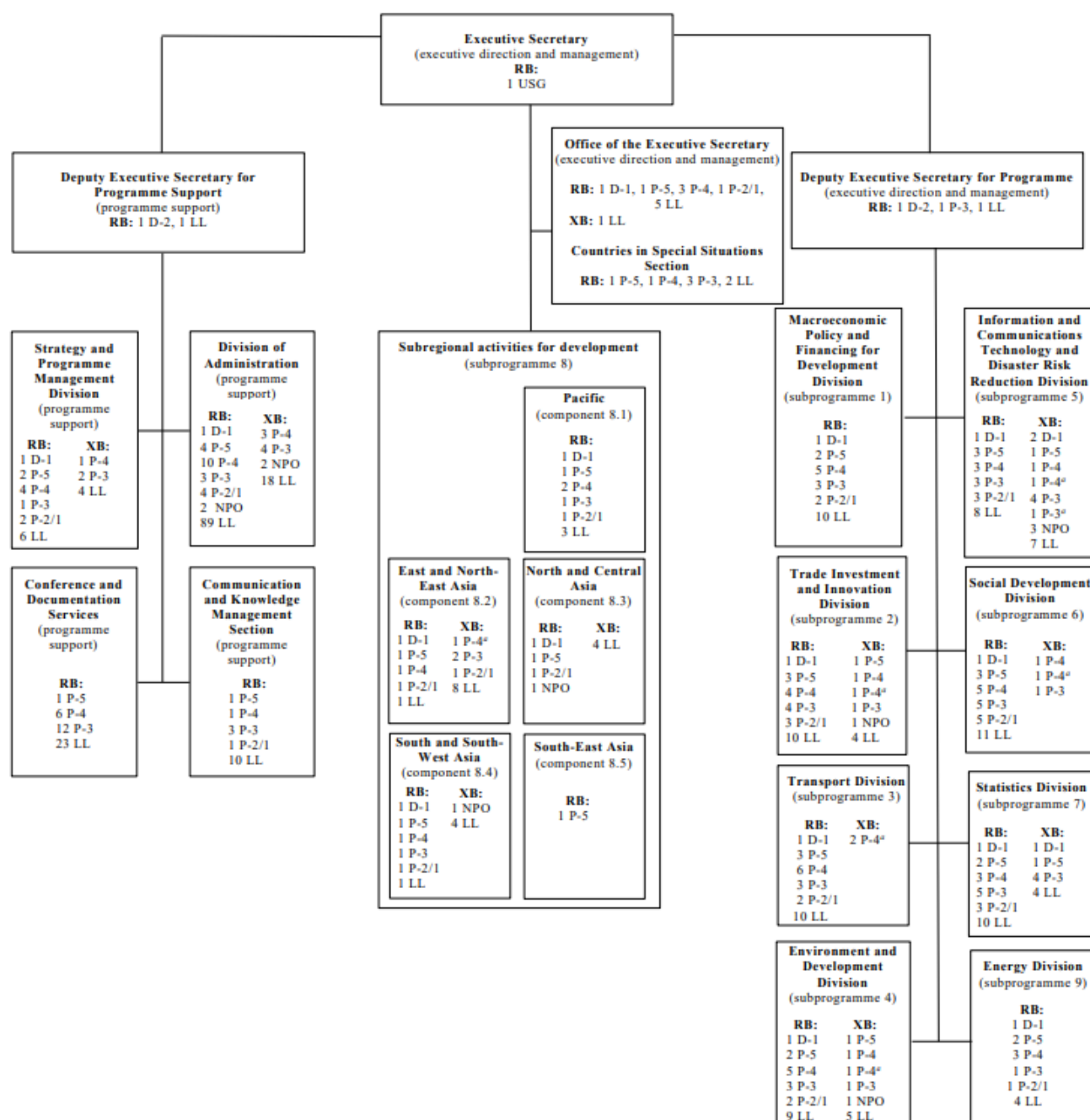

Extrabudgetary resources

- 19.422 Extrabudgetary resources for programme support are estimated at \$5,070,600 and would provide for 34 posts (4 P-4, 6 P-3, 2 National Professional Officer and 22 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 for

Humanitarian Affairs and ILO. In addition, there is a project to strengthen outreach and communication activities, in particular to enhance the ESCAP website and digital document repository. The expected decrease of \$19,900 compared with 2021 is due mainly to the expected completion of a project in 2021.

Annex I

Organizational structure and post distribution for 2022



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

^a Non-reimbursable loan.

Annex II

Summary of follow-up action taken to implement relevant recommendations of the oversight bodies

Brief description of the recommendation

Action taken to implement the recommendation

Office of Internal Oversight Services Report 2019/072

The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) recommended that ESCAP should update its needs assessment to identify areas for technical assistance from the Multi-Donor Fund for Tsunami Disaster and Climate Preparedness to ensure that its activities are appropriately targeted (recommendation 4).

The recommendation has been implemented. ESCAP incorporated a needs assessment in the management of the Multi-Donor Fund for Tsunami Disaster and Climate Preparedness to ensure that its activities are appropriately targeted through regular monitoring and evaluation, mandates from member States through ESCAP intergovernmental platforms, ESCAP analytical work and technical review of proposals from experts.

OIOS recommended that ESCAP should establish a mechanism to critically examine the need to use consultants when reviewing the divisions' project cost plans to ensure that consultants are not hired to perform the functions of regular staff (recommendation 5).

The recommendation has been implemented. ESCAP incorporated an assessment on the need to use consultants in project proposals to be funded through extrabudgetary sources.

Office of Internal Oversight Services Report 2019/044

OIOS recommended that ESCAP should ensure that the Stakeholders Committee meets at least quarterly and contributes proactively to the management of the seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project (recommendation 1).

The recommendation has been implemented. ESCAP conducted stakeholder meetings on a quarterly basis. ESCAP submitted the relevant supporting documentation to OIOS.

OIOS recommended that ESCAP should, with support from the Global Asset Management Policy Service in DMSPC, formally review lessons learned during the design phase of the seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project to help improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the remaining phases of the project (recommendation 2).

The recommendation has been implemented. ESCAP has completed the lessons learned with support from the Global Asset Management Policy Service in the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance.

OIOS recommended that ESCAP should conduct systematic fraud and corruption risk assessments as part of the risk management framework of the seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project (recommendation 3).

The recommendation has been implemented. ESCAP conducted a workshop in December 2019 to assess the risk of fraud and corruption under the seismic mitigation project. The presentation of the workshop and the meeting minutes were submitted to OIOS.

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/75/7)

The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide in his next budget proposal for ESCAP an update on the implementation of the Section on Countries in Special Situations and the

The two sections have started operating as desired and are starting to function to produce results and benefits.

The Countries in Special Situations Section is providing support to member States in accelerating

Brief description of the recommendation

Communications and Knowledge Management Section, including information on whether the two sections are functioning appropriately and producing the intended results and benefits (para. V.53).

Action taken to implement the recommendation

implementation of the 2030 Agenda in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States through greater coordination among subprogrammes and subregional offices of the Commission.

The Communications and Knowledge Management Section is starting to integrate communications, knowledge management and information services, including library services, 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.
